

Working together towards 100% graduation.



To: School counselors & staff

Subject: Helpful details for GEAR UP High School Packets

Freshman Class Packet Includes: “Welcome to High School” letter, Freshman Calendar & Checklist, *Getting Ready for College & Careers* Handbook for Freshmen & Sophomore Students.

Encourage students to put materials in a binder. The Calendar & Checklist works well when slipped into a page protector and located at the very front of a binder. The Calendar & Checklist is printed so that February through July can be easily looked at without having to twist the binder around. This Calendar & Checklist compliments the 9th Grade Plan located on page 16 of the handbook. The separate calendar responds to student feedback! Students asked for a calendar that is easy to look at and helps them develop a plan for the year. Students said that having this right in front of their binder is a helpful tool to help them stay organized and on track.

Handbook Highlights:

- ▶ Pages 7 & 8, High School Graduation Requirements -- It is important to remind students that high school graduation is one major milestone with many more to follow. **Therefore, it is important to also review...**
- ▶ Pages 9 & 10 -- Page 9 provides college admissions requirements, while the following page provides some ideas as to how students can better meet college entrance criteria. **Ask students:** “How can you challenge yourself to be all that you can be?”
- ▶ Starting on page 20, “Discover Yourself” -- This section can help students identify what kind of a job they might really excel at and enjoy. This section can help students understand how their interests, strengths and capabilities can help identify a good fit for their future.

Student Point to Ponder: “Get accustomed to challenging yourself --everything takes practice. The more you challenge yourself, the more you will achieve. It’s a positive cycle that continually helps you strengthen your skills and capabilities.”

Sophomore Class Packet Includes: “Welcome Sophomores” letter, Sophomore Calendar & Checklist, GEAR UP Scholarship information sheet, *Getting Ready for College & Careers* Handbook for Freshmen & Sophomore Students.

Encourage students to put materials in a binder. The Calendar & Checklist works well when slipped into a page protector and located at the very front of the binder. The Calendar & Checklist is printed so that February through July can be easily looked at without having to twist the binder around. This Calendar & Checklist compliments the 10th Grade Plan located on page

17 of the handbook. The separate calendar responds to student feedback! Students asked for a calendar that is easy to look at and helps them develop a plan for the year. Students said that having this right in front of their binder is a helpful tool to help them stay organized and on track.

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► Pages 7 & 8, High School Graduation Requirements -- It is important to remind students that high school graduation is one major milestone with many more to follow. **Therefore, it is important to also review...**

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Scholarship Information Sheet:

Twenty-five scholarships will be awarded to these WSU GEAR UP Partner Schools: Columbia Basin SS, Moses Lake, Prescott, Soap Lake, Touchet, Walla Walla and Warden. These scholarships will be awarded in 2010, 2011 and 2012. WSU Pullman has an application process that must be satisfied. Therefore, students and their families must pay special attention to the information provided in this flyer.

Junior Class Packet Includes: “Welcome Juniors” letter, Junior Calendar & Checklist, GEAR UP Scholarship information sheet, *Getting Ready for College & Careers* Handbook for Junior & Senior Students.

Encourage students to put materials in a binder. The Calendar & Checklist works well when slipped into a page protector and located at the very front of the binder. The Calendar & Checklist is printed so that February through July can be easily looked at without having to twist the binder around. This Calendar & Checklist compliments the 11th Grade Plan located on page 32, along with the Junior Timeline located on page 34, of the handbook. The separate calendar responds to student feedback! Students asked for a calendar that is easy to look at and helps them develop a plan for the year. Students said that having this right in front of their binder is a helpful tool to help them stay organized and on track.

Handbook Highlights:

► Page 5 – THE CHART! It’s all right there: high school graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, along with the requirements that satisfy selective colleges’ admissions criteria. This is a superb tool to help juniors and seniors make sure that they are on track with where THEY want to go.

- ▶ Page 6 – Provides a helpful break down of the entrance exams that are used for college admittance.
 - ▶ Beginning on Page 7 – These exercises will aid students in confirming their career path. Knowing this will help them find a good college fit.
 - ▶ Pages 12 & 13 – A fantastic chart that will summarize students’ interests and strengths that can lead them to a successful career path.
- Important student reminder:** *About the High School Graduation and Beyond Plan* -- “After hitting that major milestone, high school graduation, what are the milestones that you want to achieve after that? Have you put a time-line together – like a time-line used in history books? Remember, you are in charge of creating your time-line of achievements and accomplishments.”
- ▶ Page 16 – There’s twenty pages dedicated to helping students track the college application process.
 - ▶ Page 39 -- A fantastic worksheet to help students narrow down their college choices. How can the students obtain five copies of this worksheet?
 - ▶ Page 43 – Provides a great evaluation tool that will help students select their top college choice, once they complete between three and five of the worksheets mentioned above.
 - ▶ Pages 46 & 47 – Ask students to use these pages to strengthen their budget skills. Student reminder: “Strong budget skills will reduce stress and you’ll be all the happier because of it.”

Student Point to Ponder: “Get accustomed to challenging yourself --everything takes practice. The more you challenge yourself, the more you will achieve. It’s a positive cycle that helps you strengthen your skills and capabilities.”

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Senior Class Packet Includes: “Welcome to High School” letter, Senior Calendar & Checklist, GEAR UP Scholarship information sheet, *Getting Ready for College & Careers* Handbook for Junior & Senior Students.

Encourage students to put materials in a binder. The Calendar & Checklist works well when slipped into a page protector and put at the very front of a binder. The Calendar & Checklist is printed so that February through July can be easily looked at without having to twist the binder around. This Calendar & Checklist compliments the 12th Grade Plan on page 33, along with the Senior Timeline on pages 34 and 35, of the handbook. The separate calendar responds to student feedback! Students asked for a calendar that is easy to look at and helps them develop a plan for the year. Students said that having this right in front of the binder is a helpful tool to help them stay organized and on track.

Handbook Highlights:

► Page 5 – THE CHART! It’s all right there: high school graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, along with the requirements that satisfy selective colleges’ admissions criteria. This is a superb tool to help seniors make sure that they are on track with where THEY want to go.

► Page 6 – Provides a helpful break down of the entrance exams that are used for college admittance.

► Beginning on Page 7 – These exercises will aid students in confirming their career path. Knowing this will help them find a good college fit.

► Pages 12 & 13 – A fantastic chart that will summarize students’ interests and strengths that can lead them to a successful career path.

Important student reminder: *About the High School Graduation and Beyond Plan* -- “After hitting that major milestone, high school graduation, what are the milestones that you want to achieve after that? Have you put a time-line together – like a time-line used in history books? Remember, you are in charge of creating your time-line of achievements and accomplishments.”

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College. My Dream. My Plan.

Teaming Together for Student Success