

Achieve

- Attendance and grades are very important. The grades that you earn in 9th grade are included in your transcripts that will be sent to the college/universities when you apply for college/university admission and scholarships
- Develop good habits through organization, attention to detail, using a calendar to help meet deadlines
- Build strong relationships with peers and teachers. Surround yourself with supportive and positive people that will help you meet your goals

Explore

- Use high school classes to explore your interests
- Consider potential career options
 - Use your school's available resources: [Career Information Systems \(CIS\)](#), [Naviance](#), [CollegeBoard's Big Future](#), [Career One Stop](#)
 - Consider taking career technical education courses offered at your high school to explore a variety of career pathways.
 - Talk to teachers, family, or other adults in a variety of professions to determine what they like and dislike about their jobs and what kind of education is needed for each kind of job
- Learn about admission requirements or experience needed for pathway after high school to ensure you will be able to meet them by graduation
- Attend career, college, and military fairs
- Visit college campuses (virtually or in person)

Engage

- Actively engage in your classes: ask questions, speak up, discuss, and study!
- Get involved – Get involved in extracurricular activities. School clubs, sports, community service and volunteer opportunities.

Prepare

- Join ASPIRE - Start meeting with the ASPIRE coordinator or mentor to talk about future goals
- Make appointment with your counselor in the spring to talk about making sure you are on track for required courses needed to attend college. Discuss taking AP/Dual Credit courses 10-12 grade

- Keep track of activities, volunteer, and paid work experience with an activities resume:
 - Begin using the [ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart](#)
 - Keep a file of awards, honors, or recommendation letters you receive
 - Record dates, hours, and descriptions of your activities (including leadership duties and other responsibilities).
- Over summer, participate in camps, summer enrichment programs and job experience as they will benefit post-high school applications and keep you engaged in learning
- Consider your [social media footprint](#)

Plan

- Start familiarizing yourself with the ways to [pay for college or career education](#) after high school
- The [Oregon College Savings Plan](#) is a 529 savings account that has special tax advantages to help people save for educational expenses like tuition, computers, supplies and more. Keep saving for college each year