

*Review the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Checklist.*

## Achieve

- Maintain grades & school attendance
- Learn to ask questions in your classes, with your counselor/ASPIRE mentor, etc. –
- Organization is key – develop a personalized system to stay on top of assignments & deadlines
  - Consider exploring more about [your learning style](#)
- Take your PSAT (Pre-SAT) and/or PreACT test to begin preparing for SAT and/or ACT test

## Explore

- Continue to identify high school classes to explore your interests
  - Pay attention to what subjects you enjoy learning about - Consider taking career technical education courses offered at your high school to explore a variety of career pathways
- Job shadow or informational interviews will help you learn more about careers you are interested in – talk with your counselor, ASPIRE Mentor, and/or family members to see if you can find a industry professional to connect with
- Continue to explore potential career options
  - Use your school’s available resources: [Career Information Systems \(CIS\)](#), [Naviance](#), [College Board’s Career Finder](#), [Career One Stop](#)
- Begin to narrow your college/career-technical school choices and identify admissions requirements for schools you are interested in using [Oregon Goes to College](#) or a search engine platform like [College Board’s Big Future](#)
- Attend career and college fairs
- Visit college campuses in person if possible – Use helpful guide: [Get the Most Out of your Campus Visit](#)
- Online virtual college tours: [eCampusTours](#) OR [YouVisit](#)

## Engage

- Review your academic plan with your high school counselor – plan rigorous courses for junior year
  - Consider taking honors, AP/Dual credit, or IB courses which earn college credit
- Stay involved in clubs, activities and service activities – pursue leadership opportunities
- Consider part-time employment

## Prepare

- Meet with your ASPIRE mentor - talk about future goals and next steps
- Track your activities using the [ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart](#) – clubs, activities, community service, paid work
- Keep your social media clean, positive, and focused on family, positive relationships/activities & your accomplishments.

## Plan

- Discuss your future goals and college plans with your parents. It is important to begin the conversation of how you will pay for college and share the colleges/universities you are interested in attending. Consider the cost using the [College Affordability and Transparency Center](#) website
- Learn about types of [scholarships](#) and [grants](#) and the [Office of Student Access and Completion](#). In addition, get to know and talk with your ASPIRE/College Coordinator or school counselor
- Keep saving for college using the [Oregon College Savings Plan](#) Seek summer opportunities to work or volunteer in your field of interest:
  - EX. Career as a teacher: Consider volunteering at an elementary school OR start a book drive that donates books to a charity that serves young children, etc.