ASPIRE College Bound 11th Grade Checklist

Review the 9th and 10th Grade Checklists & ASPIRE Calendar for more detailed and seasonal recommendations.

Achieve

- ❑ **Maintain Grades:** Your junior year transcripts are crucial for college applications. Talk with your counselor about ways to improve if needed.
- ❑ **Join National Honor Society:** If you have good grades, consider this recognition.
- ❑ **Practice Organization:**
  - Use a calendar (physical or digital) for assignments, events, work, and activities.
  - Set digital reminders for deadlines to prepare for college and scholarship applications.
  - Create a file (both paper and online) for college planning documents.

Explore

- ❑ **Consider Career Options:** Research education requirements, salaries, and more using resources like Career One Stop College Board's Career Finder, My Next Move, or Occupational Outlook Handbook. (Check if your school has Oregon CIS or Naviance).
- ❑ **Job Shadow/Informational Interviews:** Learn about careers by talking to professionals in fields of interest. Talk to your counselor, ASPIRE coordinator/mentor, or family to find a professional willing to meet.
- ❑ **Explore Colleges:** Use search sites like Oregon Goes to College, College Score Card,
  - Make a list of top choice colleges (5 – 7 schools including at least one Oregon Community College).
  - Research admissions requirements, costs, scholarships, academic programs, and student activities.
  - Compare and rank colleges based on what matters most to you.

Engage

- ❑ **Review Plans with Counselor:** Ensure you're on track for graduation and college admissions requirements.
- ❑ **Stay Involved:** Participate in extracurricular activities and seek leadership roles.
- ❑ **Visit Colleges:** Attend campus preview days or take virtual tours (Campus Tours, YouVisit).
- ❑ **Attend College Fairs:** Meet college admissions recruiters and ask questions about admissions and college life.

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Prepare

- ❑ **Create Professional Email:** Use for all college and job applications. Check it 1-2 times per week.
- ❑ **Practice for Standardized Tests:** Use PSAT/SAT and ACT practice resources.
- ❑ **Prepare for AP/IB Exams:** Stay on top of these courses and exams.
- ❑ **Track Activities:** Use ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart for clubs, activities, community service, and paid work. Keep detailed records.
- ❑ **Build Professional Skills:** Take courses in MS Office, Google Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, and improve typing speed and email etiquette.
- ❑ **Plan for Recommendations:** Identify potential recommenders and interact positively with them.
- ❑ **Create Resume:** List activities, volunteer work, and jobs. Review with ASPIRE mentor or counselor.
- ❑ **Draft Essays:** Write application and scholarship essays. Get feedback from trusted mentors or teachers.
- ❑ **Plan:** to request recommendation letters early in senior year.
- ❑ **Summer Plans:** Consider jobs, volunteer opportunities, and camps to enhance your resume.
- ❑ **Compare Colleges:** Use College Scorecard to assess costs, programs, and outcomes. Involve your family in the process.

Plan

- ❑ **Attend Events:** Mark calendars for career and college events, workshops, and programs.
- ❑ **College Entrance Exams: Ask your counselor for upcoming dates**
  - Fall: Register for PSAT/NMSQT and review results with your counselor.
  - Spring: Register for SAT and/or ACT. Consider the ASVAB test for career exploration.
    - Testing Tip: Juniors should consider testing in Spring to allow time for possible retake.
- ❑ **Student Athletes:** Register for the NCAA Eligibility Center or NAIA Eligibility Center and ensure you meet curriculum requirements. Coaches, Counselors, and Athletic Directors are great resources for student athletes.
- ❑ **Financial Aid:** Learn about options to pay for college with resources like OSAC webinars and connect with ASPIRE Coordinator/Mentor.
- ❑ **Scholarships:**
  - Start and organize a scholarship list and note deadlines.
  - Summer is a great time to explore OSAC scholarships and get a head start on personal statements and create an OSAC test application.

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- Look ahead for other scholarships through colleges, your high school, local community, and national search platforms like College Board Scholarships, FastWeb, JLV Counseling, and Scholarships.com.

❑ **Financial Aid - Summer before Senior Year:** Review checklist regarding federal aid before senior year.

Ready, Set, Get Organized!

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