

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

Achieve

- Maintain Grades & Attendance:** Important for transcripts and college applications.
- Ask Questions:** Engage with your teachers, counselor, and ASPIRE coordinator/mentor.
- Practice Organization:** Develop a system to manage assignments and deadlines. Understand your learning style.
- Practice now for College Tests:** You may want to talk to your counselor about possible pre-tests: [PSAT10](#) and/or [PreACT](#). Consider independent [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) prep resources.

Explore

- Identify Interests:** Use high school classes to discover subjects you enjoy.
- Career Exploration:** Job shadow, conduct informational interviews, and use resources like [Career One Stop](#), and [Road Trip Nation](#)
 - Ask your counselor if your school has career/college exploration platforms.
Common resources: [Oregon CIS](#) & [Naviance](#)
- Research Schools:** Narrow down college and career-technical school choices. Identify admission requirements.
- Attend Events:** Participate in career and college fairs. See ASPIRE Calendar for Oregon events.
- Visit Campuses:** Visit colleges in person or take online virtual tours ([eCampusTours](#), [YouVisit](#)).

Engage

- Plan Courses:** Review your academic plan with your counselor and consider honors, AP/Dual credit, or IB courses.
- Stay Involved:** Participate in clubs, activities, and service projects. Seek leadership roles.
- Consider Part-Time Jobs & Community Service:** Gain experience, responsibly and helps save for college.

Prepare

- Meet Your Mentor:** Discuss future goals and next steps with your ASPIRE coordinator/mentor.
- Track Activities:** Use the [ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart](#) to log clubs, activities, community service, and paid work.
- Test Preparation:** Study for [PSAT](#) using resources like [Khan Academy](#) for potential National Merit Scholarships.
- Manage Social Media:** Keep your online presence positive and focused on achievements.

Plan

- Discuss Goals with Parents:** Talk about college plans and how to pay for college using resources like the [College Affordability and Transparency Center](#).
- Learn About Financial Aid:** Learn about grants and loans - [Home | Federal Student Aid](#), [OregonStudentAid.gov](#).
- Save for College:** Use the [Oregon College Savings Plan](#) and budget for college expenses.
- Summer Opportunities:** Work or volunteer in fields of interest
 - Example: If interested in teaching, consider becoming a summer camp counselor

Continue to learn and begin making specific goals!