



# High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

December 2016

9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Grades Matter

Getting good grades in challenging classes throughout your high school experience is important in college admissions decisions. Good grades also show that you understand the material and are ready for the next step, whether that be the next semester, the next grade level, or college or training after high school.

Share these four tips with your teen:

1. **Get organized.** Stay on top of assignments and tests with a planner or calendar and keep loose papers in a folder or binder so nothing gets lost.
2. **Get help.** Ask your teachers, classmates, parents, and siblings for support if there's something you don't understand.
3. **Sit front and center.** Students who sit in the front and center of the classroom have been shown to achieve higher average test scores.
4. **Hang out with friends who work hard in school.** Research shows that good (and bad) grades are contagious, so choose your friends wisely.

Source: [Oregon GEAR UP](#)

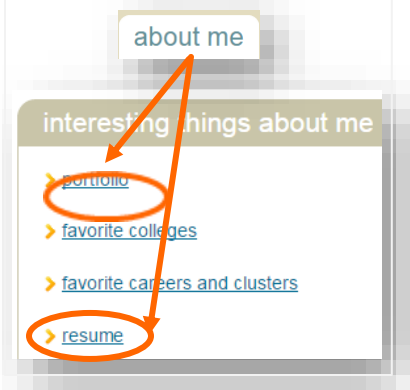


Have Naviance Questions?

[naviance@everettsd.org](mailto:naviance@everettsd.org)

Want to keep track of your *awards, paid and volunteer work, honors, sports, and activities etc.*? **Now you can!**

**Check out the tools in the About Me tab in Naviance Family Connection!**



## Did You Know?

**No one's potential is fixed at birth.** "Maria is a quick learner." "I'm bad at math." We speak of these traits as if they are unchangeable. Scientists who study the brain have discovered that all of us can grow strong and meet challenges if we work hard and stick with it. Natural talent and predispositions are just the beginning.

Source: [What Kids Can Do](#)

## Myth Buster

**MYTH:** College is much harder than high school.

**REALITY:** Substitute "different" for "harder."

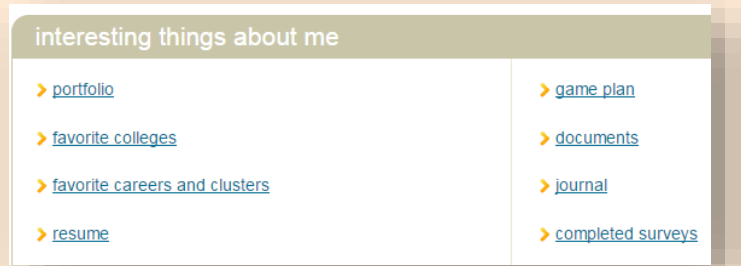
For example, college courses usually rely on just a couple of papers or tests for final grades instead of lots of assignments. Many courses don't have penalties for when students miss a class.

The difficult part for most college students is learning how to handle the newfound freedom and responsibilities brought by larger class sizes, more free time, and about a million distractions.

Sources: [College Bound Network](#) & [Oregon GEAR UP](#)

## Student Checklist

- **Start a portfolio of your work in Naviance Family Connection.**
  - Use the **resume tool or journal tools** to create a list of your **awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.** Update it each



- **Discuss next year's classes with your family and guidance counselor.** Make sure you take the kind of challenging courses college admission officers expect to see.

## Family Checklist

- **Discuss next year's classes.** Make sure your student is challenging themselves and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for within **Naviance Family Connection.**
- **Check in regularly about schoolwork.** To find out about your student's grades, assignments, and attendance, you can use LMS. Check the LMS, [online system](#) at least weekly to keep up with your child's progress.

Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [BigFuture](#), & [ReadySetGrad](#)

 [Check Student Online Grades Here!](#)



Visit [readyssetgrad.org](http://readyssetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.