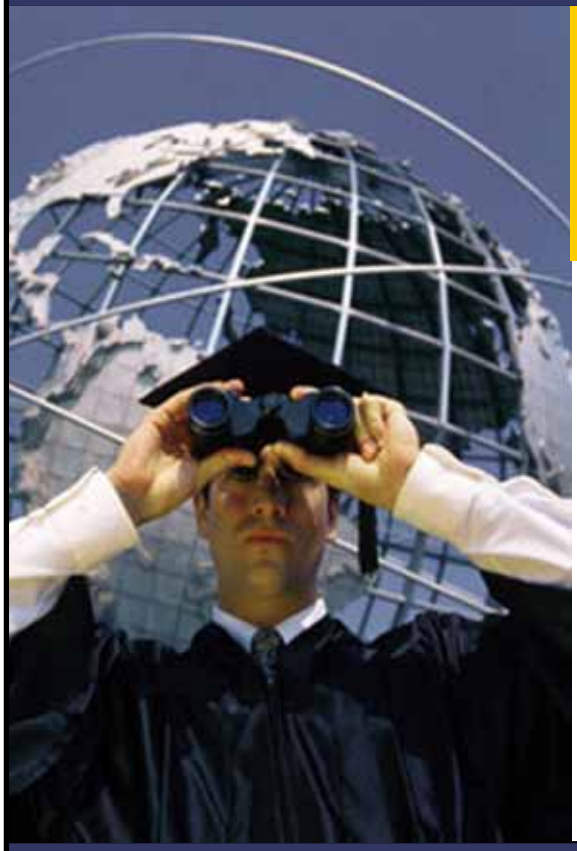
Destination College Ready
Your Passport to Higher Learning



Don’t be left behind!

Start planning your journey today

Inside:
Progress measures,
academic requirements, and
helpful resources
by grade level
for students and parents.

Set a Course through these Four Major Milestones

- Birth to Age 5—Get Ready for Kindergarten
- Elementary School—Build a Strong Foundation
- Middle School—Challenge Yourself
- High School—Set High Expectations

Milepost: 0

Birth to Age 5 – Get Ready for Kindergarten

The journey begins!

Scientists who study the brain have found that from birth to age three children learn at a rate that is unsurpassed in life. Experiences before kindergarten are tied to future academic success. Because parents and family members are a child's first teachers, it is important to invest time with your children now to prepare them for success in school.

Checkpoints—Expectations Entering Kindergarten

According to **READY! for Kindergarten**, the following are the skills of a school-ready five year old child.

Language and Literacy:

- Enjoys being read to and can retell a story.
- Recognizes and names 10-15 alphabet letters and their sounds.
- Repeats beginning and ending sounds in words.
- Speaks in complete sentences.
- Prints his or her first name.

Math and Reasoning:

- Counts in order from 1-20.
- Recognizes numbers and quantities to 5.
- Names and sorts items by color, shape, and size.
- Understands concepts such as more, less, same, above, below, big, and small.

Social and Emotional:

- Settles in to new groups and situations.
- Can concentrate on a task for five minutes.
- Follows simple directions.
- Shows kindness and concern for others.

Good health is important too!

A child's health affects his or her ability to do well in school. Tooth decay is one of the leading chronic diseases of childhood, so be certain to schedule a dental exam. Have your child's vision and hearing screened as well and don't forget to immunize your child against preventable childhood diseases. Find health and immunization information on the Benton Franklin Health Department Website: http://www.bfhd.wa.gov/

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Guideposts:

READY! for Kindergarten:

⇒ Parents and guardians with children ages birth to five are encouraged to attend READY! for Kindergarten classes and is free to all families residing in the Kennewick School District.
www.readyforkindergarten.org

Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)

⇒ ECEAP is a free early childhood program for families who qualify based on need.
www.ksd.org/departments/eceap

Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia

⇒ The Children's Reading Foundation provides resources, information, and training to promote a literacy rich environment for children.
www.readingfoundation.org/mid-columbia

Milepost 1

Elementary School – Build a Strong Foundation

Reading is a gateway skill that is essential for a child to be successful in school. Learning to read develops the brain in ways that are reciprocal to other academic areas. In other words, students who have strong reading skills are much more likely to perform well in other subject areas.

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING:

- Identifies words that end with the same sound.
- Blends Consonant, Vowel, Consonant (CVC) words early in the year. (For example, they can blend the sounds of C, A, and T to say cat.)
- Reads short vowel CVC words early in the year.
- Reads correctly about 50-60 words per minute by late in the year.
- Retells main ideas of a plot by midyear.
- Demonstrates comprehension by participating in a variety of responses to text.
- Chooses and reads a variety of books for pleasure.

WRITING:

- Knows that an audience exists outside of self and understands writing has different purposes.
- Analyzes ideas, selects topics, adds details, and elaborates.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH:

- Counts, writes, and orders numbers forward and backwards to 120 and counts by 2's, 5's, and 10's to 100.
- Uses the = sign and the word "equals" to show equivalency in an addition number sentence using the standard algorithm; 2+4=6 and 3+3=6.
- Is able to solve addition facts and related subtraction facts for sums equal to 10.
- Names the days of the week and the months of the year and uses a calendar to determine a day or date.
- Identifies coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter) and names their value.
- Tells time to the nearest hour and half hour.
- Continues to work with whole numbers and considers how numbers relate to one another.
- Knows how to add and subtract, when to add and subtract, and how addition and subtraction relate to each other.
- Begins to understand what it means to measure something and develops measuring skills using everyday objects.

SCIENCE:

- Learns that scientific investigations involve trying to answer questions by making observations or trying things out .
- Is able to use simple tools (e.g., pencils, scissors) and materials (e.g., paper, tape, glue, and cardboard) to solve problems in creative ways.
- Learns about the properties of liquids and solids.

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ Ask your child's teacher or school reading specialists for examples of appropriate reading for this grade level.

⇒ Read with your child every day.

⇒ Make yourself available to help with your child's homework.

⇒ Attend parent conferences.

What students should do:

⇒ Get enough sleep.

⇒ Read a lot.

⇒ Ask for help with homework.

Milepost 2

Elementary School – Build a Strong Foundation

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Retells main ideas of a grade-level appropriate text.
- Identifies story elements early in the year.
- Reads about 77 words per minute by midyear.
- Becomes fluent as a reader, expands vocabulary, and understands many different kinds of text.
- Participates in discussions, writes responses, and uses evidence from text to support thinking.
- Continues making reading an enjoyable habit.

WRITING:

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including telling a story and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects topics, adds detail, and elaborates.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Compares (using <,>, and = symbols) and orders numbers 0 to 1,000.
- Completes 100 addition problems with sums to 20 with 90% accuracy in 5 minutes.
- Completes 100 subtraction facts with differences 0 to 20 with 90% accuracy in 5 minutes.
- Is able to determine the value of a collection of coins totaling less than $1.00.
- Adds and subtracts two-digit numbers with regrouping, using the standard algorithm.
- Uses both analog and digital clocks to tell time to the minute.
- Measures to the nearest inch and half inch and nearest whole centimeter.
- Refines understanding of the base ten number system and uses place value concepts of ones, tens, and hundreds to understand number relationships.
- Becomes proficient with single-digit addition and subtraction facts and develops addition and subtraction procedures for two-digit numbers.
- Begins to work with multiplication and division and learns what a fraction is.

SCIENCE:

- Learns to think systematically about how parts of objects, plants, and animals are connected and work together.
- Carries out investigations in collaboration with other students and support from the teacher.
- Identifies several different forms of energy (e.g., heat, light, motion, electricity, and sound).

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ Ask your child's teacher or school reading specialists for examples of appropriate reading for this grade level.
⇒ Read with your child every day.
⇒ Limit television time.
⇒ Attend parent conferences.
⇒ Join the PTA.

What students should do:

⇒ Get enough sleep.
⇒ Read every day.
⇒ Do your best in school every day.

Milepost 3

Elementary School – Build a Strong Foundation

Third Grade Reading Goal

Our signature goal in our elementary schools is to have 90 percent of our third graders reading at grade level. We know that learning to read opens doors to many other academic areas and also affects brain development. Students who learn to read fluently and with good comprehension in the primary grades are typically successful students in all academic areas in the years that follow.

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Restates facts and details in the text by midyear.
- Reads about 97 words per minute by midyear.
- Reads with ease real and nonsense single and multi-syllable words early in the year.
- Reads fluently with meaning and purpose.
- Reads a wider variety of topics and genres.
- Demonstrates comprehension of main ideas and details through discussion, writing, and evidence from text to support thinking.
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic, or author.

WRITING

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including telling a story and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects topics, adds detail, and elaborates.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Compares and orders numbers to 10,000 using symbols (>, <, and =).
- Writes numbers to 10,000 in word form and standard form.
- Adds and subtracts four digit numbers.
- Rounds whole numbers through 10,000 to the nearest ten, hundred, and thousand.
- Solves multiplication and division number sentences.
- Represents fractions as parts of whole and parts of a set with denominators of 2, 3, 4, and 6.
- Measures and calculates perimeters of quadrilaterals to the nearest centimeter and inch.
- Recalls 45 basic multiplication facts in which one factor is 0, 1, 2, 5, or 10 in four minutes with 90% accuracy.
- Learns the meaning of multiplication and division and how they relate.
- Deepens understanding of fractions by comparing them and representing them in different ways.
- Uses pictures, symbols, or math language to explain the reasoning behind decisions and solutions.

SCIENCE

- Thinks systematically about how the parts of objects, plants and animals are connected and work together.
- Carries out investigations in collaboration with other students and support from the teacher.
- Learns to identify several different forms of energy (e.g., heat, light, motion, electricity, and sound).

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

- ⇒ Ask your child's teacher how much time your child should be spending on homework.
- ⇒ Set a regular homework time each day.
- ⇒ Read with your child every day.
- ⇒ Attend parent conferences.
- ⇒ Get involved in your child's school.
- ⇒ Start saving for a college education.

What students should do:

- ⇒ Get enough sleep.
- ⇒ Read every day.
- ⇒ Develop good study habits.

Milepost 4

Elementary School – Build a Strong Foundation

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Distinguishes the main idea and supporting details and answers questions about the text.
- Reads correctly about 115 words per minute by midyear.
- Reads with ease real and nonsense single and multi-syllable words early in the year.
- Reads skillfully with meaning and purpose, using appropriate comprehension and vocabulary strategies.
- Reads, discusses, reflects, and responds, using evidence from text, to a wide variety of literary genres and informational text.
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic, or author.

WRITING

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including telling a story and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects a narrow topic and elaborates using specific details and/or examples.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Solves a 3 digit by 2 digit multiplication problem.
- Recalls 66 multiplication facts and their related division facts, 0-10 with 100% accuracy on a fact assessment.
- Compares and orders decimals using tenths and hundredths on a labeled number line with reference points.
- Is able, given a fraction, to find an equivalent fraction, simplify the fraction, and convert any improper fractions to a mixed number.
- Uses standard formulas to determine the area and perimeter of a rectangle.
- Determines elapsed time using a calendar, digital clock, or analog clock.
- Finds the mode, median, and range of a data set with no more than 13 data points and describes what each measure indicates.
- Determines the question in a problem situation to be answered and uses one or more appropriate strategies to solve single and multi-step problems and explain why that strategy was chosen.

SCIENCE

- Learns how to plan and choose an investigation based on the question being asked.
- Distinguishes between science and technology and works both individually and collaboratively to produce a product of their own design.
- Builds understanding of energy and learns how heat, light, sound and electrical energy are generated and can be transferred from place to place.

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

- ⇒ Make sure your child is on time and arrives ready to learn every day.
- ⇒ Attend Parent Conferences.
- ⇒ Monitor your child's homework.
- ⇒ Sign up for weekly reports with Parent Portal.
- ⇒ Attend school events.
- ⇒ Access online homework help available with your child's math curriculum. Ask your child's teacher how!

What students should do:

- ⇒ Get enough sleep.
- ⇒ Read every day.
- ⇒ Turn homework in on time.
- ⇒ Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Milepost 5

Elementary School – Build a Strong Foundation

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Distinguishes fact from opinion and makes and confirms predictions by midyear.
- Reads about 131 words per minute by midyear.
- Reads with ease real and nonsense single and multi-syllable words early in the year.
- Reflects on skills and adjusts comprehension and vocabulary strategies to become better readers.
- Reads, discusses, reflects, and responds using evidence from text to a wide variety of literary genres and informational text.
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme, or author.

WRITING

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including persuading and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects a narrow topic, and elaborates using specific details and/or examples.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Divides up to a four digit number by one or two digit divisors.
- Adds and subtracts fractions, including mixed numbers.
- Adds and subtracts decimals.
- Identifies, sketches, and measures acute, right, and obtuse angles.
- Writes and evaluates algebraic expressions that represent simple situations using substitutions when variables are involved.
- Constructs and interprets line graphs.
- Determines and interprets the mean/average of a small data set of whole numbers.
- Is able to divide whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- Learns procedures for adding and subtracting fractions and decimals.
- Extends understanding of triangles and quadrilaterals and uses formulas for area and perimeter.
- Continues development of algebraic thinking, moving toward an in-depth study of algebra in middle school.

SCIENCE

- Learns how to plan and choose an investigation based on the question being asked.
- Develops ability to define problems that can be solved by modifying or inventing technologies, to create and test those designs, and to communicate what has been learned.
- Builds understanding of energy and learns how heat, light, sound, and electrical energy are generated and can be transferred from place to place.

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ Monitor your child's progress by following his or her class work, assignments, and grades with Parent Portal.

⇒ Ask if your child's school offers advanced courses that will prepare him or her for taking higher math and college prep courses in high school.

⇒ Stay in contact with your child's teachers and counselor so that they can let you know about any changes in your child's behavior or schoolwork.

What students should do:

⇒ Get enough sleep.

⇒ Read every day.

⇒ Develop good study habits.

⇒ Talk to teachers or counselors whenever you have questions or need help.

Milepost 6

Middle School – Challenge Yourself

Getting on Track with Math

Algebra is a gateway to later achievement. Students who successfully complete it by the end of Grade 8 are more likely to have future academic success, particularly in math and sciences and on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams. Ask if your child is on track to take Algebra 1 by eighth grade. If the answer is no, ask what problems he or she is experiencing and what you can do at home to help.

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Reads correctly about 143 words per minute by midyear.
- Adjusts reading purpose, pace, and strategies according to difficulty and/or type of text.
- Reads, discusses, reflects, and responds using evidence from text to a wide variety of literary genres and informational texts.
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme, or author.

WRITING

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including persuading and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects a manageable topic and elaborates using specific, relevant details and/or examples.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Multiplies and divides proper, improper, and mixed non-negative fractions.
- Multiplies and divides non-negative decimals.
- Uses the order of operations to evaluate mathematical expressions with non-negative rational numbers.
- Solves one-step equations and verifies solutions with non-negative rational numbers.
- Represents percents visually and numerically and converts between fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Determines the perimeter and area of a composite figure that can be divided into triangles, rectangles, and parts of circles.
- Solves a wide variety of problems that involve whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.
- Develops understanding of how letters are used to represent numbers in math — an important foundation for algebraic thinking.
- Extends mental math skills (having learned addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.

SCIENCE

- Thinks critically and logically to make connections between prior science knowledge and evidence produced from investigations.
- Understands that the process of technological design begins by defining a problem, identifying criteria for a successful solution, and is followed by research to better understand the problem and brainstorming possible solutions.
- Learns how energy and matter interact in various settings.

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ Beginning financial planning to pay for college.

⇒ The path to higher math: Ask what kinds of resources are available for extra help outside the classroom.

⇒ Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities.

What students should do:

⇒ Challenge yourself to do your best in every class you take.

⇒ Talk to teachers or counselors whenever you have questions or need help.

⇒ Be organized and turn homework in on time.

⇒ If you are having difficulty, don't give up—get help from a teacher, tutor, or mentor.

Milepost 7

Middle School – Challenge Yourself

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Reads correctly about 158 words per minute by midyear.
- Shows responsibility as a reader and continues to reflect on skills and adjust comprehension and vocabulary strategies.
- Summarizes information from multiple sources to deepen understanding of the content in oral and written responses.
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme, or author.

WRITING

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including persuading and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects a manageable topic, and elaborates using specific, relevant details and/or examples.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Compares, adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides rational numbers including negative numbers.
- Represents proportional relationships (rate, ratios, and percents) using tables and equations.
- Solves and verifies two-step linear equations using rational numbers.
- Finds the volume and surface area of a 3-dimensional figure such as a cylinder, pyramid, or cone.
- Determines the theoretical probability of a particular event and uses theoretical probability to predict experimental outcomes.
- Adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides fractions, decimals, and integers, including both positive and negative numbers.
- Refines reasoning and problem-solving skills, moving more fully into the symbolic world of algebra and higher-level math.
- Extends work with ratios to solve problems involving proportional relationships, like those found in similar figures.

SCIENCE

- Thinks critically and logically to make connections between prior science knowledge and evidence produced from investigations.
- Understands solutions to problems must be tested and uses results of those tests to determine the best solution.
- Learns how energy and matter interact in various settings.

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ Math matters! By taking Algebra early, students can enroll in chemistry, physics, and higher level math in high school.

⇒ Online resources are available for math practice, including tutorials for parents. Ask your child's teacher how to access the online help integrated in our math curriculum.

⇒ Keep an eye on your child's grades on tests and report cards and help him or her find tutoring assistance, if necessary.

What students should do:

⇒ Think about college as important for your future.

⇒ Follow up on matters that affect your grades.

⇒ Learn to manage your time and stay organized.

⇒ Get involved in school activities and clubs.

Milepost 8

Middle School – Challenge Yourself

Checkpoints—Grade Level Expectations:

READING

- Reads correctly about 165 words per minute by midyear.
- Integrates a variety of comprehension and vocabulary strategies and adapts reading to different types of text.
- Summarizes information from multiple sources to deepen understanding of the content in oral and written responses.
- Continues to read for pleasure as understanding of author's craft deepens.

WRITING

- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including persuading and explaining.
- Analyzes ideas, selects a manageable topic, and elaborates using specific, relevant details and/or examples.
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level.

MATH

- Solves one and two step linear equations with rational numbers and inequalities with non negative rational numbers and verify.
- Determines and interprets the slope and *y*-intercept of a linear function described by a symbolic expression table or graph.
- Identifies pairs of angles as complementary, supplementary, adjacent, or vertical and uses these relationships to determine missing angle measures.
- Determines missing angle measures by using the relationships among the angles formed by parallel lines and transversals.
- Constructs and analyze data sets to include Venn diagram, stem, and leaf, and scatter plot.
- Knows and applies the Order of Operations including rational numbers and exponents.
- Solves a variety of linear equations and inequalities.
- Works with lines and angles, especially when solving problems involving triangles.
- Creates and compares displays (ie., shapes or graphs) for two sets of data in order to draw conclusions.
- Refines reasoning and problem-solving skills.

MATH (ALGEBRA 1)

- Uses functions to model various situations and solve problems.
- Builds and expands understanding of computation by using arithmetic operations and properties to include the symbolic language of algebra.
- Uses algebra and the properties of number systems to develop valid math arguments, prove conjectures, and find counterexamples to refute false statements, using correct math language, terms, and symbols.

SCIENCE

- Thinks critically and logically to make connections between prior science knowledge and evidence produced from investigations.
- Measures, records, and calculates the average speed of objects and tabulates and graphs the results.
- Learns how energy and matter interact in various settings.

Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ Visit a college campus.

⇒ Familiarize yourself with graduation and college admissions requirements.

⇒ Talk to your child about his or her interests and help match those interests with a college major and career.

⇒ Develop a plan to pay for college.

What students should do:

⇒ Take challenging and interesting classes to prepare for high school.

⇒ Do your best in school and on standardized tests.

⇒ Take advantage of resources your school offers, mentoring, tutoring, or homework help.

⇒ Become involved in school or community-based activities that let you explore your interests and learn new things.

Mileposts 9-10

High School – Set High Expectations

College Aware
This is the time students need to make sure they are on track to be eligible to attend a four year college.

Checkpoints:

College Academic Distribution Requirements
Source**:** The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HEC Board) defines the minimum four-year college admission standards.

English—Four credits, which must include three credits of college preparatory composition or literature.

Mathematics—Three credits including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and one year of math taken in the senior year.

Science—Two credits of laboratory science. One credit must be in biology, chemistry, or physics. One credit must be in an algebra-based science course.

World Languages—Two credits of the same world language, Native American language, or American Sign Language

Social Science—Three credits of history or other social science.

Arts—One credit of fine, visual, or performing arts.

Math Matters!
It is important for students to take the highest level math classes they can handle in high school.

Online math practice, homework help, and resources for both parents and students are built right in to the *Holt Mathematics* curriculum for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

Guideposts:

Higher Education Coordinating Board Website
www.hecb.wa.gov

What parents can do:
- ⇒ Take your child to a local university campus for a visit.
- ⇒ Explore financial aid and loan options to pay for college—attend your school's financial aid night.
- ⇒ Help your child develop independence by encouraging him or her to take responsibility for balancing homework with other activities or a part-time job.

What students should do:
- ⇒ Take the PSAT test.
- ⇒ Know your MAP score.
- ⇒ Get involved in clubs and activities.
- ⇒ Read about careers that interest you.
- ⇒ Align interests with your High School and Beyond Plan.

Mileposts 11-12

High School – Set High Expectations

College Prepared

This is the home stretch of the journey. The number one indicator of college success is the difficulty of the coursework taken in high school.

Take Advantage of AP and IB Classes

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes are college level courses taken in high school. Students who take AP/IB classes investigate subjects in greater depth than they would in other classes and they are encouraged to explore the world from a wide variety of perspectives. It is important for students to take the exams that are offered at the end of these courses. Students who score a 3 or higher (on a sale of 1-5) on the AP or 4 or higher (on a scale of 1-7) on the IB exam may earn advanced standing in college or college credit.

Checkpoints:

- Take a full course load of college-prep courses.
- Participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.
- Register for and take the ACT Assessment, SAT I, or SAT II Subject Tests, as necessary.
- Attend whatever college-preparatory nights are held at your school or by local organizations.

What if a GPA is not as high as it should be?

A lower-than-average GPA does not necessarily exclude a student from attending a four-year college or university. Sometimes other skills and abilities—such as leadership, athletics, or exceptional skills in other areas—can compensate for a lower-than-desired GPA. Some students have physical or reading disorders that may affect their achievement in school, if not their ability to learn. Sometimes a student's GPA has suffered because of unusual circumstances, such as illness, moving to a new school, family problems, etc. Circumstances such as these, which may have adversely affected your cumulative GPA—should be explained in a letter to admissions representatives during the application process.

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Guideposts:

What parents can do:

⇒ If possible, visit colleges while classes are in session.

⇒ Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, if necessary, PROFILE®. These forms can be obtained from your guidance counselor or at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov to download the forms or to file electronically. These forms may not be processed before January 1, so don't send them before then.

⇒ Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships.

What students should do:

⇒ Keep working on getting good grades.

⇒ Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final college choices.

⇒ Talk about college costs with your parents.

⇒ Check resource books, computer programs, and your guidance office for information on scholarships and grants. Ask colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify.