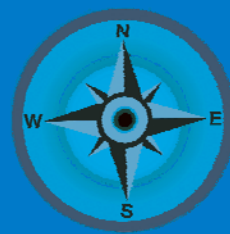


NAVIGATION 101

NAVIGATOR



A Newsletter for Students & Families

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

WHAT IS NAVIGATION 101? • GET READY FOR MATH & SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS • COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIPS • STUDENT & FAMILY TO-DO LIST • COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCES

WHAT IS NAVIGATION 101?

What do you want to do after high school?

What should you be doing today to get ready?

Don't know yet? Don't worry.

Navigation 101 will help. You'll get the chance to explore your dreams for college and career. You'll research what it will take to reach those dreams. And then you'll learn what you should be doing right now—while you're still in school—so that you'll be ready for your next steps by the time you graduate from high school.

This is what Navigation (which may have a different name at your school) will mean for you this year:



Navigation 101 will help you set a plan for your life after high school. And it will help you learn what you need to do right now to be ready.

1 **ADVISORY.** You'll be assigned to meet with a group of students and an adult advisor. During advisory time, you'll explore career options, research the education you'll need and the courses you should take, and plan ways you can do better in your classes.

2 **PORTFOLIO.** You'll save samples of your work and the goals you set in a portfolio—either on paper or online. You'll use your portfolio to plan your next steps and to show what you've accomplished.

3 **CONFERENCE.** Each year, you'll lead a student-led conference with your advisor and your family. You'll discuss what you've achieved during the school year, what courses you plan to take next year, and what you want to do after high school.

4 **SCHEDULE.** With Navigation, you'll learn about the classes you should take to prepare for college and career—including the advanced courses that will help you succeed. Your school will help you register and take these classes.



A key goal for Navigation students: take the most advanced courses you can—every year!

5 **DATA.** With Navigation, you'll have many chances to assess how you are doing and make plans to improve. Your school will do that too, by examining data about students' success and readiness for college and career.

Want to learn more? You and your family can find videos, presentations, and links at the Navigation web site:

www.k12.wa.us/Navigation101

GET READY FOR MATH & SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Are you interested in a career in math or science?

Will you be graduating from high school in 2010 or later?

If so, you could be eligible for a **GET Ready for Math & Science Conditional Scholarship**. This scholarship will pay for up to four years of full college tuition for low- and middle-income students who have top math and science scores. To be eligible, students must:

- Score a 4 on the math or science section of the 10th grade WASL or score about the 95th percentile on the math section of the SAT or ACT.
- Have a family income at or below 125% of the state's median income (for a family of four that means an income of about \$93,925 or less).
- Be a Washington State resident.
- Plan to earn a degree in math or science at a Washington college or university.
- Agree to work full-time in math or science for at least three years after college.

Ask your advisor if you're interested in learning more about this scholarship opportunity. [Applications](#) will be available starting April 1, 2009 and will be due by June 30, 2009.



Computer science, engineering, biotechnology, medicine... if you are interested in any of these fields, apply for the GET Ready scholarship and you'll have the world in your hands!

COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

Are you in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade?

Do you want to go to college?

If so, you may be eligible to apply for the **College Bound Scholarship**. This scholarship will pay the full cost of tuition plus \$500 for books for a Washington State two-year, four-year, or technical college. Eligible students include those who:

- Qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches;
- Are foster youth;
- Sign a pledge to stay in school;
- Demonstrate good citizenship;
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA; and
- Graduate from high school.

Ask your advisor if you are interested in learning more. Students in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade must submit an [online application](#) by June 30, 2009. After 2009, only 7th and 8th grade students will be eligible to apply.



Are you college bound? If you qualify for the College Bound Scholarship, you can get all four years of tuition fully paid!

STUDENT & FAMILY TO-DO LIST

What do you need to do to prepare for life after high school? Here's a quick to-do list of the major things you should do from grades 6-12. Keep this list handy and check off how you're doing each year.

GRADES 6-8

Middle school is important because it's your foundation for high school. During grades 6-8, you should:

- Join an activity. This could be sports or music, student government or the yearbook. Family members can get involved by volunteering at school.
- Participate in class. Make sure you prepare for every class. Do your homework and turn it in on time. Your family should check on your progress regularly.
- Take challenging classes. Do your best to get ready for high school by taking challenging classes during middle school. Find out if you can start studying a foreign language. See if you can take pre-algebra during 7th grade and algebra during 8th grade. Your family can talk with your advisor about classes.
- Explore your interests. Find out if you can take an interest assessment to learn what types of careers might be most appealing to you.



Joining a school sport or club is one of the best ways to stay engaged and do well in school.

GRADES 9-10

Starting high school can be difficult. But if you start with a plan for all four years you'll have a much better time. During grades 9-10, you should:

- Join an activity and volunteer. Make sure you get involved in sports or a club at school. In addition, find out if you can participate in volunteer service activities. Family members can help out at school.
- Research career options. Find out if you can take an interest assessment and explore careers that sound interesting to you. Research the postsecondary (after high school) education you'll need for different careers. Share these with your family.
- Develop a four-year course plan. Find out what courses you need to graduate—and what courses you'll need for your career goals. Then work with your advisor and family to develop a plan for each year of school. Take the most challenging courses possible.
- Start preparing for college. Learn what different colleges (two- and four-year) require you to do during high school. Take the PSAT in 10th grade to start the college application process.
- Begin planning for financial aid. Paying for college can be difficult, but it's not impossible. Try the [FAFSA 4caster](#)* with your family to explore options.



Get a strong start in high school. Make sure you plan for all four years and take challenging classes.

*FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid

GRADES 11-12

As a junior and senior, it's time to work with your family to firm up your plans for life after high school:

- ❑ Take on leadership roles. Make sure you get involved in school activities and volunteer your time at school or in the community. As one of the oldest students in the school, take a leadership role in your activities.
- ❑ Register for advanced courses. Learn what courses you need to graduate and to apply to college. Then challenge yourself by taking advanced courses, such as advanced math or science or AP courses.
- ❑ Identify postsecondary options. With your family, identify five to ten postsecondary programs that will help you meet your career goals. These might be two- or four-year colleges, technical colleges, or apprenticeships.
- ❑ Take college entrance exams. Take the PSAT as a junior and the SAT and/or ACT as a senior. Take the ASVAB if you are interested in a military career. And take AP exams for any AP courses you complete.
- ❑ Learn the application schedule for your postsecondary choices. Make yourself a calendar of what you need to do to apply to each of your choices. Find out what exams are needed, when the application form is due, how many teacher recommendations you'll need, and whether you'll need to write a personal essay. Work with your family to keep track of your applications.
- ❑ Continue to research financial aid. By the middle of your senior year, you and your family will need to complete a **FAFSA** form to apply for financial aid. In addition, work with your school counselor to identify other scholarships and aid.
- ❑ Don't slow down! Even after you make your decision about what you're doing after high school, don't slow down. Continue to take challenging courses and continue to work hard until graduation. Colleges will notice if you suddenly stop working, or take an easier course load during the second semester of senior year.



Talk with your school counselor to make sure you understand how to apply for your college choices.

COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCES

Here are a few resources to help you navigate the next few years:

Navigation 101	www.k12.wa.us/Navigation101
Paying for College	www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/index.asp
Getting Ready for College & Career	www.hecb.wa.gov/gearuphandbook.asp
College Board—Tests, college search	www.collegeboard.com
Technical & Community Colleges	www.sbctc.ctc.edu/

