

**NOVEMBER FOR FAMILIES OF 9THGRADE STUDENTS**

**STUDENTS**

**NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE**

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

**Why Visit Colleges?**

A key part of deciding which college to go to is finding a good fit. And a great way to get more information is to visit the colleges in person.

Campus visits can help students and families see the possibilities that exist beyond high school and their community. Plus, they can help ease concerns and anxieties of both students and families, especially for students who would be the first in their family to go to college.

A campus visit is your opportunity to get a firsthand view of a college. A college catalog, brochure, or website can only show you so much. To really get a feel for the college, you need to walk around the campus, sit in on a class and visit the dorms.

Students will have multiple opportunities to visit campuses, including those for two- and four-year schools. In middle school, your teen had the chance to have a broad look at options. Now as your child gets older, campus visits should target his or her specific interests. When teens get a chance to visit college campuses, they often can begin to envision themselves there.

*Insert info about your school’s planned campus visits*

**COLLEGE BENEFITS GO BEYOND EARNINGS.**

In addition to earning more, college-educated Millennials also have lower unemployment and poverty rates than their less-educated peers. They’re also more likely to be married and less likely to be living in their parent’s home.

**Did You Know?**

Insert School Logo

School Contact Information:Click here to enter text.

Personnel: Click here to enter text.

Tutoring Center: Click here to enter text.

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

* **Family Event:**
* **Student-led Conferences:**
* Click here to enter text.

**Myth Buster**

**Student Checklist**

* **Explore reasons to consider college** and ways you can get help preparing.
* **Talk to your family about how to pay for college.** Most families use a combination of savings, current income and loans. Discuss what works best for your family.
* **Participate in study skills and tutoring activities.**

**Family Checklist**

* **Start thinking about financial aid**. It’s not too early to learn about the types of aid.
* **Encourage your child to participate in class and turn in homework on time.** Find out about your child’s grades, assignments, and attendance on the school’s online system (like Skyward). If you don’t know how to access this system, contact your child’s counselor for assistance.

**MYTH:** Forget the “top” colleges; they’re way too expensive.

**REALITY**: Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Princeton all have “sticker prices” in excess of $60,000 a year.

Students who attend these and many other “top” colleges find that they receive significant financial aid and graduate with little or no student debt. In fact, well-known “expensive” colleges are often less costly to attend than “second tier” or even state colleges.

Every college is now required by federal law to have a financial aid calculator on the college’s website. Use the [financial aid calculator](https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/a/aid-calculator/) to really understand how much financial aid your family will probably receive from the college.