

CLASS OF
2023



Connect with us on
Social Media

- **Twitter:**
@VancouverGEARUP
- **Facebook:**
GEARUPVancouver
- **Instagram:**
@VancouverGEARUP

****GEAR UP social media policy:** In order to maintain student and family confidentiality and privacy, we will not follow or friend you on social media. However, we encourage you to connect with us in this way for information on important updates and useful resources.**

Upcoming Events:

Skyview Family Orientation

Thursday, September 15
6:00pm

Fort Vancouver Family Orientation

Thursday, September 22
6:00pm

Hudson's Bay Family Orientation

Thursday, September 29
6:00pm

We welcome parents/guardians and students to our GEAR UP Advisory Committee! We meet just twice a year. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to GEAR UP District Coordinator, Nina Stemm at nina.stemm@vansd.org



FORT VANCOUVER VANCOUVER GEAR UP NEWSLETTER
HUDSON'S BAY
SKYVIEW
SEPTEMBER 2022

Senior Year — Get Organized

There are six key milestones that your child will accomplish this year:

- 1) Take postsecondary entrance and placement exams.
- 2) Develop a list of postsecondary choices.
- 3) Apply to postsecondary programs or institutions.
- 4) Prepare a financial plan and apply for financial aid.
- 5) Complete all high school graduation requirements.
- 6) Graduate.

It is important to stay organized. Create a calendar with your child. This should include application deadlines and other important dates. This Fall, help your teen prepare for college and financial aid.

Students should:

Meet with GEAR UP staff to talk about postsecondary plans.

Review transcript to make sure they are on track to graduate on time. Get help if needed.

Learn the application process for each college or program. Get started on the applications now. Start writing application essays.

Update résumés with senior year activities. Their résumé will help them with their applications. Plus, students will want to share it with people who are writing recommendations for them.

Ask teachers, counselors, coaches, or employers for letters of recommendation. Give them plenty of time. Students should give them a copy of their résumé plus the recommendation form and a stamped envelope (if needed).

Be sure to write a thank you note to each person who writes a letter of recommendation!

Take any needed required entrance exams and make sure scores are sent to colleges.

Did You Know?

Your teen should apply to at least three colleges, one from within each of these three categories:

Reach - You might not get in, but it's worth applying because you really want to go.

Solid - You're a competitive applicant and will likely be accepted.

Safety - You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out.

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Your Teen Has Choices!

“College” includes many options such as apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees.



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HUDSON'S BAY
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Step 1: College Applications

Every college sets its own admission requirements, so it's a good idea for your child to check with the college's website to see what criteria (GPA, test scores, etc.) applicants must meet in order to be a good candidate.

Early applications are usually due in the Fall, sometimes even as early as October. For regular admissions, applications are usually due in December or January. Encourage your child to start working on them now.

Here are the most common parts to an application:

The Application: Most colleges use their own custom application form, but many schools use a shared application called the Common Application

Personal Statement/Essay: Most colleges will require at least one written essay.

Your child's main goal should be to share personal information in a clear, engaging way. This is perhaps the most critical element of an application. The personal statement is a way for admissions officers to get to know who applicants are and why they want to attend their college.

Transcript: Most colleges will require a high school transcript, which is a record of your child's classes and grades. Students, who have earned college credit, will also need to submit those college transcripts. NOTE: Colleges only accept "official" transcripts that are signed and sealed by the high school, usually the school counselor.

Test Scores: The required test could be one of the following: SAT and/or ACT, SAT Subject Tests (select subjects), ASSET/ACCUPLACER/ALEKS (for community college) or ASVAB (for military).

Short Answer Response: These are extra questions beyond a personal statement.

Activities Log/Resume: This listing of extracurricular activities is a way for admissions to get to know your child.

Letters of Recommendation: Sometimes a college will require one or more letters of recommendation, from someone other than a family member.

Did You Know?

Students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents can apply to and attend a college or university. They may even be eligible for in-state tuition rates and state financial aid. **Learn more at:** <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>

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MYTH: Because of the cost of higher education, students should only apply to inexpensive schools.

REALITY: Students do not really know how much college will cost out of pocket until they apply, are accepted, and receive a financial aid package. This means that they should apply to colleges seem like a good fit, regardless of cost.

For example, private schools often have a higher sticker price than public schools but they also tend to offer more financial aid. Larger financial aid packages may lower the total cost for students to less than that of a public school.

With the availability of financial aid, students have many options for schools. It's important to consider costs as one part of the criteria for choosing which college best fits them. But it should not be the determining factor.



FORT VANCOUVER VANCOUVER GEAR UP NEWSLETTER
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Step 2: Apply for Financial Aid

You and your child should complete and submit either the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#) or the [Washington Application for State Financial Aid \(WASFA\)](#). Both applications open **October 1**. You should complete this step as soon as possible.

REMINDER: File the **FAFSA** (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) if your child is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Students who do not meet these eligibility requirements or have other reasons for not wanting to file a FAFSA, should file the **WASFA** (<https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>).

Students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year or **prior-prior year**. For example, on the 2023-24 FAFSA/WASFA, students—and their parent(s), as appropriate—will report their 2021 income and tax information. Because you will have already done your taxes by the time you fill out your FAFSA, you may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to automatically import your tax information into your FAFSA. See more information at: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources/parents>

Filing early is holding your child's place in line for financial aid. The sooner you get in line, the likelier it is that you'll be awarded aid. Filing early helps ensure that your child has access to as much financial aid as possible.

Students need to file for financial aid every year they are in college. **The 12th Year Campaign** is a state-administered program that holds free, regional events to help students and families complete financial aid applications. The workshops begin in October and November at numerous locations across Washington State. Students receive step-by-step instructions for successfully completing and submitting their FAFSA or WASFA.

**Sign up for college and career updates from WA State GEAR UP! Great opportunity to get connected to reminders and help with all things college and career!
Students, sign up with the instruction below!**

Sign up for important updates from Annie @ GEAR UP.

Get information for Washington Student Achievement Council - GEAR UP right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for Class of 2023 - Seniors:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/2g6g66

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

rmd.at/2g6g66

Join Class of 2023 - Juniors

Full Name

First and Last Name

Phone Number or Email Address

(555) 555-5555

B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @2g6g66 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @2g6g66 to (402) 513-3346.

** Standard text message rates apply.*

To

81010

Message



GEAR UP CONTACT INFO

Hudson's Bay

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Skyview

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Jenessa.higgs@vansd.org

Nina Stemm—GEAR UP
District Coordinator
313-1238
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GEARUP.wa.gov
Vansd.org/gearup

*Interested in volunteering with
GEAR UP?
We LOVE parent/family
involvement! If you're
interested in chaperoning one of
our awesome field
trips, let us know! Follow the link
below for the VSD Volunteer
Clearance packet.
<http://vansd.org/volunteer/>*

Contact Your GEAR UP Staff

Fort Vancouver

Evan Pearson—evan.pearson@vansd.org
Jenessa Higgs—jenessa.higgs@vansd.org

Hudson's Bay

Ryan Griffith—ryan.griffith@vansd.org—971-245-2495
Sam Abarca—sam.abarca@vansd.org

Skyview

Brandi Elder—brandi.elder@vansd.org—971-238-9738

VPS District Offices

Nina Stemm—District Coordinator—nina.stemm@vansd.org



What do you want to know
about financial aid?

Text Otter!



Sign up for text messages to get information and help applying for financial aid as you get ready for college. Learn more at wsac.wa.gov/otterbot.

Text (360) 928-7281 and write "Hi Otter" to start.
You can opt out at any time.

Please see the GEAR UP Privacy Notice and Information Letter attached.
If you have any questions about GEAR UP in general, please contact
Nina Stemm—GEAR UP District Coordinator at
nina.stemm@vansd.org or 360-313-1238



Privacy Notice

Our Commitment to Privacy

Your privacy is very important to us. Our policy is to respect and protect the privacy of our participants and families. We are providing this notice to explain how we collect and use your information and, most importantly, how we protect your privacy.

The Information We Collect

Washington State GEAR UP does not collect share any personal information that would allow anyone to readily identify a specific individual.

How We Use Information

We only use non-identifying and summary information in reports to the State of Washington and Department of Education and other organizations. We never disclose any information that can be used to identify an individual participant or his or her family. We never sell or give away any personal information on our program participants.

Our Commitment to Security

To prevent unauthorized access to your information, safeguard its accuracy, and provide protection of private information, we have put in place physical, electronic, and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure the information we collect.

How to Contact Us

If you have other questions or concerns about these privacy policies, please contact us.

GEAR UP Vancouver Public Schools
Nina Stemm – GEAR UP District Coordinator
PO Box 8937
Vancouver, WA 98668
360-313-1238
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Washington State GEAR UP
Marcie Sample, Associate Director for College Access and Support
Washington Student Achievement Council
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PO Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430
(360) 753-7788
marcies@wsac.wa.gov



Privacy Notice

Cada familia que participa en el programa de GEAR UP recibirá la noticia de privacidad.

Our Commitment to Privacy

Su privacidad es muy importante a nosotros. Nuestra política está establecida para respetar y proteger la privacidad de los participantes y sus familias. Ofrecemos esta noticia para explicar como mantenemos y usamos su información y, aún más importante, como protegemos su privacidad.

The Information We Collect

De parte del programa del estado de Washington, GEAR UP no comparte colectivamente ningún informe que le permitiría que otros pudieran identificar a un individuo (ni a estudiante ni familiar).

How We Use Information

Solamente usamos información que no indentifica al individuo y un resumen del informe en nuestros reportajes al estado de Washington y el Departamento de Educación y a otras organizaciones. Nunca ofrecemos ningún informe que se pueda usar en identificar un participante individual o su familia. Nunca vendemos ni damos ninguna información de los participantes en nuestro programa.

Our Commitment to Security

Para guardar la seguridad de su información, aseguramos la protección de información; hemos puesto en operación un sistema físico y electrónico para mantener y asegurar la información que recibimos.

How to Contact Us

Si tiene usted preguntas o quiere más información, favor de llamarnos.

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