



## ***Fall Quarterly Update***

### ***For 2019-2020 Sophomores***

#### **Making School Count**

- **Create/update your high school plan.** A high school plan will help make the most of your high school years and maximize your college options. Having a plan involves setting goals and checking progress each semester on academics and activities, college search and applications, and college admissions tests. Ask your student's counselor or contact the College and Career Center to learn about the Richland School District's Four-Year Planning Tool, which maps out four years of courses for different academic tracks. For more information on college planning, visit the Campus Explorer's overview for [College Planning in High School](#) and the College Board's [How to Start Planning for College in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade](#).
- **How to succeed in AP classes.** College admissions officers will want to see that you challenged yourself academically, and Advanced Placement (AP) classes are one of the best ways to do this. AP classes are more rigorous and move at a faster pace, and can therefore challenge students' organization and time management skills as well as their academic abilities. Here are [5 keys to success in Advanced Placement courses](#).
- **Extracurricular activities – passion, leadership and impact.** When it comes to extracurricular activities, colleges are looking for quality over quantity. While many students find their passion in an organized activity such as music, sports, or established clubs, you can demonstrate the qualities colleges look for in almost any activity you choose! This article discusses [the 3 best extracurricular activities for your college application](#) and offers some ideas on how to develop your passion in ways that will help your college application.
- **Cultivate mentors.** A mentor is someone who can offer practical advice, encouragement, and support to help you navigate your academic or career journey. Parents often fill that role for high school students, but a high school mentor can supplement parental guidance with specialized and complementary knowledge. Here are [3 Individuals to turn to for mentorship](#) during high school and beyond.

#### **Looking Ahead to College**

- **Early look at the PSAT.** Like last year, Hanford will be giving the PSAT to freshmen, sophomores and juniors next month (October 16) at no cost to students. This will offer a valuable preview of this college admissions test. [Learn more about the PSAT here](#).

#### **Careers & Majors**

- **Explore WOIS – The Career Information System.** Visit the Hanford Career Center (first floor, next to Counselors' offices) and login to [WOIS](#) (sounds like "voice" but with a "w"). WOIS is an excellent resource to learn about careers, explore educational programs, and discover schools and colleges.

#### **Finding Colleges for You**

- **Get to know some colleges.** Searching for colleges may seem daunting, but taking a first few steps will remove much of the mystery. Pick a few colleges you've heard of and go online to learn more about them. Look up the profile of their most recently-admitted class (size, GPA

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ranges, test scores, diversity). Learn about tuition and housing costs, and what students pay. Take a virtual tour. And, read about campus and community life. The College Board's [College Search tool](#) will help you get started.

- **Attend a college fair.** College fairs are an efficient way to explore colleges and talk informally with admissions representatives. Hanford's College Expo will be held in the Commons on October 23, 6-8pm and is open to all students and families. [National College Fairs in the Pacific Northwest](#) are offered in late October and early November this year (scroll down to find Fall college fairs in WA and Oregon). The [Portland National College Fair](#) will be held October 27-28, the [Seattle National College Fair](#) will be held on November 2-3 and the [Spokane National College Fair](#) will be held November 6. Both are free to the public.

### **Paying for College**

- **A financial perspective on paying for college.** Many families don't discuss money when searching for colleges. The Wall Street Journal says this is a mistake – read their suggestions on [questions families need to ask about paying for college](#).

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

- **October 2, 2019, 6:00pm – College, Financial Aid, & Scholarship Application Process Night.** Hanford counselors will walk you through the college application process and provide valuable information to help guide you through the application steps. This event is designed for juniors and seniors, but is open to all Hanford families. Meet in the Hanford Auditorium.
- **October 16, 2019–** Hanford freshmen, sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT during school hours. Richland School District is using the PSAT to satisfy state testing requirements; this is a great opportunity for sophomores to get an early experience with college admissions testing.
- **October 16, 2019, 6:00pm – Finding your perfect college.** *Sage College Prep Services* is partnering with Gesa Credit Union to present the second of a 4-part seminar series on college planning. The next two seminars will be on **November 6** (Assembling a Successful College Application) and **December 4** (Paying for College). The seminars are free and open to the community, but space is limited – [use this link to register](#), scroll to the Sage seminar, and click the registration button to sign up.
- **October 23, 2019, 6:00-8:00pm– Hanford's College & Career Expo.** Representatives from multiple colleges, the military, and other post-secondary careers will be available in the Hanford Commons Area to talk with students and families. Similar fairs will be held all week at Tri-Cities high schools: Chiawana (10/21 8am-2pm and 6-8pm), Kennewick (10/22 7:30am-2:30pm), Richland (10/22, 6-8pm), Southridge (10/23 in the morning), Hanford (10/23, 6-8pm), Kamiakin (10/24, 8am-1:30pm), Pasco (10/24, 5-7pm), and Delta (10/25 in the morning), culminating in a final College Fair on Saturday, October 26, 12-3pm at Chiawana.
- **October 27-28, 2019 – Portland National College Fair.** [Portland's National College Fair](#) offers a free weekend option for those who can't attend the fair in Spokane on November 5.
- **October 30, 2019, 6-8pm – Planning for College, Part 1.** Cathy McMeeken, McMeeken College Consulting, will present livestream on "7 Top Myths in College Admission" and Rich Quadrel, Sage College Prep Services, will present on "Six Key Strategies to Achieve Your Best Score on the SAT or ACT." The session is sponsored by Angie Furubotten-LaRosee, Avea Financial Planning, in

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partnership with Kennewick Community Education, and will be held at Kamiakin High School, Room 440. [Register here](#).

- **November 1, 2019 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.** This is a good time for students to check their grades, and consider whether they need to make changes in order to meet their GPA targets.
- **November 1-2, 2019 – Seattle National College Fair.** [Seattle's National College Fair](#) offers another free weekend option.
- **November 5, 2019 – Spokane National College Fair.** The [Spokane National College Fair](#) is free and open to the public!
- **November 6, 2019, 6-8pm – Planning for College, Part 2.** Barak Rosenbloom, Essay Mentors, will present livestream on “Discover 7 Secrets for a Great College Essay” and Rich Quadrel, Sage College Prep Services, will present on “Paying for College: 5 Steps to Take Control.” The session is sponsored by Angie Furubotten-LaRosee, Avea Financial Planning, in partnership with Kennewick Community Education, and will be held at Kamiakin High School, Room 440. [Register here](#).
- **November 7, 2019 – Parent-Teacher Conferences.** Drop in between 4 pm and 7 pm to talk with your student's teachers. Teacher stations will be set up in the Hanford gyms.



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