

**PROGRAM:**

High School and College Advisory Event for Middle School Students

**OBJECTIVES:**

Middle School students learn about high school and college.

**LOCATION:**

Pioneer Middle School, Walla Walla, WA

**DESCRIPTION:**

At 8:10 AM students check into their classes, announcements are made, the day's advisory event is explained to them, and they gather their portfolios and pencils. Each grade level, sixth, seventh and eighth, has its own activities, and each class in the entire school attends four sessions:

Session 1        8:20-8:45

Session 2        8:48-9:12

Session 3        9:15-9:40

Session 4        9:43-10:08

Period one of school begins at 10:10 AM.

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:**

**PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:**

- Early in the school year the GEAR UP site director gets permission from the school to put the activity on the school calendar.
- Get buy-in from the school administrators and teachers.
- Recruits presenters during the school year.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:**

- Evaluation of past event showed the importance of getting the cooperation of teachers and administrative staff members.
- Feedback from teachers, administrators and presenters.

**COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:**

There is a cost to the school in that the first two hours of the day are devoted to this activity, rather than regular classes. Therefore, the buy-in of faculty and administrative staff members is crucial to the success of the event.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Marika Tomkins

GEAR UP Site Director, Pioneer Middle School

Walla Walla, WA

(509) 526-8621

mtomkins@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu

## ATTACHMENTS:

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Session Descriptions (down below)

### Grade Six Sessions

1. **Terminology Relay**-This activity focuses on post-secondary terminology and has been built to appeal to learning through kinetics. Two GEAR UP tutors lead teachers and students in the activity.
2. **Exploring My Career**-Students need their portfolios and pencils for this activity. All students complete a brochure on their career of choice, with information available on WOIS. The activity takes place in one of the labs, or in a room with GEAR UP laptops. Teachers assist the lead staff in this rotation and help students complete the activity. The brochures that students produce are placed in their portfolios.
3. **College Panel**-Students listen to college students' stories and then ask questions at the end of the session. Teachers support the activity by helping with classroom control and encouraging respect toward the presenters.

### Grade Seven Sessions

1. **PSSS Results**-Teachers review a PSSS PowerPoint with students and teach them how to understand their PSSS results. Students are given a packet with the results and information for their parents. Teachers show students how to access *MY COLLEGE QUICK START* and *MY ROAD*. Both of these are excellent guides from the College Board. Only students who took the PSSS will have access to these programs. The PSSS packet goes into the students' portfolios.
2. **Exploring My Career**- This is the same activity as that completed by the sixth graders. Students need their portfolios and pencils for this activity. All students complete a brochure on their career of choice, with information available on WOIS. The activity takes place in one of the labs, or in a room with GEAR UP laptops. Teachers support the lead staff in this rotation and help students complete the activity. The brochures that students produce are placed in their portfolios.
3. **Cost of College**- This activity is led by an instructor in an engaging "game-show" format. Outcomes for the activity focus students on understanding college costs and ways to pay for college.
4. **Know How to Go**- This is part of a college going campaign led by a representative from the College Success Foundation, and discusses four steps to college.

### Grade Eight Sessions

1. **PSSS Results**- Same as the seventh graders activity. Teachers review a PSSS PowerPoint with students and teach them how to understand their PSSS results. Students are given a packet with the results and information for their parents. Teachers show students how to access *MY COLLEGE QUICK START* and *MY ROAD*. Both of these are excellent guides from the College Board. Only students who took the PSSS will have access to these programs. The PSSS packet goes into the students' portfolios.
2. **High School and Beyond Plan**- Students begin by creating their "High School and Beyond" plans, and are led in this activity by two teachers.
3. **Freshman 101**- The activity is led by teachers and students about the ins and outs of the freshman year in high school.
4. **High School Panel**- High school students tell their personal stories about their high school experiences. Teachers support the activity by helping with classroom control, and encouraging respect for the presenters.