ASPIRE Checklist
College Bound 9th Grade

Achieve

- ☐ **Focus on Attendance and Grades**: Freshman year grades go on your transcript and impact college admissions and scholarships.
- ☐ **Develop Good Habits:** Practice organization, pay attention to details, and use a calendar to meet deadlines.
- ☐ **Build Strong Relationships:** Surround yourself with supportive peers and teachers.

Explore

- ☐ **Discover Interests:** Use high school classes to find subjects you enjoy.
- ☐ **Consider Career Options:** Use resources like College Board's Big Future, Career One Stop, Career Interest Survey.
  - Ask your counselor if your school has Oregon CIS or Naviance
  - Talk to adults in various professions
- ☐ **Research Schools:** Investigate college, university, and career-technical school admission requirements.
- ☐ **College Students:** Talk with college students about their path to career and college.
- ☐ **Attend Events:** Go to career and college fairs and visit campuses.
  - Virtual Options: Check out college websites for virtual tours or visit Roadtrip Nation, Campus Tours

Engage

- ☐ **Participate in Classes:** Ask questions, engage in discussions, and practice good study habits.
- ☐ **Get Involved:** Join extracurricular activities like clubs, sports, and community service. It looks great on college and scholarship applications.
- ☐ **Volunteer:** Engage in services you are passionate about.
- ☐ **Job Shadow:** Go to work with a family member or community member to learn about their job.
- ☐ **Get a Job:** Gain work experience through employment.

Prepare

- ☐ **Meet with ASPIRE/College & Career Coordinator:** Discuss your future goals.
- ☐ **Meet Your Counselor:** Ensure you're on track with required courses and discuss AP/Dual Credit options.
- ☐ **Build Your Resume:** Record participation in extracurricular activities, along with awards and honors you receive

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- ☐ **Make Summers Count:** Participate in camps, enrichment programs, and gain job experience.
- ☐ **Summer Reading:** Get a jump on 10th grade by reading this summer.
- ☐ **Manage Your Social Media:** Be mindful of what you post. Highlight strengths, achievements, and maintain a positive and professional online presence.

Plan

- ☐ **Learn About Financial Aid:** Explore how state and federal opportunities can help you pay for college.
- ☐ **Save for College:** Consider and talk to your family about the Embark Savings Plan, a 529 account with tax advantages for educational expenses.
- ☐ **Bank Account:** Open a bank or credit union account to start saving money for your future.

Your first year of high school matters - Start Strong!

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