

## GEARUP SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS  
at Cincinnati Public Schools

Aug. 27-31

Ohio Achievement Test (OAT)  
Pre-testing

Monday, Sept. 3

Labor day, schools closed

Sept. 10-14

Ohio Graduation Test (OGT)  
Practice, grades 9-10

Sept. 17-21

Midterm week

## DID YOU KNOW?

A survey by the U.S. Department of Labor asked what skills employers are looking for.

Here's what it found:

## Foundation Skills

- **Basics:** Read, write, calculate mathematically, listen and speak well.
- **Thinking:** Think creatively, make decisions, solve problems, visualize, know how to learn and how to reason.
- **Personal Qualities:** Be responsible, develop your self-esteem, manage your emotions, be honest.

## Job Success Skills

- Organize and plan resources, including time, money, materials, and people.
- Work well with other people.
- Acquire and use information well.
- Understand organizations and technological systems.
- Be able to work with a variety of technologies.

# Back To School

## ready to learn



## READY FOR COLLEGE?

**P**reparing for college is a long-term process. The first year of high school is not too early to

begin. Whether you realize it or not, you're already making choices that can affect your college plans.

**Early on.** To maximize your chances of being accepted into the college of your choice, focus on taking challenging courses and on making the best grades possible. Meet with your guidance counselor and your GEARUP college access advisor to develop a solid four-year academic plan.

The college admissions process can be competitive, and even though a college may require only three years of math, your chance of being accepted may increase if you successfully complete more than the minimum.

During your sophomore year, consider taking the PSAT or the PACT (pre-SAT or pre-ACT). The scores won't count and they're a great way to practice.

**Get involved.** Grades are king, but extracurricular activities are also important. Colleges want more than just good students, they want good citizens. Being able to list your involvement in sports, student government, a job or volunteer work shows colleges and universities that you are well-rounded, dependable and capable of handling multiple responsibilities. Don't over-extend yourself, though. A huge list of extracurricular activities coupled with poor grades won't impress a college admissions officer.

**Midway.** Continue to refine your plan as necessary. Take the ACT or SAT or both. If cost is a concern, fee waivers are available for students who qualify. Just ask your school counselor or GEARUP resource coordinator.

The junior year is also the time to visit schools. Contact college admissions offices for tour dates, open houses and special events. Find out about college fairs. They are a great place to gather application packets and information from many colleges and universities in one place.

**Final planning.** Finally, time for the payoff: applying to the college of your choice during your senior year. It's okay to ask for help from parents or teachers (your high school counselor may need to submit your finished application along with your official transcript), but try to do as much as you can on your own. After all, when you're actually in college, you'll need to be able to depend on you!



Serving 3,800 students  
in 23 Cincinnati Public Schools

For more information:  
phone 513-556-3611  
or fax 513-556-1037



## GET "INTO" HIGH SCHOOL TO GET INTO THE BEST SCHOOL

- Don't be afraid to take hard classes, including AP (advanced placement) courses
- Take more classes than the minimum
- Demonstrate initiative whenever you can, whether in or out of school
- Retest multiple times to get the best scores
- Make a plan and touch base with your guidance counselor or your GEARUP college access advisor at least once each year
- Develop a good relationship with a teacher who can mentor you and help you with your college entrance essay
- Get involved — in sports, in the school play, in clubs or student government
- Ask for extra credit work to bring up a grade you're unhappy with

