



Summer Quarterly Update

For 2016-2017 Sophomores

Making School Count

- **Get ready for finals.** Finals week can be an especially stressful time, so use these [study tips](#) to help you conquer your finals.
- **Be thoughtful about your summer plan.** Summer represents a wonderful and valuable opportunity to rest up *and* develop interests and activities for which you don't have time during the academic year. This article offers a step-wise approach to thinking about [how you want to invest your summer time](#).
- **Don't forget your AP or Honors summer reading list!** If you have signed up for AP or Honors classes in the fall, you may have a summer reading assignment. Make sure you find out what it is before you've planned (and spent) your entire summer!
- **Good reads for students and parents.** We all know that reading is a great way to keep our brains engaged over the summer, but finding the right book can be a challenge. Take a look at this great list of [classics](#). Scan the titles of books for parents and students from [college admissions officers and counselors](#). Or, go for the [most exciting reads of 2017](#) for young adults.
- **Consider an online college course this summer.** Taking courses online can be an excellent way for high school students to earn college credit or gain college-level experience in the classroom. This site provides an [overview of online college courses](#) offered by well-regarded postsecondary institutions. U.S. News and World report offers some additional [advice regarding online college courses](#).
- **Summer camps and classes.** Check out local summer classes and camps offered through the [WSU Summer STEM program](#), [Tri-Tech Skills Center summer program](#), or the [Richland School District](#).

Looking Ahead to College

- **Start building your resume.** A good high school resume will come in handy for summer jobs, and will provide a great starting place for college and scholarship applications later. Find out how to [get started on your resume here](#).
- **For athletes – getting recruited.** If you are serious about playing sports in college and haven't yet figured how recruiting happens, now is a good time to start learning. Check out this [Recruiting 101](#) website, and make sure you take a look at [frequently asked questions](#).
- **Talk to college students this summer.** Many college freshmen come home for the summer with a rich supply of experience and information you can tap. Look for opportunities to ask them about how they chose their school, what they liked or didn't like about their first year experience, and advice they might offer!

Careers & Majors

- **Career learning opportunities.** Hanford's Career Center is partnering with a variety of summer and year-long programs that offer extensive career experience to high school students. Some of the deadlines may have past, but this is a good time to think ahead to next year! Find out more on the [Career Center website](#) or talk directly to Mrs. Karen Richardson at (509) 967-6524.

Finding Colleges for You

- **Plan a college visit that lets you stay awhile.** Many colleges offer campus visits that include opportunities to sample a class, speak with faculty or even stay overnight at no or little cost to juniors and seniors in high school. Start exploring now so that you can factor these opportunities into your junior year. Check out examples at [Gonzaga University](#), [Seattle Pacific University](#), [WSU fall preview](#), [WSU spring preview](#), and [University of Washington](#).
- **Pacific Northwest College Tour.** Read about a five-day [Pacific Northwest College Tour](#) that takes you to 4 cities and 5-7 colleges. Or tailor your own tour to include a family vacation or must-go locations. If you are traveling out of state, check out these US News and World Report [best college road trips](#) to see what campuses you might incorporate into your trip.

Paying for College

- **Save money from a summer job.** The [College Board](#) offers some general advice great summer jobs. If you feel stuck with just a few choices and are having difficulty thinking out of the box, check out these summer jobs lists from the [Penny Hoarder](#) and [U.S. News Money](#).
- **Start the college cost conversation early!** Last quarter's *Update* included links to information on college costs and tips for students on getting the cost conversation started with parents. *USA Today* offers additional advice for parents on [how to have a productive conversation about college costs](#).
- **Estimate your federal financial aid.** As you talk about paying for college, consider using the FAFSA4caster to help you [estimate your federal financial aid](#).



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