



GEAR UP Newsletter | Live Oak Ridge Middle School

JANUARY | 2019

What Middle School Parents Need To Know

The beginning of the year is a perfect time for parents to start thinking about saving for their students future college expenses. Even though college seems far away, it is better to lay the groundwork at a leisurely pace rather than wait until the last minute and find yourself unprepared. College can be expensive, but if you save and do your research, you can help your student achieve their dreams without breaking your pocketbook.

Learn the basics about financial aid for college.

Financial aid can be an intimidating process for both students and parents. Researching early on in the middle and high school years can make the process more user friendly. Websites such as TEXASGEARUP and studentaid.ed.gov will help you to answer the basic questions of financial aid, such as, "What's the difference between a scholarship and a loan?" "What is the FAFSA?" "Where do I apply for financial aid?" While you may not be able to apply for financial aid today, you will at least gain a framework for what you can do in the future.

Grades and Financial Aid.

The relationship between grades and financial aid is a close one, and many people do not understand the importance of this relationship until it is too late. When taking classes, it is important that students understand that someday, when they are juniors and seniors, colleges will ask for their transcript. A transcript will show what grade a student received for every class they took for high school credit. (A transcript can go as far back as a student's eighth grade year). In order to be considered for scholarships and grants, students must maintain high grades. Start caring about your grades today, so they can help you in the future.



DEAR Time: Daily 7:45-4:05
Homework Center: Mon.-Thur. 4:00-6:00
ZAP: Friday 3:45-4:05

Monday Tutoring: Science
Tuesday Tutoring: English/Reading
Wednesday Tutoring: History
Thursday Tutoring: Math

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 1-7: Christmas Break
- Jan. 8th: Spring Semester Begins
- Jan. 9th: Parent Conference Night
- Jan 12th: Boys & Girls Basketball Trip
- Jan. 22nd: 7th Grade Field Trip (Austin)
- Jan. 23rd: College and Career Trip
- Jan. 26th: 8th Grade PGP Signing Breakfast

College Readiness Websites

- Texasgearup.com
Provides resources for both students and parents regarding financial aid, career exploration, study tips, and so much more. Also, it has several videos detailing both what GEAR UP offers and how the program has affected students throughout the country.

Campus Highlights

▶ This month we want to highlight advanced math at Live Oak Ridge. In their eighth grade year, students are given the opportunity to take Algebra I. This allows students to have incredible advantages when going to high school. They will not only already have a high school credit, but this will also position them to be able to take even higher levels of math, such as Calculus, Dual Credit Algebra, and/or Statistics when they are in their junior and senior year. Algebra I is a challenging course, but it is definitely worthwhile for your student.

College Highlight

▶ Austin College prepares high-achieving students for rewarding careers as they create their own futures. As part of their learning-by-doing approach, students have countless opportunities to expand their horizons beyond campus. Legendary professors take students beyond the classroom to present research at national conferences, connect with Fortune 500 companies, and secure professional internships. One of 40 schools profiled in Loren Pope’s influential book *Colleges That Change Lives*, Austin College boasts a welcoming community that embraces diversity and individuality.

"Intelligence plus character, that is the true goal of education" (Martin Luther King Jr.)

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