

November 2019

Killeen High School GEAR UP Newsletter



School Information:

Killeen High School
500 N 38th St,
Killeen, TX 76543

GEAR UP Facilitator

9th Grade Facilitator:
Julie McPherson
254-541-8235
julie.mcpherson@killeenisd.org

**I am located upstairs in
Room 702 (Near the
auditorium)**



KHS Principal:

Kara Trevino

Grades Matter

Getting good grades in challenging classes throughout your teen's high school experience is important in college admissions decisions. Good grades also show that your child understands the material and is ready for the next step, whether that be the next semester, the next grade level, or college or training after high school.

Share these four tips with your teen:

1. **Get organized.** Stay on top of assignments and tests with a planner or calendar and keep loose papers in a folder or binder so nothing gets lost.
2. **Get help.** Ask your teachers, classmates, parents, and siblings for support if there's something you don't understand.
3. **Sit front and center.** Students who sit in the front and center of the classroom have been shown to achieve higher average test scores.
4. **Hang out with friends who work hard in school.** Research shows that good (and bad) grades are contagious, so choose your friends wisely.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grades and challenging or "rigorous" coursework weigh more heavily in college admissions than standardized test scores.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- **December 4:** Central Texas College Visit
- **December 6:** Youth Congress Team Building Trip
- **December 17 :** Semester Exams (Zero Hour and 6th Period)
- **December 18:** Semester Exams (5th and 7th Period)
- **December 19:** Semester Exams (1st and 3rd Period)
- **December 20:** Semester Exams (2nd and 4th Period)
Late Start: 9:45
Early Release: 1:50
- **December 23-January 7, 2020:** Christmas Break

GEAR UP Social Media

Like us on Facebook: GEAR UP Killeen ISD

Follow us on Twitter @ R12GearUp

Follow us on Instagram: r12gearup

Myth Buster

MYTH: A lot of out-of-class activities will compensate for poor grades.

REALITY: Colleges DO consider out-of-class activities such as athletics, student government, and music when they review an application. But colleges look at academic performance first.

Lots of out-of-class activities help only if the college already believes students can do the work.

The same goes for high test scores – this may help your child's chances of getting into college but grades and the classes that he or she took will be the key thing that most colleges consider.

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Start a portfolio of your work and a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.** Update it throughout high school.
- ☐ **Discuss next year's classes with your family and guidance counselor.** Make sure you take the kind of challenging courses college admission officers expect to see.
- ☐ **If a problem comes up, ask for help.** If you have a problem that's getting in the way of schoolwork, ask someone you trust and respect for advice or help—whether it's a friend, family member, coach, doctor or teacher. If you're having trouble with a class, talk with a teacher or school counselor about what type of tutoring or other assistance is available.

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Discuss next year's classes.** Make sure your children are challenging themselves and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for.
- ☐ **Check in regularly about schoolwork.** If your child is having problems in a class, encourage participation in study skills and tutoring activities.

