MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-14 ▲ PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Students will identify their interests and academic plans and create a Middle School Plan

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Middle School and Beyond Plan
* High School and Beyond Worksheet
* Journal Page
* **Family Handout:**
* Introducing the High School and Beyond Plan
* **Computer, projector, screen** for teacher to show “Preparing for High School” Power Point
* **PowerPoint Presentation: “Preparing for High School”**
* **Internet access** to reference **State Board of Education** ([www.sbe.wa.gov](http://www.sbe.wa.gov))
* **Minimum high school graduation requirements for Washington State**

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Discuss students’ interests and plans.** Divide students into groups of two or three. Have them spend a few minutes answering two questions: What seems most exciting when they look ahead to high school? What do they think will be most challenging? Ask for a volunteer from each group to summarize their discussion. Discuss with the whole group: overall, do your students think high school will be exciting? Why or why not?
2. **Show the “Preparing for High School” Power Point.** Ask for a show of hands: How many students know what types of classes they want to take when they’re in high school? How many students know why it’s important to choose courses during high school?

Tell them that the work they do during middle school and high school is very important in setting their direction for their lives when they grow up. To prepare for high school, it’s important for them to make the most of their time in middle school. Show the “Preparing for High School” PowerPoint presentation.

This presentation is particularly focused on the State of Washington’s requirements for high school graduation, because it’s important for students to understand early what they must do to succeed in high school. Please feel free to supplement this presentation with information about your school district’s high school requirements (which may be more stringent than the statewide requirements).

This presentation also introduces the types of requirements students must meet to prepare for postsecondary: the College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs) that are the minimum required for admission to a Washington four-year public college or university; and the recommended course credits for a highly selective college or university. The presentation also addresses the requirements to prepare a High School & Beyond Plan.

1. **Complete the *Middle School and Beyond Plan.*  Review the *Middle School and Beyond Plan*.** Explain that middle and high school is a very important time. It will be as exciting and rewarding as students make it. Part of making high school rewarding is planning ahead to take advantage of the opportunities that will be offered. Tell students that they are going to start planning ahead today – by thinking about how they might make their time in high school count.

Tell students that before they graduate from high school they will need to complete a formal High School and Beyond Plan, which will be more detailed than the checklist they just reviewed and which will summarize how well they used their time in high school to prepare for the future.

Discuss with them why it’s important for them to consider how the work they do today affects what they will do in the future: their choices and actions today while they’re in middle school will affect the work they do in high school and the opportunities they have after high school.

1. **Present course choices***.* If possible, have a school counselor meet with your students and explain the course options they will have for next year, and the registration process they need to complete. Although most middle school students don’t have many choices about courses, they should understand the options they have for:

* Opportunities to apply for or test into advanced or honors courses (such as advanced math)
* Opportunities to start high school-level courses while in middle school (such as world languages)
* Extracurricular activities, sports, and clubs
* Career exploration opportunities in middle school and high school

1. **Discuss course registration and high school requirements with families.** If you wish, you might want to welcome families to the school for student-led conferences or a registration fair. During this time, you can share information about your classes and activities, the State’s high school graduation requirements, and the important choices students will need to make about courses and activities to prepare for high school**.**

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Middle School and Beyond Plan***
* **Completed *High School and Beyond Worksheet***
* **Completed *Journal Page***

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* **OSPI Graduation Toolkit**

[www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/GraduationToolkit.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/GraduationToolkit.aspx)   
Information for students, families, and teachers about high school graduation requirements.

* **State Board of Education**

[www.sbe.wa.gov](http://www.sbe.wa.gov)   
Minimum high school graduation requirements for Washington State

* **The State Board of Education’s handout about the HS & Beyond Plan** <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/faq/highschoolbeyondplan.php#.V-vf6dxFrSp>

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-14 STUDENT HANDOUT

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WHO ARE YOU?**

Think about all the things you like to do. Write down three interests – maybe playing soccer or playing guitar or hiking. Then write a sentence about what you can do at school or at home to build on your interests. Maybe you can play a school sport or join a club.

Three of my interests are:

I can build on my interests by

**HOW ARE YOU DOING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?**

You are in your first or second year of middle school. How are you doing? What can you do to improve?

To do better in school, I can

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

What do you hope to accomplish when you are in high school? Check all that apply.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 🞏 | Join a sports team | 🞏 | Join clubs & activities | 🞏 | Play a musical instrument |
| 🞏 | Get a high GPA | 🞏 | Take honors & advanced classes | 🞏 | Take 4 years of math |
| 🞏 | Take 4 years of science | 🞏 | Take a world language | 🞏 | Get a part-time job |
| 🞏 | Be in school government | 🞏 | Help out other students | 🞏 | Volunteer in the community |
| 🞏 | Take career prep courses | 🞏 | Learn about postsecondary programs | 🞏 | Graduate on time |

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?**

Based on what you know today, what do you think you want to do after high school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 🞏 | Get a job right away | 🞏 | Find an apprenticeship | 🞏 | Finish a 1-2 year program |
| 🞏 | Get a 4-year college degree | 🞏 | Go to graduate school | 🞏 | Join the military |

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-14 STUDENT HANDOUT

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND WORKSHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A GOAL FOR THE FUTURE**

Complete this phrase: ***In 10 years, I will be…***

Now, think about how you will get from here to there.

**INTERESTS**

My goal for 10 years from now builds on my interests because I am interested in:

**HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES**

To achieve my goal for the future, I plan to take the following classes in high school. (Check all that apply)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ☐ | 3-4 years of math | ☐ | 3-4 years of science | ☐ | 3-4 years of social studies |
| ☐ | 4 years of English | ☐ | 2-4 years of a world language | ☐ | Advanced or honors classes |
| ☐ | CTE (career prep) classes in: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | |
| ☐ | Electives in: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | |
| ☐ | Clubs or sports, including: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | |

**POSTSECONDARY PLANS**

To achieve my goal for the future, I will continue to work hard after high school graduation. I will (choose all that apply):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ☐ | Get a job right away | ☐ | Find an apprenticeship | ☐ | Finish a certificate or 2-year (Associate’s) program |
| ☐ | Get a 4-year college degree | ☐ | Go to graduate school | ☐ | Join the military |

My ideal job would be:

It would help me achieve my goal because

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-14 STUDENT HANDOUT

JOURNAL PAGE

**DATE:**

**Lesson 7-14| *Preparing for High School***

***Q1:*** What are the Washington State Graduation Requirements? Do I have questions about them?

***Answers:***

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-14 FAMILY HANDOUT

INTRODUCING THE HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

**WHAT IS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?**

To graduate from high school in Washington, students must meet three requirements. They must:

* **Earn high school credit.** Students must earn at least 24 course credits in math, science, social studies, English, world languages, and other subjects. The State sets a minimum number of credits required to graduate. Your school district may have higher requirements. Students who want to go to a four-year college will need to meet even higher requirements.
* **Meet standard on State tests.** Students must meet standard on all state assessments. They may need to meet standard on end-of-course exams in math and science, depending on graduation year and recent legislation.
* **Prepare a High School & Beyond Plan.** Students must write a plan about what they have accomplished in high school and what they plan to do after graduation. A Personalized Pathway is a requirement based on courses selected within the High School & Beyond Plan.

**WHAT IS THE HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN?**

Students who are well prepared for high school do better in their classes. To help them prepare, many schools have students begin working on a High School & Beyond Plan while they are still in middle school. That way, students can think about their interests and understand how their work in middle school will help them prepare to take advanced classes during high school.

You can learn more about the High School & Beyond Plan at the State Board of Education’s web site:

<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/FAQ%20High%20School%20and%20Beyond%20Plan.pdf>

**HOW CAN I HELP PREPARE MY STUDENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND?**

Students should work hard in middle school to be ready to succeed in high school. They should find out if they can take advanced classes (such as advanced math or a world language). Students should take elective classes to explore their interest, and they should also join at least one school club or activity. Your school counselor can help your student make the most of middle school and prepare for high school.

**HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?**

The Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has posted information about the requirements to graduate from high school in Washington. These requirements and OSPI Graduation Toolkit can be found at: [www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements).

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