

Heart of Texas GEAR UP



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WHAT IS GEAR UP?

The Heart of Texas GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a grant project funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Texas A&M University is partnered with Bryan ISD and Hearne ISD Class of 2026. The primary goal of our project is to increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds, students served by special education, and English language learners who graduate from high school, enroll and succeed in postsecondary education.

GEAR UP STAFF

Heart of Texas GEAR UP employees are devoted to empowering students to fulfill their potential to achieve post-high school success. Our staff consists of a range of area coordinators, site managers for Hearne and Bryan ISD, on-campus outreach specialists, and student workers. Each GEAR UP team member plays an essential role in creating relationships and opportunities for the class of 2026.



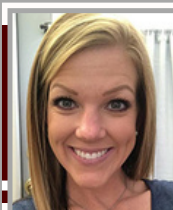
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HOW CAN GEAR UP BENEFIT YOU?

GEAR UP seeks to promote success in students through activities, guidance, relationships, and resources. GEAR UP offers free, weekly tutoring for students through the Aggie Homework Helpline. We also offer one-to-one mentorship to ensure academic, social, and mental support. We have various summer activities including summer camps and GEAR UP activities during summer school. GEAR UP prepares students for post-secondary success through exciting college trips, college readiness activities, financial literacy, and exposure to numerous career paths. Additionally, GEAR UP partners with parents and teachers through parent leadership and teacher development.



ACTIVITIES

Aggie Homework Helpline (AHH)

AHH is offered to all GEAR UP students including regular and on-demand tutoring via Zoom.

Mentoring

One-to-one mentors are paired with students to help keep them on track towards graduation.

College Visits/ Educational Field Trips

Increase student awareness and exposure to post-high school options including college visits, high school visits, and educational experiences.

College Readiness/ Career Activities

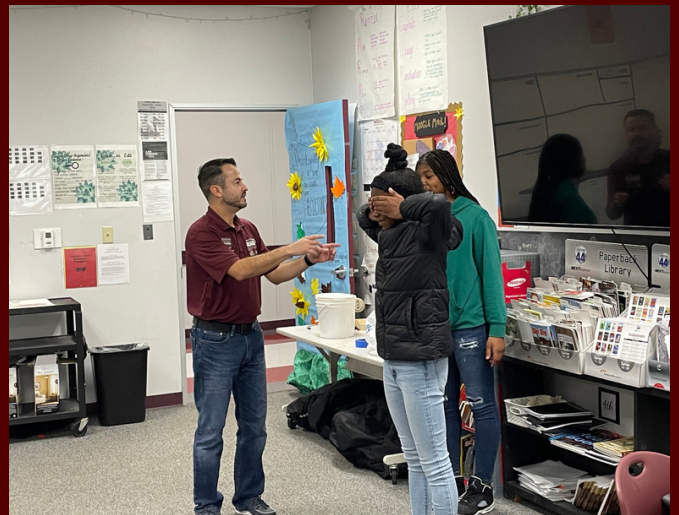
Activities take place throughout the year to prepare students for after high school by increasing self-advocacy, self-determination, financial literacy, college knowledge, and goal setting.

Work-Based Learning

Students have the opportunity to gain valuable work skills through: volunteerism, job shadowing, internships, etc.

Counseling and Advising

GEAR UP staff is on campus to offer counseling and advising to all GEAR UP students throughout the year.



SUMMER PROGRAMMING

BISD Summer School

GEAR UP offers activities during summer school to help students discover their strengths and interests as well as increase skills to promote success.

HISD Jump Start

Activities and programming during summer school that engage students in goal setting and planning for their future.

BVCIL Summer Camp

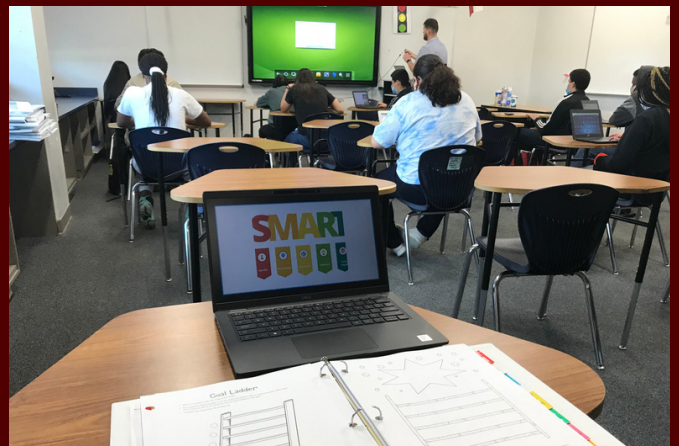
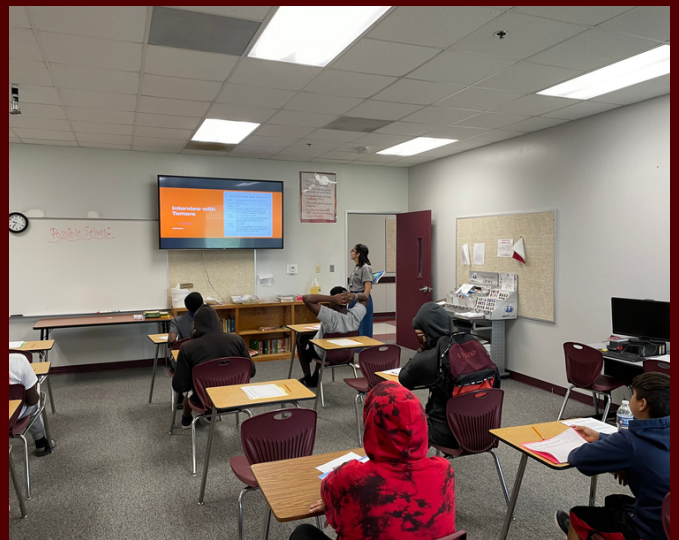
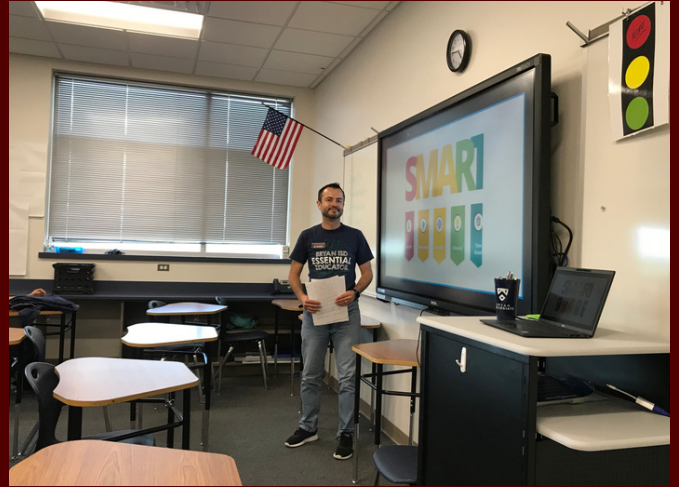
Week-long camp offered to Special Education GEAR UP students in BISD that focuses on future planning, independent living skills, self-advocacy, financial literacy, etc.

High School Camps

In 2022, as students are transitioning into high school, GEAR UP will participate in BHS Fish Camp, BCHS Freshman Camp, and Ranger Camp.

Additional Summer Camps

GEAR UP sends students to YAP camp and participates in the Boys and Girls Club Camp.





PARENTS CORNER

Transitioning from middle to high school can be a difficult time. It's important that you, as parents, are setting a good example for your child in order to ease this big change. Providing an encouraging and supportive environment is crucial in helping your child's transition. Along with providing a positive environment, implementing a space devoted to school work, showing enthusiasm in homework, and reading over assignments are just a few things to help. Parents, remember to remain patient and helpful through this transition.

For more tips, read:

<https://www.sylvanlearning.com/sylvan-nation/fundamentals/the-transition-to-high-school-must-read-tips-for-parents>

FINANCIAL LITERACY

As students begin their transition into high school, becoming financially literate is essential. We want students to understand how to manage their money as a future adult. On a recent GEAR UP survey to parents and students, many were unsure how to identify the characteristics of a variable expense.

BUDGETING 101

Budgeting: a financial plan you put in place in order to manage money. Within a budget there are two different types of expenses, fixed and variable.

Fixed Expense: These are costs that remain constant despite the situation. Examples include: Monthly car payments, rent, mortgage payment, etc.

Variable Expense: Costs that change month to month. Variable expenses are also referred to as unexpected expenses. Examples include: Car repairs, clothing, groceries, gasoline, medical expenses, etc.

COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY

As your student begins high school, knowing these terms will help better prepare them for the future. Check out [GEARUP.TAMU.EDU](https://gearup.tamu.edu) for a full list of college terms for your student to learn throughout their time in high school.

AP Classes

Taking advanced placement (AP) classes in high school can help you earn college credit alongside your diploma and lead to tuition savings as an undergraduate. AP classes prepare learners to take tests on college-level knowledge.

Students who receive passing scores (typically 3 - 5) on these tests can earn college credit.

Class Rank

A student's class rank is determined by their GPA placement compared to the rest of their peers. Class rank is part of the criteria that colleges use for admission.

Dual Credit

If eligible, a high school student is able to enroll in college course(s) and is able to receive credit for both high school and college.

GPA/ Grade Point Average

Grade Point Average (GPA) is a single number that represents your entire academic performance. Your GPA is essential for college applications and scholarship applications.

Plagerism

The action of copying, collaborating or presenting other's work as one's own. For more information visit: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>

Proper Email

Knowing how to write a proper email to show that you are professional. It helps later on in life when you have a job.

This is a link on how to write a proper email. It can also help with other writing needs: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/email_etiquette.html

STAY IN TOUCH: GEAR UP REMIND 101

**Sign up to receive updates from
GEAR UP right on your phone!**

**Use the QR code or text the
message @fh73b2 to the number
81010 or (424) 835 - 7454.**

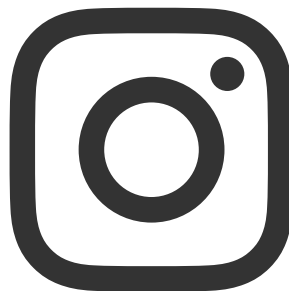
**The updates will include
information regarding college
knowledge, college terms, career
readiness, as well as general
reminders and motivational texts.**



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