

SP³ - Student Planning Pointers for Parents



Conversation Starters

Calculating a GPA – 8th Grade

You know your student the best, so the following talking points are simply a guideline to use in starting a conversation with your 8th grader about understanding how a grade point average (GPA) is calculated will help you and your student set and revise goals and expectations as high school progresses.

- ▶ Do you know what a GPA is? It stands for “grade point average,” and it’s a way for schools and employers to see how well you’re doing in high school without looking at every single grade you’ve earned. It’s a good indicator of how hard you work in high school.
- ▶ Do you know how your future high school calculates GPA? Let’s look at the school website to see.
- ▶ Let’s look at some examples of how different class grades affect GPA.
- ▶ It’s a lot easier to start with good grades to maintain a high cumulative GPA. You can’t make up for poor grades if you wait too late.
- ▶ Did you know that admission to public colleges in Iowa is partially based on GPA? How high of a GPA do you think you would need to earn the top merit scholarship at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University or the University of Northern Iowa? Let’s look at some of the scholarships they currently offer and the different GPA requirements.



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