

## Parents of Students Grades 9-12

*This school year West Virginia added world-class rigor to traditional core subjects and aligned state standards with national and international tests. We call it Global 21.*

### Why is public education changing?

- Eighty percent of jobs that your children will hold do not even exist yet. That is why it is important to teach them the same skills that children across the world are learning.
- Children need core subjects like math, science, social studies and English, but they also need good communication skills, to know how to work in teams, how to problem solve, and to understand other languages and cultures of the world.
- Students need to
  - be taught how to find solutions to problems on their own;
  - use technology at home and in school;
  - know how to use money to make good purchases;
  - develop good health habits as responsible citizens of the world;
  - be able to do well on state, national and international tests.

### In the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment, students in ninth through 12th grade will

- use computers, technology, digital tools and other resources to learn, organize and apply knowledge;
- learn a second or third language;
- work in pairs or teams to creatively solve problems and apply solutions;
- acquire basic financial skills to make responsible consumer decisions;
- understand their responsibility in a democracy to be informed citizens;
- understand and appreciate differences around the globe;
- be able to anticipate and plan for their future by taking challenging courses, mastering their class work and committing to lifelong learning.

### What can I do to help my student?

- Talk with your student's counselor about enrolling in several Advanced Placement classes.
- Encourage your student to learn a second or third language.
- Expect your student to take the PSAT in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Practice problem solving and critical thinking with your student while at home.
- Discuss with school faculty your student's performance on the WESTEST2 in ninth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Model acceptance of others.
- Encourage your student to read no fewer than 25 books a year and discuss the books with him or her. Keep a checklist visible.
- Review the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/>.
- Learn more about 21<sup>st</sup> century learning at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/21stparents/hs.html>.

