

What's Up in GEAR UP SWV

"Securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia."

Help Us Share the GEAR UP SWV Story!



GEAR UP SOUTHERN
WEST VIRGINIA
CONCORD • NEW RIVER CTC

Featured Articles:

- **Building Our Media Community**
#GEARUPSWV
- **Save the Date 2025 Summer Camps**
- **Algebra I Thinktank**
- **Parent/Guardian College Bus Tour**
- **Parent/Guardian Survey is OPEN!**
- **Family Advisory Council Signups!**



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Thank you for your hard work creating and executing exciting events for the GEAR UP SWV cohort! Now it's time to share these successes with our community. To inspire students and families and build a positive, trustworthy brand, we need your help with three key communication tasks:

1. Capture the Moment

- **Take Photos:** Capture moments of joy and engagement during GEAR UP SWV events.
- **Share Photos:** Post images on your county, school, or program's social media using #GEARUPSWV.
- **Submit Photos:** If you can't post directly, submit images via the [Communications & Promotional Request](#).
- **Need Help?** Review the [GEAR UP SWV Communications Standards](#) on the GEAR UP SWV website for tips and guidelines.

2. Ensure Permissions

- **Get Consent:** Before photographing students 17 and under, ensure parental/guardian permission is on file.
- **Track Media Permissions:**
 - Use the media release records provided by schools.
 - If no record exists, use the GEAR UP SWV Media Release Form found in the Communications Standards section on the GEAR UP SWV website.
 - Respect and identify students who do not have permission to be photographed.

Your support in capturing and sharing these moments is vital to spreading the impact of GEAR UP SWV. Thank you for your continued dedication to this mission!

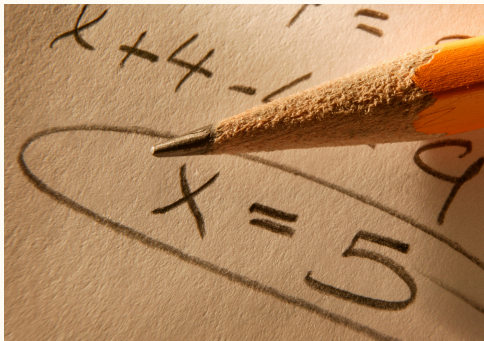
2025 SUMMER CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

- June:** 4-5, Vital Path at New River CTC in Beaver, WV
9-10, WV Adventure, Beaver, WV
16-17, All Torqued Up at New River CTC in Ghent, WV
16-17, Sewing With Fire, New River CTC in Ghent, WV
23-24, Innovators of Tomorrow, New River CTC in Beaver, WV
25-28, (Overnight), GEAR UP SWV Cool Academy, Concord University in Athens, WV
- July:** 7-11, (Overnight) GEAR UP SWV - WVU Tech STEM Camp, at WVU Tech, in Beckley, WV

Resources to Help with Benchmarks

ALGEBRA 1 THINK TANK

Virtual Meetups to support Math/Algebra Teachers

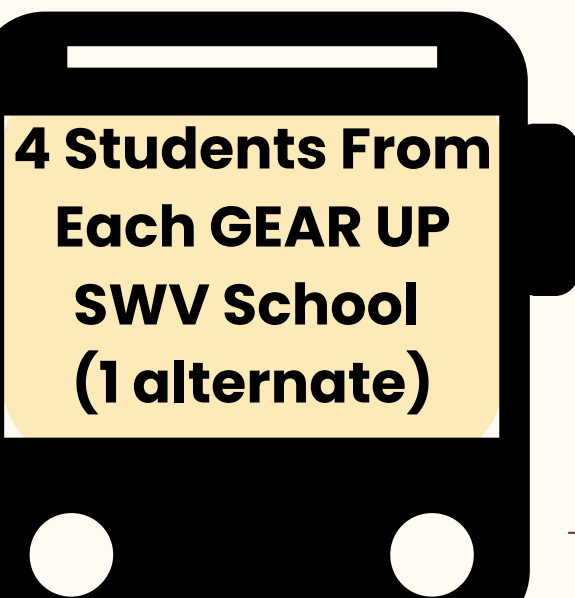


Concord University's GEAR UP SWV team is pleased to share an opportunity for teachers in Southern West Virginia. The Algebra 1 Think Tank is a monthly virtual event designed to support Algebra 1 teachers and local education coordinators. No advance registration is necessary. Teachers and coordinators are encouraged to join us for this vital professional development opportunity, contributing to the broader GEAR UP SWV goal of supporting student success in Algebra 1. For more information, please contact Jacob Abrams at (304) 384-5395 or via email at jabrams@concord.edu or GEARUP@concord.edu

Parent/Guardian & Student College Bus Tour

GEAR UP SWV will host a college bus tour for 40 9th grade students and 40 parents/guardians/family members in March 2025. Selected 9th grade students & family member will enjoy learning about a college campus and experiencing a college-going lifestyle while engaging in exciting activities on a charter bus. *The tour is scheduled for March 2025.* Local Coordinators should work with counties & schools to select four 9th grade students from each high school and one alternate. More details coming soon. LCs should register families in late January 2025. Students should be selected based on the following criteria:

- Under-resourced students (less chance their family can get them to a college visit without our help) Local Coordinators should contact parents/guardians then students
- Fair academics (top students more likely to already have plans)
- Students unsure about post-secondary plans (from PEP plan)
- Preference could be given to first generation students and/or students who haven't gone on GUSWV college visit
- Contact Kristen Williams, kwilliams@concord.edu or Catrice Robinson, crobinson@concord.edu with questions



Parents/Guardians Survey is open!



The GEAR UP SWV team is continuously evaluating our program and services to ensure we are moving the needle to reach our grant goals and objectives. One of the ways we do that is by surveying the students, parents/guardians, and educators we serve. This helps us gain insight into things like their experiences with GEAR UP SWV, their expectations for post-secondary education, the effectiveness of our services, and determine what other services/resources may be needed.



This year's Parent Survey will be open November 13, 2024 through February 7, 2025. The school with the highest percentage completion for the survey will win a prize! All parent/guardian responses are very appreciated and help us serve our students better.

Join the Band App, a New Communication Tool!

GEAR UP SWV is using the Band App as a platform for the GUSWV community to brainstorm, collaborate and communicate with each other. To join, reach out to your Partnership Coordinator or email Marcus Wilson at mfwilson@concord.edu. LCs should plan to login at least once a week to stay connected.

@GEARUPSW | GEARUP@concord.edu

Coming in 2025! GEAR UP SWV Family Advisory Councils



GEAR UP SWV's Family Advisory Councils (FAC) are here to help promote resources and support events for our students and their families.

The councils aim to:

- Connect with parents and build engagement by sharing GEAR UP services, like Tutor.com and the Student Success Agency.
- Educate families on the goals of GEAR UP SWV to foster student success.
- Assist with planning and promoting events, including parent and student college tours coming in March.
- Email Catrice Robinson for more info. crobenson@concord.edu