



**WELCOME
STUDENTS AND
PARENTS**

College Planning Night for Juniors

- Unofficial Transcript*
- Recommended Resources (Internet, Test Prep & Books)
- Standardized Testing Comparison
- ACT TorchPrep Information
- Junior Meeting/College Visit Protocols

*emailed through Canvas in January

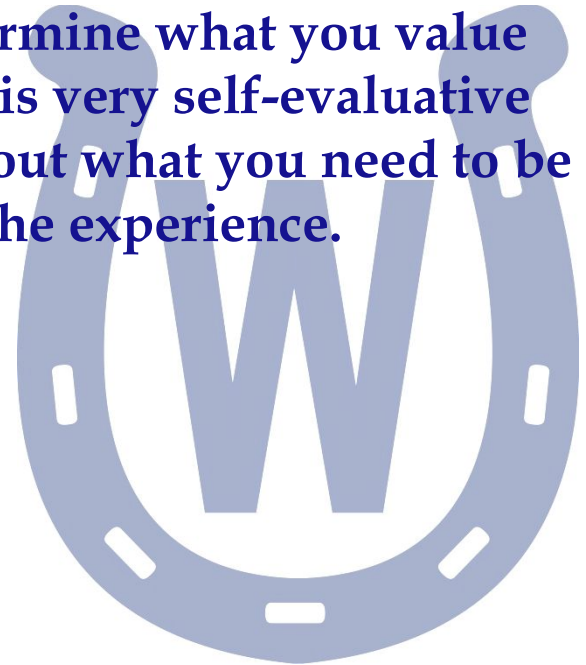
Packet Materials

Students: It's YOUR Process

What is important to you and Why?

Have the discussion as a family NOW to determine what you value in a college education. Applying to college is very self-evaluative and you need to be honest with yourself about what you need to be successful and what you would like out of the experience.

- Size
- Location
- Cost
- Extra-Curricular Opportunities
- Atmosphere
- Academic Program



Parents/Guardians:

- Prepare for FERPA and college by EMPOWERING your students and allowing them to take the lead.
- Schedule structured time to discuss the college application process.
- Go with students on college visits, but let students take the lead and ask questions.
- Ask student's opinion about the college before voicing yours.
- Be assured that we will keep you in the loop (info. in College Application Guide, SCOIR social media, emails)

Counselors:

- The benefit of two dedicated college counselors; Mrs. Meis is A-L and Mrs. Bunton is M-Z
- Provide information and neutral advice during individual planning meetings (students and/or parents).
- Write letters of recommendation/send transcripts & other supporting documents
- Serve as your advocate and your support system

Knowing What's Important


College Admission Factors

- Strength of curriculum (are you taking advantage of some the challenging courses WHS offers?)
- Grades in your classes & grade trends
- Test scores*
- Essays
- Activities/Recommendations
- Other factors

**Approximately 1,000 schools are now test optional (Xavier University, DePaul, Univ. of Chicago, to name a few).*

Other Considerations

academic strength and preparedness • rigor of courses • SAT • ACT • gender balance • majors • geographical balance and diversity • strengths and special talents • racial diversity • socioeconomic diversity • college enrollment limits • housing limits • financial aid budget limits • scholarship decisions • siblings • high school history • overall first-year enrollment target • thousands of high schools • alumni input • coaches input • private schools • public schools • CBO relationships • local schools • use of the waitlist • early decision results • results from previous years • student interest • recommendations • faculty input • admissions officer input • counselor input • character and integrity • intellectual curiosity • collaborative spirit • interviews •

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- Choose a “strong” senior schedule (what this means will vary)
 - Get the best grades for YOU (last full year of grades admissions will see)
 - Prepare for standardized tests
 - Learn to be an advocate for yourself
 - With the help of your counselor, make sure your list is “balanced”
 - Athletes - Register with the NCAA (www.eligibilitycenter.org)
 - Set up a family meeting with Ms. Meis or Ms. Bunton
 - Attend the College Panel in January & visit colleges
 - Think about whom you will ask for teachers letters of recommendation and actually ask at the end of the junior year
 - Be GOOD – your disciplinary record matters

Junior Year

Standardized Tests

- ACT is 4 sections – English, math, reading & science + optional essay (all juniors will take ACT at WHS on Feb. 23)

www.actstudent.org

- SAT is 2 sections – Math & Evidence Based Reading & Writing + optional essay

www.collegeboard.org

- SAT Subject Test (recommended/required by the most selective institutions, but we anticipate this may change).

Test Preparation

- Refer to Resource Guide for options
- Most students can be extremely well prepared without a test preparation class/experience.
- A disciplined schedule of at-home preparation will serve most students well. Many materials exist for such study (Khan Academy for SAT & ACT Academy for ACT).
- Many options from which to choose & we partner with TorchPrep's ACT Boot Camp each winter leading up to the February ACT administration at WHS

Visit Colleges*

- Attend college rep. visits here at WHS
- 6 days excused during HS
- Plan around family vacations
- Visit different “kinds” of schools
- Most visits are set up online or you may call the Admissions Office
- Visit consists of a tour & presentation but confirm what else is available
- Virtual Visits



Explore Careers

- YouScience: Measures aptitude and connects natural talent with in-demand careers. YouScience cuts through preconceived ideas and gender biases to match users to their best-fit careers and gives them the confidence & data to make informed decisions about the future
- Career Corrals
- Use your contacts for job shadowing opportunities
- Nothing wrong with being UNDECIDED & 75% of freshmen change their college major, but you must take steps to find that focus
- Take advantage of resources on campus for clarity (your advisor, career planning office, etc.)

College Application Timeline

Junior Year

- January: College Admissions Panel @ WHS
- February: ACT @ WHS
- March: Common Application essay prompts released
- April/May: Request teacher letters of recommendation
- Ongoing: Research/visit colleges, work on essays, retake standardized tests if necessary, and meet with your College Counselor for a Junior Family Meeting

College Application Timeline

Senior Year

- August: College applications go “live” and Application Bootcamp @ WHS
- September: Financial Aid Workshop at WHS and last month to take standardized tests
- October 1: ‘22-23 Free Application for Federal Student Aid released (FAFSA) and FAFSA Completion Sessions at WHS
- November 1: First major college admissions deadline (a few schools will have October 15 deadlines, but **NO** school will have a deadline earlier than October 15)
- February: Apply for Wyoming Scholarships via the Senior Scholarship Application
- April: Transition to College Program @ WHS
- May 1 – Officially commit to a school
- Ongoing: Work on college applications, apply for “third party” scholarships (scholarships not affiliated with a school) and meet with College Counselor as needed.

COVID AFTERSHOCK

- Permanently test optional
- Increase in use of waitlists
- Flexibility in delivery of curriculum
- Gap year increases

Students...Final Thoughts

- If your email is out of control, now is the time to create a separate email for all things college: applications, testing and SCOIR and/or check your email!!!
- Be self-evaluative (know what you want and why you want it)
- Be confident & make choices that insure you will graduate from WHS with few regrets (academic and otherwise)
- Be mindful of your “digital footprint”, your social media personality & your behavior in school



**THANKS FOR COMING! WE
ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
WORKING WITH YOU!**