

Volume 1 Issue 1 2018-2019

Counselor's Corner

News from Western High School



A letter from the Director of Student Services:

On behalf of the Student Services Department, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! We would especially like to give a big welcome to our incoming freshman as they start their journey in the halls of WHS. A big shout out also goes out to our seniors! We hope that you make this a memorable year filled with fun, enjoyment and a true perseverance to earn all of your future hopes and dreams. As we are embarking on the rush to the holiday season, we are truly thankful for the opportunity to share in gift of students. While meeting the needs of over 850 students can be quite challenging and some days down right exhausting, it is truly a pleasure. We get to experience the wide-eyed look of the 9th graders as the coming in for their 4-year planning meetings as well as sit with seniors who may have just gotten their dream school college acceptance letter. We watch them make choices, shed tears over their first real break-up, see their first driver license picture and then agonize on those Saturday SATs.

With all of the experiences that a high school student faces, be them positive or negative, happy or sad, I want to recognize you as the parent for the work you do. As they say, "raising kids isn't easy, especially a teen!" Thank you for the continual work you do with your students, the working relationship that you offer our team, and the gift of allowing us to share in their joys and sorrows.

As we wrap up the end of the first quarter, please know that our office is here to help guide and provide the necessary resources for you to obtain your future goals. We promise that we will put in our very best effort to help students make the best social, emotional and academic choices. However, we need you, as the student to help take ownership of your future. Please don't ever hesitate to email us or stop by our office for help!

Blessings on an awesome year! Go Panthers!

Office of Student Services

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or assistance you may need in helping your student find success.

Mrs. Julie Pownall: Director of Student Services

jpownall@western.k12.in.us or ext. 4041

Mrs. Dawn Reel: Registrar/Student Services Secretary

dreel@western.k12.in.us or ext. 4040

Mrs. Sherry Yazel: Counselor for Grades 9-12 last names A-K

syazel@western.k12.in.us or ext. 4043

Mrs. Ashlee Shoaff: Counselor for Grades 9-12 last names L-Z

ashoaff@western.k12.in.us or ext. 4042



College Reps Coming to Western!

10/25: Franklin and IUK

11/16: University of Northwest Ohio

Juniors and Seniors may sign up in the Student Services Office to Attend!



21st Century Scholars...

If you are a 21st Century Scholar, are you on track for a free ride to any public Indiana post-secondary school? Make sure you are working with your guidance counselor to complete the follow steps:

Freshman year:

Create a 4-year plan, Participate in an Extra-curricular or Service Activity,
Watch “Paying for College 101”

Sophomore year:

Take a Career Interest Assessment, Get Work-place Experience, and Estimate
the Costs of College

Junior year:

Visit a College Campus; Take a College Entrance Exam, Search for Scholarships

Senior year:

Submit your College Application, Watch “College Success 101”, File Your
FAFSA

LearnMORE Initiative:

ALL Students received a LEARN MORE magazine particular to their grade level on behalf of Student Services. This carries VITAL information for students and parents for college and career readiness and post-secondary future planning. This should be read and discussed at home and utilized as an amazing resource for student success. Parents, make sure to ask you child for their copy so that you may review. Students, make sure you READ the articles.

College Visitation Days!

All juniors and seniors are given TWO college visits days for the year that are excused absences. Come get a form in the Student Services for pre-approval at least 2 days prior!



Future SAT and ACT Dates/Locations and Registration Deadlines:

SAT

Test Date	Location	Registration Deadline
December 1, 2018	Off Campus	November 16, 2019
March 9, 2019	Western	February 22, 2019
May 4, 2019	Western	April 19, 2109

<http://www.collegeboard.org/>

ACT

Test Date	Location	Registration Deadline
December 8, 2018	Western	November 2, 2018
February 9, 2019	Off Campus	January 4, 2019
April 13, 2019	Western	March 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	Off Campus	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	Off Campus	June 14, 2019

Register at: www.actstudent.org

*Qualify for a fee Waiver see your Counselor

Upcoming State Mandated Standardized Testing

Test Name	Testing Window	Students Involved
Winter ISTEP+	11/12/18-12/11/18	Seniors that still need pass score for ELA/Math
Winter ISTEP+	11/12/18-12/11/18	Juniors that still need pass score for ELA/Math

ASVAB RESULTS Coming Soon!

For all seniors that participated in take the ASVAB on October 10th, results will be distributed towards the end of November. Specialists will be here to assist in the interpretation of your scores and help you link those scores to WELL OVER 300 NON-MILITARY job-specific careers and college programs. Specific date coming soon!



PSAT Results Coming Soon!

For all freshman, sophomores, and juniors that took the PSAT on October 10th, results will be available soon! All students will hopefully receive their scores in January. Counselors will be holding sessions during SRT to help students understand their scores and explain what their scores can do to help with their future endeavor. Specifics coming!



Prepping for Postsecondary Education-Students with Disabilities.

Students planning to attend college or some other form of postsecondary education and training may need some exploration support. But, where do students and their families find information on disability supports on campus, accommodations for the ACT or SAT, tuition assistance, transportation, dorm life, and on selecting a college that's a "good fit"? Disability.gov to the rescue! Their website, "How Do I Plan for the Transition to College or a Trade or Technical School?" has the answers to your many questions as well as U.S. Department of Education resources.

They Loved your GPA and SATs scores...UNTIL they saw your Tweet!

Did you know your postings on Social Media could be the reason why you might not get into a college or could even cost you thousands in scholarship monies?

Read this summarized article:

“A survey of admissions officials' opinions was conducted by Kaplan Test Prep. It found that admissions officials at more than two-thirds of colleges (68 percent) say it’s “fair game” for them to review applicants’ social media profiles on sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to help them decide who gets in. The Kaplan survey included some places where respondents could write in answers. Of those who said it was fair to look at social media posts, typical explanations of reasons why were:

1. Employers do it all the time. Colleges can do it as well.
2. I think if things are publicly accessible without undue intrusion, it’s OK. If it’s searchable, it’s fair game.

Kaplan also surveyed high school students and found that 70 percent agree that social media posts are fair game in the admissions process. That's an increase from the last time Kaplan asked the question, in 2014, when only 58 percent said it was fair game.

Of course to many applicants, the question that really matters is whether their social media posts can lead to a rejection or -- as was the case at Harvard -- the revocation of an admissions offer.

It turns out that these actions while rare, but not unheard-of, and more common at private than at public institutions. Admissions directors at independent colleges said their institutions had rejected students or revoked acceptances at least four times in the last two years. And at 14 percent of private colleges, that has happened at least once.

If a student was attempting to play a sport in college, the numbers increased significantly. If a student was going to be a representative of our institution, we want them of high moral standards.”

So-do yourself and your FUTURE a favor-DELETE anything you have out there on social media that could negatively impact your success. Better yet-don’t post it at all and leave it to chance that it still exists out there in the cyber world!



Calling all College-Bound Panthers:

Looking to Apply for College?

Learn More Indiana is an excellent resource that provides information on Indiana college admissions, information websites and virtual tours for all Indiana higher education institutions. There is also a listing of dates when the application fee is waived.

Visit: <http://www.in.gov/collegegoweek/2471.htm>

Another College Resource...

Do you know what higher education field of study or program you want to enroll in but don't know the colleges/universities that offer that program? Look no further! Schoolinks is a resource that will link you to all college/universities that have the type of higher education you are looking for. It will also share with you the requirements needed for acceptance, scholarship information, and application deadlines.

Visit: <https://www.schoolinks.com/>

Get Recruited by Colleges...

If you are a junior or a senior and need help determining which college or university best suits your interest needs for the future, visit: www.collegemajors101.com and register for an account. By providing your contact information, areas of studies of interest to you and some of your accomplishments thus far, college and universities will reach out to you about the different opportunities that would be available for your future.

Scholarships?

If you are looking for college scholarship information please visit the Western website under the Student Services tab! Most scholarships start releasing in during the winter months. Be sure to check the site frequently during that time.



Senior Scoop:

Senior Schedules

Be careful if you revised your schedule for either first or second semester in lieu of...

1. Core 40 Diploma is default diploma: All students must have 8 credits English, 6 credits Math, 6 credits Science, 6 credits Social Studies, 2 credits PE, 1 credit Health (or 3 FACS), 12 elective credits (with recommendation of 2 years foreign language)

2. Indiana Academic Honors Diploma requirements: all Core 40 requirements, overall GPA of 3.0 and no core grade lower than a C-, minimum 3 years of one language or two years of two different languages, 2 credit fine arts.

In addition: One of the following—2 AP courses with corresponding exams or 2 dual credit courses (Ivy Tech, ACP) or combination of 1 AP course and 1 dual credit course, Or score 1200 or higher on SAT / 26 on ACT composite.

3. Particular college admissions and individual programs requirements: i.e. two years of the same language.

4. Athletics: NCAA Division 1 & 2 schools Core requirements and grade eligibility. As your counselor, Mrs. Yazel and Mrs. Shoaff will audit your credits, but it is a good idea for YOU to also know your requirements and it is ultimately your responsibility to know what you need and to ensure that you complete your requirements successfully.

FAFSA:

NOW is the time to start thinking about filling out your FAFSA form. The FAFSA opened October 1! Don't wait. That April 15th, 2019 deadline will be here before you know it! Please utilize the resources below provided by:

Indiana Student Financial Aid (IFSAA): isfaa.org

1. College Goal Sunday: collegegoalsunday.org

2. Financial Aid Outreach: isfaa.org/docs/counselors/FANightsInfo.html

Federal Student Aid:

1. 2017-2018 Federal Student Aid programs: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/aid-glance
2. Dependency Chart: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/dependency-status
3. Financial Aid Toolkit: financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov



The College Admission Application...

Congrats to those of you already starting this process! If you have not started —not to worry but let's start now! Early priority date for most colleges is Nov. 1st. The application is a formal document submitted to an institution indicating your desire to attend their school. Applications are either paper or electronic forms—although most colleges now prefer the on-line application (and some even waive the application fee if done on-line). Each school has their own particular application. There is no one form (Exception: the "Common Application" which pertains to mostly private colleges/universities). Each school sets their own application procedures. Application procedures are found in written material published by the school available both in print and on the web.

Information on requirements for Indiana Colleges can also be found at: www.learnmoreindiana.org.

Typical elements on the application include: basic identifying information, SAT/ACT testing results (some colleges require these results to come DIRECTLY from the testing center even if on your transcript), senior course load, a transcript with counselor verification, and application deadline. In addition, some schools require a description of extra-curricular activities, an essay, recommendations and sometimes even an interview (although usually this is for a "direct admit" into a competitive program.) Not adhering to a particular school's application procedures WILL exclude you from consideration.

READ ALL DIRECTIONS.

Once you have completed your application, you will need to request your transcripts via Parchment. Once you request transcripts through Parchment, the senior counselor will receive the request. It can take up to a week to complete these, especially if there is a Secondary School Report that comes with the transcript request. Please be patient.

Remember that failure to plan on your part doesn't require an emergency on the part of others—including your counselors!

The Q and A for College Applications:

Question:

How does one obtain an application?

Answer:

1. Apply online. In most cases it is [www. \(Name of school\).edu](http://www.(Name of school).edu)-you can also go to www.collegeboard.com or just google.
2. Visit a college representative when they are here.

Question:

When should I apply?

Answer:

1. You should begin as soon as possible. The earlier you get your applications in, the sooner you will have a decision or know if you need additional requirements to be reconsidered.
2. If you have not taken the SAT or ACT, you need to sign up as soon as possible so you can send those scores. Colleges will not consider applications complete until they have these.
3. If you need to retest for either SAT or ACT, go ahead and apply and indicate that you will be testing again.

Question:

How many colleges should I apply to?

Answer:

1. The rule of thumb is 4–8 colleges; One or two 'safety' or 'fall back' schools, Two to four schools you have a good chance of getting into, and if affordable...One or two 'dream' or 'reach' schools.

Question:

How will I know if I have been accepted?

Answer:

1. A formal letter will be mailed directly from undergraduate admissions indicating acceptance or denial.
2. Some schools may notify you by phone or email (also if something is missing so check regularly).
3. Some schools will provide a website for you to check the status of your application (e.g. IUB, Butler, and Dayton.)

APPLICATION POINTERS:

1. Consider preparing a RESUME of your activities during high school. Include school related extracurricular activities, non-school related activities, list of academic honors, civic awards received, etc... this can be used for MOST of your applications.
2. If completing the application by hand—PRINT NEATLY or TYPE your application. NEVER submit an application in pencil! (This is also the case for scholarship applications).
3. SUBMIT recommendation request to teachers with stamped, pre-addressed envelopes

Filling out any college application will require a great deal of work. Make sure you take your time and complete it neatly. Pay attention to the questions that are asked. Take the essay seriously, and have an adult review it before you submit. Your application is a snapshot of who you are, and colleges need to see the very best of you on your applications.

Defining the terms:

Early Decision: Students apply to their first choice for college, usually in the fall of their senior year. If admitted, they **MUST** commit to enrolling. The student may have only one early decision application pending at one time although may apply to others for regular decision. If offered admission, the student must withdraw applications to all other institutions.

Early Action: Students apply and receive an admission decision earlier than normal but are **NOT** required to commit until the regular deadline of May 1. Institutions using an early action plan may not place restrictions on the number or type of other applications filed by the student.

Regular Decision: Students submit an application by a specific date and receive a decision by no later than April 15. The student may apply to other colleges without restriction and reply to admissions offers by May 1.

Rolling Admission: Students may apply at any time. The institution reviews application as they are received and renders a decision in a timely manner. The student may apply to other colleges without restriction.

Wait list/Deferral List: An admission tool designed to protect an institution against shortfalls in enrollment. By placing a student on the wait list, an institution does not initially offer or deny admissions. It extends to a candidate the possibility of admission in the future.



The WHS College Bound Panther Wall for seniors *only*:

If you haven't noticed the College Bound Panther Wall yet in the main hall, please stop by to check it out! This wall is for **YOU!** Once you get **ACCEPTED** into a college, please be sure to stop by the office and let Mrs. Reel know or you can email her at dreel@western.k12.in.us.

Notification of any acceptance letter into a post-secondary school or military branch will allow you to put a **PANTHER PAW** on the wall. If you get accepted to 7 colleges, you will be recognized with 7 **PAWS!**

Once you make your final decision on where you will be attending in the spring, be sure to let our office know. You will earn a **PENNANT** with your name and college to put on display so that we can showcase the next step to your future.

WE want to recognize the efforts of the Class of 2019! So...start earning those acceptance letters and start earning your **PAWS!**