

# *Counselor's Corner*

## NEWS FROM WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL



### Introducing the 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](mailto:jpownall@western.k12.in.us) or ext. 4041

Mrs. Dawn Reel: Registrar/Student Services Secretary

[dreel@western.k12.in.us](mailto:dreel@western.k12.in.us) or ext. 4040

Mrs. Sherry Yazel: Counselor for Grades 9-11 Last names A-F and ALL seniors

[syazel@western.k12.in.us](mailto:syazel@western.k12.in.us) or ext. 4043

Mrs. Ashlee Shoaff: Counselor for Grades 9-11 Last names L-Z

[ashoaff@western.k12.in.us](mailto:ashoaff@western.k12.in.us) or ext. 4042



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### SAT Dates:

10/1/16: On Western campus

11/5/16: On Western campus

12/3/16: Off campus sites available

1/21/17: Off campus sites available

3/11/17: On Western campus

5/6/17: On Western campus

6/3/15: Off campus sites available

#### ACT Dates:

10/22/16: Off campus sites available

12/10/16: On Western campus

2/11/17: Off campus sites available

4/8/17: On Western campus

6/10/17: Off campus sites available

Please see the guidance office for specific information on registration deadlines, how to register, off campus site locations, and waivers for financial assistance.

## Important Testing Information:

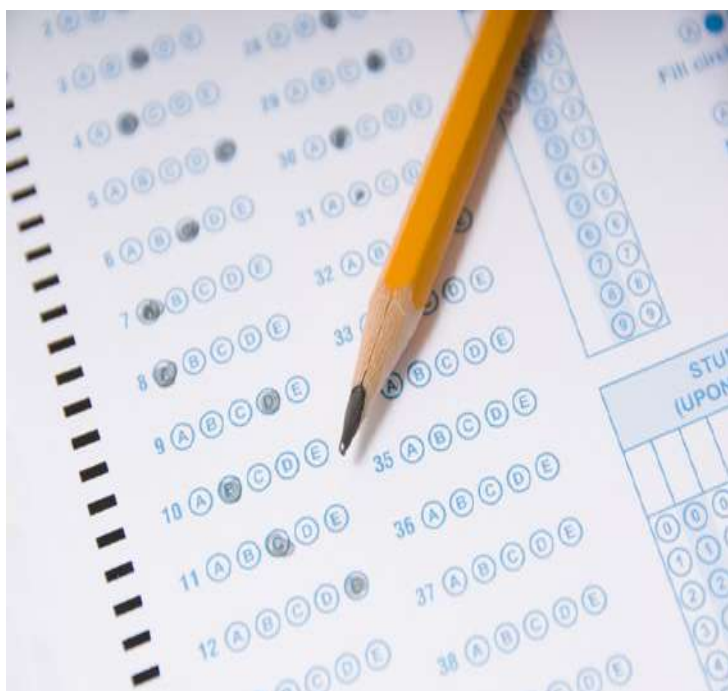
### PSAT 9; PSAT/NMSQT 10-11; and ASVAB Coming to WHS on November 2, 2016:

ALL 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the PSAT here on campus that morning free of charge.

For all 9<sup>th</sup> graders, the PSAT 8/9 is an opportunity to measure College and Career Readiness as well as have exposure to the PSAT. The PSAT/NMSQT for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> is used for the purposes to qualify students as a National Merit Scholar as well as qualification for Dual Credit courses and other college scholarship purposes.

All 12<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the ASVAB. The ASVAB test shows career interests and inventories and links students to over 400 occupations. Seniors will be provided assistance with their results reports to assist them in making sure that their skills are utilized when making "Life after HS" decisions.

Please note that if a student is absent or comes in after testing, there will **NOT** be a make-up session date per College Board guidelines. Thus, please make sure your student is present, on time and avoids any medical appointments that day.



### Need TEST PREP Help?

The SAT is changing and the changes took effect in March of 2016.

*Reading portion: Currently includes 3 sections that are 20-25 minutes long that cover sentence completions and questions about long and short passages. The new reading portion will take 65 minutes and will cover comprehension questions about long passages. Also, instead of using individual sentence corrections to test writing and grammar skills as previously accessed, the new test will include questions about structure and comprehension.*

*Writing portion: The new SAT will do away with the required persuasive essay and now have students do a fact-based essay about how the author builds his or her argument.*

For FREE SAT practice and test prep visit these resources:

[www.satpractice.org](http://www.satpractice.org)

[www.Number2.com](http://www.Number2.com)

[www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org)

[www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)

## 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](http://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.

### College Reps Coming To Western!

9/20: Franklin University

9/26: Butler University, IU-Bloomington

9/27: University of St. Francis

9/29: Indiana University-Kokomo, Purdue University

9/30: Hanover College

10/4: Ivy Tech

10/12: Wabash College

10/13: Manchester

10/25: Ball State University

10/27: Indiana University-Kokomo

10/31: University of Indianapolis

11/3: St. Joseph College

Juniors and Seniors may sign-up in the Guidance Department to Attend.



**COLLEGE**

### 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 Guidance Department for pre-approval.

### The 2016 Greater Lafayette Area College Fair

On October 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30 representatives from Indiana Colleges will answer questions about: Admission, Academic Programs, Application Procedures, Campus Life, Cost, Financial Aid and much more. Please attend if you are able! Location of the fair will be at Jefferson High School, 1801 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette in the Auxiliary gym at the Southeast Corner. Reps from over 40 private and public colleges and universities will be on side. There is no cost to attend and both parents and students of 9-12 are welcome. See the WHS Student Services for a specific list of those universities.



### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars:

If you are a 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Workplace 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



### 3 BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOLUTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**1. Clean up online presence:** Many high school students don't realize what they post online could come back to haunt them later, in terms of their college and career plans. It's time for students to leave the middle school drama behind and think more deeply about their digital footprint and what it is going to do for them later. Now is the time for teens to purge less-than-favorable information and display a more mature image.

**2. Take a new class or extracurricular activity:** If a student even has inkling they are interested in something, they should try it through an activity or class. It's important because high school is the time for students to figure out who they are and what they may be interested in for life after high school. Trying a new class or activity can help students build their confidence and self-efficacy, or their belief in their own abilities. Finally, many colleges as well as scholarships require school involvement outside of athletics. So, try something new today.

**3. Plan for college and career:** A new activity or class could also influence a student's postsecondary plans. And if students already have an idea of what their postsecondary goals are, they should take classes that relate. Those unsure of their after high school plans can explore online college and career planning websites like [ACT Profile](#) and [Big Future](#), from the makers of the ACT and SAT college admissions tests.

#### STAFF TRAININGS

TRAININGS PROVIDED FOR ALL WHS FACULTY ASSISTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES:

##### Suicide Prevention Training:

The guidance department will be training all WHS staff and teachers on a program called QPR. This program which revolves around the concepts of Question, Persuade, and Refer will provide WHS faculty with tools to assist in recognizing the initial signs of individual contemplating suicide. If ever you feel your child or another Western student is at risk of being a victim to suicide, please don't hesitate to reach out to a Western staff member.

##### Anti-Bullying Training:

All WHS faculty members will continue to receive information and training on bullying in schools. Often times, victims go unnoticed. We have resources available at WHS to assist both you and your child if they are a victim to bullying. Please feel free to utilize our anonymous tip line via email at [tipline@western.k12.in.us](mailto:tipline@western.k12.in.us) or phone at 883-5541 ext. 8477. You can also contact any WHS staff for assistance.



#### 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 in 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.**

#### Attention all Freshmen:

On **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** offered at both 12:30 and 6:00 pm, there will be student/parent convocation in the auditorium to discuss an overview of the “Four-Year High School Plans” conducted by Mrs. Pownall. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about setting up your Four-Year High School Plan and graduation requirements! All freshmen will be slotted for an individual meeting in late October and throughout the month of November to create their personalized Four-Year Plan. Parents will be invited to attend their child’s slotted date and time provided.

#### Attention all Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors: Parent/Student Information Night

On **Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** a parent meeting will be hosted in the auditorium for “Life after HS”. All parents and students should plan to attend this informational evening. Learn about the steps your child should be taking now to find a more successful future.

The evening will begin at 6:00 and conclude by 7:45. Specific grade level presentations will occur in the auditorium by the guidance counselors:

Sophomores: 6:00-6:30

Juniors: 6:35-7:05

Seniors: 7:10-7:40

During the evening the Kokomo Area Career Center programs will be on display for students that may want to consider the Kokomo Career Center in their schedule for the fall of 2017. Local colleges and military personnel will also be available to answer any questions you may have about reaching future goals. You will find all of these different representatives in the HS café’. Finally, if you are a senior, “experts” in the filing your FAFSA will be available in the library and offering a presentation at both 6:00 and 6:35. FAFSA presentations will be located in the HS Media Center.

Please don’t miss out on the opportunity of the wealth of information that will be shared with both parents and students during the Student Services Department Parent/Student Information Night.



## Senior Scoop:

NOW is the time to start thinking about filling out your FAFSA form. The FAFSA opens on October 1! The deadline for filling out the FAFSA is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Due to the change, don't forget that tax information filed from 2015 is the data that will be used.

### 2017-18 FAFSA (Prior-Prior Year Income Data):

Please utilize the resources below provided by:

Indiana Student Financial Aid (ISFAA): [isfaa.org](http://isfaa.org)

1. College Goal Sunday: [collegegoalsunday.org](http://collegegoalsunday.org)
2. Financial Aid Outreach: [isfaa.org/docs/counselors/FANightsInfo.html](http://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-2017-18](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/aid-glance-2017-18)
2. Dependency Chart: [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/dependency-status](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/dependency-status)
3. Financial Aid Toolkit: [financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov](http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov)

### 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 SM 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 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.

### 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. So the next couple of months will be critical if you want to get those applications in to meet this deadline. 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](http://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.

## 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](http://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 web site 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, and institution does not initially offer or deny admissions. It extends to a candidate the possibility of admission in the future.

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

If you haven't noticed the new 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](mailto: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.

**“Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do” —Nelson Mandela**