

Planning for Your Future



What path will you choose?

As we head into winter break, take some time to consider what steps you need to take to prepare for your future. After a couple of days at home, students will probably be complaining that they are bored, so look over the checklists below to see what steps students can tackle now to prepare for the future!

Seniors:

- _____ Check grades on PowerSchool
- _____ Study & get caught up on any past due or upcoming assignments!
- _____ Contact a military recruiter
- _____ Take practice ASVAB tests online (if military bound)
- _____ Complete a job application
- _____ Submit your FAFSA (if college-bound)
- _____ Finalize and submit college applications
- _____ Research scholarship opportunities (be sure to check out specific requirements for each college you have applied to)

Juniors:

- _____ Check grades on PowerSchool
- _____ Study & get caught up on any past due or upcoming assignments!
- _____ Contact a military recruiter
- _____ Access & review PSAT Scores online at collegeboard.org (if you tested in October)
- _____ Register for the SAT or ACT (collegeboard.org or actstudent.org), if interested in 4-year college
- _____ Practice for the SAT using Khan Academy (collegeboard.org)
- _____ Complete a job application
- _____ Research and register for college open house events

Sophomores:

- _____ Check grades on PowerSchool
- _____ Study & get caught up on any past due or upcoming assignments!
- _____ Research summer opportunities (camps, college programs, etc.)
- _____ Access & review PSAT Scores online at collegeboard.org (if you tested in October)
- _____ Practice for the SAT using Khan Academy (collegeboard.org)
- _____ Work on your course selection plan for 11th & 12th grade

Freshmen:

- _____ Check grades on PowerSchool
- _____ Study & get caught up on any past due or upcoming assignments!
- _____ Find volunteer opportunities in the community (Interested in healthcare? Sign up for the VolunTeen program at UPMC)
- _____ Work on your course selection plan for 10th – 12th grade

Relax and rest! Start the new year with a positive attitude!

Important Dates & Deadlines

Tuesday Jan. 2:	ASVAB scores distributed at WAHS
Monday Jan. 7:	Winter Keystone exams begin
Friday Jan. 11:	Registration deadline for Feb 9 ACT test date
Friday Feb. 9:	Registration deadline for March 9 SAT test date
Thursday March 14:	Career Fair @ WAHS



Volunteer Opportunities

Little League PA District 12 Junior Umpires

- Open to students in grades 9-12
- Volunteer at least 2 hours per week to umpire one minor or major division baseball or softball game at a District 12 Little League program
- Volunteers will receive prior training on the basics of umpiring before taking the field for the first game and will be partnered with a veteran Little League umpire for each game
- If you are interested, contact Chris Downs by email: cdowns@LittleLeague.org or phone: 570-337-2511
- The first Little League mechanics clinic is scheduled for Saturday Feb. 16, from 10am – 2pm at WAHS

VolunTEEN @ UPMC

UPMC & Aramark have been promoting the **VolunTEEN** program for students who are 14 years and older. Any student who is interested in healthcare should definitely checkout this opportunity – more information and an application is available online: <https://www.susquehannahealth.org/giving-back/volunteer/teens>.

PSAT Scores

Congratulations on taking the PSAT/NMSQT! If you took the PSATs in October, PSAT scores are now available online on the College Board website. Paper score reports will be distributed in your English class by your school counselor after winter break. If you have specific questions about your scores, feel free to make an appointment to see your school counselor.

To access your scores:

1. Visit studentscores.collegeboard.org
2. Login to your College Board account or Click Sign Up to create an account
 - a. When creating an account, make sure to enter a valid personal email address that is currently active.

Once you've accessed your scores, be sure to take advantage of other resources that are available on the CollegeBoard website, such as:

- Get free, personalized SAT practice. The PSAT/NMSQT is great preparation for the SAT®. Your score unlocks a free, personalized practice plan through Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®. Visit satpractice.org, create an account, and link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts for a plan based on your test results.
- Explore Careers. Connect with Roadmap to Careers under the Popular Tools tab in your online score report. Answer questions about what you like to do to see careers that interest you, what

degrees you'll need, and what high school courses to take. Watch video interviews with people in professions related to your interests.

- Get started on BigFuture. Begin your College Search using BigFuture™. Explore colleges, majors, and careers based on your interests.
- Register for the SAT. Take the next step toward college by registering.

Register for the SAT

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
March 9, 2019	February 8	February 27
May 4, 2019	April 5	April 24
June 1, 2019	May 3	May 22

Register online at www.collegeboard.org. If you receive free/reduced lunch, stop in the guidance office first to get information about fee waivers that can be used to cover the cost of registration.

Study for the SAT

- College Board and Khan Academy have partnered together to offer FREE SAT Prep to all students
- Khan Academy allows students to receive a personalized SAT study plan based on PSAT results
- Students can also access interactive problems, video lessons, full-length practice tests, and instant SAT essay feedback
- Visit <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> to get started!



Senior Section: Applications, Financial Aid, and more!

Complete the FAFSA!

Are you a senior planning on going to college? You'll need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The application became available on October 1st; deadlines to submit the FAFSA will vary for each college. **Access the FAFSA at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>**

You must complete the FAFSA to qualify for:

- Federal aid programs such as grants, Stafford loans, Perkins loans, and work-study employment
- Pennsylvania state aid programs such as the state grant program and work-study employment
- School aid programs such private grants and need-based scholarships from the school you will be attending



What do you need to complete the FAFSA?

Before starting the FAFSA, be sure to gather the documents you will need – here are some of the items you will need:

- Social Security number
- Driver's license number
- Proof of income (taxable and untaxable income – W-2 forms, workers' comp., child support, etc.)
- Federal Income Tax Return (if you were required to file)
- Assets (bank statements, business and investment information)

If you want more help completing the FAFSA, consider attending the a **FAFSA Completion Night** at Pennsylvania College of Technology which will be held on **Thursday January 24 from 4:00-6:30pm**. Staff will be on hand to help guide you through completing your online FAFSA application and the PHEAA state grant application. You do not have to be a Penn College applicant/student to attend. This event is open to **all** college bound seniors and their parents/guardians.

Send Your High School Transcript

In addition to completing the FAFSA, make sure to submit all required documents for your college applications. As part of the college application process, colleges require that students submit their high school transcript. Some colleges are moving toward a self-reported academic record. Even if self-reporting is a component of the application, students will still need to submit an official high school transcript to verify high school graduation. Visit www.parchment.com to create an account.



Stressed over the cost of college?

Scholarship Opportunities

Take advantage of all of the potential scholarships that are available to you! Make applying for scholarships another part-time job – many students choose not to apply for scholarships because it's a little extra work, but then you are passing up on potential **FREE MONEY!!!**

Independent Scholarships – There are many scholarships that are open for students regardless of what high school you attend. An up-to-date list is available on the HS Guidance Webpage: <https://www.wasd.org/our-schools/williamsport-area-high-school/guidance>. Students can also stop in the guidance office and browse through hard copies of the scholarships. Here is a sampling of what is currently available:

- **JFK Profile In Courage Essay Contest - Deadline: Jan. 18, 2019** - Describe and analyze an act of political courage by a U.S. elected official who served during or after 1917. First place 10,000 <https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/education/profile-in-courage-essay-contest/getting-started>
- **Lehigh Valley Section of the Society of Women Engineers - Deadline Feb. 10, 2019** - Applicants must be enrolling as a first year student in an ABET accredited engineering program in 2019. Applicants must identify as female and be graduating from High School in 2019. <http://lv.swe.org/application.html>
- **7th Annual WACE National Co-Op Scholarship - Deadline: Feb. 15, 2019** - Scholarships available to high school seniors who plan to participate in college cooperative education at one of the Partner institutions (includes Drexel University, Johnson & Wales University, and more). Application available in the Guidance Office or online at <https://www.waceinc.org/scholarship/index.html>
- **The Lycoming Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution - Deadline: Feb. 28, 2019** - 3 scholarships available for high school seniors who are attending an accredited college/university regardless of area of study, a senior attending an accredited Nursing program, and for a senior attending an accredited college/university to study American History. Application is available in the Guidance Office.
- **The Carl E. Stotz Little League Baseball Scholarship – Deadline March 1st, 2019:** Open to a graduating senior from a Lycoming County High School who is in good standing, academically in the top 25% of his or her class, and a good citizen who exemplifies effort, determination, and persistence in attempting to reach a goal. Applications available in the Guidance Office.

Local Scholarships – During the spring, the guidance office will have a list of local scholarships that are specifically for Williamsport High School students.

Other Scholarship Opportunities

Be sure to check out www.fastweb.com to search for thousands of other scholarships as well!



Check out these additional Financial Aid Resources

PA Student Guide: <https://www.pheaa.org/college-planning/student-aid-guide/index.shtml> – This document is provided by PHEAA. This guide provides a complete overview of the financial aid process, with information on most of Pennsylvania's financial aid programs and services. Find everything you need to know about paying for higher education.

PHEAA: www.pheaa.org - a national provider of student financial aid services

My Smart Borrowing: <http://www.mysmartborrowing.org> - an interactive tool where you can create up to four different scenarios to see how your career and college choices may affect how much you pay for college and if you are at risk for over borrowing.

Join Remind to get important updates and reminders from your counselor:

- Class of 2019 – Ms. Sieber – <https://www.remind.com/join/mspisie>
- Class of 2020 – Mr. Yonkin - <https://www.remind.com/join/wahscla>
- Class of 2021 – Mrs. Harris - <https://www.remind.com/join/3h9hc>
- Class of 2022 – Mrs. Hunsinger – <https://www.remind.com/join/chk6ch>



How can I get in contact with my counselor?

Williamsport Area High School (570) 323-8411				
Mrs. Kathy Shirey Guidance Secretary kshirey@wasd.org ext. 60520		Mrs. Dianne Ferguson Guidance/Athletics Secretary dferguso@wasd.org ext. 60528		
Mrs. Susan Hunsinger 9 th Grade shunsing@wasd.org ext. 60521	Mrs. Kate Harris 10 th Grade mkharris@wasd.org ext. 60524	Mr. Jamie Yonkin 11 th Grade jyonkin@wasd.org ext. 60522	Ms. Phyllis Sieber 12 th Grade psieber@wasd.org ext. 60525	Mrs. Kaitlin Eck Career Counselor keck@wasd.org ext. 60523

Visit the High School Guidance website at:

<https://www.wasd.org/our-schools/williamsport-area-high-school/guidance>