

# Planning for Your Future



*What path will you choose?*

As the 1<sup>st</sup> semester comes to an end, there's lots to think about before the end of the year. Whether you are in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade, there are steps you can take now to plan for your future. Read through the newsletter for more information about all of the topics listed below. Don't hesitate to stop in the guidance office if you have questions or need more information.

- SAT/ACT registration
- Pathways to Your Future Career Fair
- Course selection for the 2020-21 school year
- Summer Opportunities (PFEW, Governor's schools and more)
- Scholarships



## Important Dates & Deadlines

- January 17: Late Registration deadline for February 8 ACT Test Date  
 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester/2<sup>nd</sup> marking period
- February 14: Registration deadline for March 14 SAT Test Date
- March 12: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pathways to Your Future Career Fair @ WAHS

## SAT vs. ACT – Which one should you take?

The majority of Williamsport High School students take the SAT when applying to college, but the ACT is also an option for you. With the recent revisions to the SAT though, there are now not many differences between the SAT and ACT. Both are good options as you complete the college admissions process. Here's a more detailed breakdown of some of the potential differences:



	SAT	ACT
How much does it cost?	\$64.50 w/ essay, \$49.50 no essay  **Fee waivers are available if you qualify for free/reduced lunch – come to the guidance office to request one**	\$68 w/ writing, \$52 no writing
Where is the test given?	Williamsport High School (and some other local school districts)	Penn College or Hughesville (depending on the test date)
What am I tested on?	3 sections – reading, writing & language, and math – and optional essay	4 sections – English, math, reading, and science – and optional writing section

How long is the test?	3 hours + 50-minute essay (optional)	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute essay (optional)
How are the scores reported?	Composite score range of 400–1600 (SAT Essay: reported in 3 dimensions, each 2–8)	Composite score range of 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–12)
Is there a penalty for guessing?	No penalty for guessing	No penalty for guessing – score is based on correct answers
What schools will accept my scores?	All U.S. colleges	All U.S. colleges
How do I register?	<a href="http://www.sat.org">www.sat.org</a>	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>

## When can I take the SAT or ACT?

Students are encouraged to take the SAT/ACT during the spring of the junior year. Ideally, students will take the PSAT in October of their junior year and then use the results from the PSAT to help study for the SAT. PSAT results typically become available in December. The March SAT date is a good goal to set for yourself – by taking the SAT in March, you would then have time to take the SAT for a second time in June if you want to try to improve your scores. Some seniors also choose to take the SAT in October or November for a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time. See below for the test dates and registration deadlines for the SAT and the ACT – you need to plan ahead in order to avoid a late registration fee!

### SAT TEST DATES

	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
March 14, 2020	February 14, 2020	March 3, 2020
May 2, 2020	April 3, 2020	April 21, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 27, 2020

Register online at [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org)

### ACT TEST DATES

	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 26, 2020

Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## Military Options

Recruiters from several branches of the military are visiting the high school each week. If you are considering enlisting in the military, stop by the guidance office so we can share your name with the recruiters.



## Pathways to Your Future Career Fair

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pathways to Your Future Career Fair will be held at Williamsport Area High School on Thursday, March 12, 2020. We have had approximately 50 employers/recruiters/agencies register for this event in years past and we are hopeful to have even more in attendance this year. Students have the opportunity to speak to employers and colleges, apply for jobs, and explore options for their futures.

## Summer Opportunities

It might feel as though summer will never come, but we are already halfway through the school year so it's time to start making summer plans. Consider opportunities that will help you explore potential career paths. Summer camps and programs are a great way to add to your resume and college applications.



### Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive @ Lehigh University

**Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020**

Dates of program: June 28 – July 25, 2020

Program Cost: \$4250 (includes program fee, room and board, instructional materials and field trips)

- Open to current sophomores and juniors
- Learn how to think like an entrepreneur and recognize problems as opportunities
- Includes dynamic learning opportunities, workshops and design labs, a team project with a partner organization, visits to local companies and start-ups and mentoring from entrepreneurs, executives, investors and other professionals

More information available at: <https://global.lehigh.edu/iacocca-institute/high-school>

### The University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholarships Academy

**Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020**

Dates of program: June 28 – July 25, 2020

Program cost: \$2950 (includes tuition, room, board, instructional materials)

- Open to current sophomores and juniors
- Introduces students to the world of health care, including issues of primary care, prevention, public health, career exploration, human growth and development, and areas of practice
- Students will develop a reflective portfolio, write a research paper, participate in a shadow experience, multiple site visits, small group discussion groups, guest speakers, simulations and more

More information available at: [www.hcsa.pitt.edu](http://www.hcsa.pitt.edu)

### Penn State, Pennsylvania School for Excellence in Agricultural Sciences

**Deadline to apply: February 21, 2020**

Dates of programs: July 5 – 31, 2020

- Open to current high school juniors who have an interest in the food, agricultural, and natural resource sciences
- Students will participate in classes, daily labs, workshops, field trips, and guest lectures

More information available at: <http://agsci.psu.edu/school-for-excellence>

### Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW)

**Deadline to apply: March 2, 2020** (Early Bird) or May 1, 2020 (Final deadline)

Dates of programs: 4 weeks to choose from – July 5 – 11, July 12 – 18, July 26 – Aug 1, August 2 – 8, held at Lycoming College and/or Pennsylvania College of Technology

Program cost: \$295 registration fee

- Open to current sophomores and juniors

- Students will form an executive management team and form an imaginary business and compete against other student companies
- Scholarships for Lycoming and Penn College available to PFEW graduates

More information available at: [www.pfew.org](http://www.pfew.org)

### **Pennsylvania College of Technology Pre-College Programs**

Penn College offers overnight programs to help students explore potential career paths. Students can earn a \$1000 scholarship for Penn College by attending one pre-college program (attend 2 programs and you can earn a \$2000 scholarship)!

- Dates vary by program, most are 3-4 days
- Open to grades 9-12 depending on program
- Registration opens March 1, 2020 at <https://www.pct.edu/pre-college-programs>

#### **Programs include:**

Architecture Odyssey

Automotive Restoration

Automotive Technology

Aviation

Design, Build & Grow Landscape Horticulture

Diesel Truck & Heavy Equipment

Engineering

First Responder Basic

Future Restaurateurs

Graphic Design Summer Studio

Hall of FAME (Finance, Accounting, Marketing & Entrepreneurship)

Have Your Cake & Decorate It Too

Health Careers

Information Technology

Thingamajig Fabricators

## **Course Selection for 2020-21 School Year**

As we head into the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period, our underclassmen soon will be asked to start thinking about course selection for next school year. As you think about what courses you will request, consider what career path you might choose. WAHS offers a wide variety of classes that can prepare you for whatever path you decide to follow after high school. Talk to your teachers about what courses they recommend for you. When the new course catalog is released, review all of the electives that are available to you and choose those that align with the career you are interested in. If you are considering pursuing a college degree after high school, you should look at our Advanced Placement offerings and the dual enrollment courses (through PC Now courses).

## **Scholarship Opportunities**

Seniors, as we approach the end of the school year there will be many more scholarship opportunities available to you! Below is a list of some of the local scholarships currently open:

### **Society of Women Engineers Lehigh Valley Scholarship**

**Deadline to apply: February 2, 2020**

Application available at: <http://lv.swe.org/scholarships>

- \$5,000 award available to graduating high school seniors who identify as female and will be entering an accredited engineering program
- Evaluation is based on academic achievement, extracurricular and leadership activities, an evaluation form, and an original essay

### **Daughters of the American Revolution – 3 scholarships available**

**Deadline to apply: February 15, 2020**

Applications available in the WAHS Guidance Office

1. PA DAR Student Scholarship – Open to any PA high school senior; must provide a copy of your acceptance to an accredited program at a college/university. Eligibility for this scholarship is not limited to a specific field or area of study.
2. Louise V. Nelson Nursing Scholarship – Open to any PA high school senior; must provide a copy of your acceptance into an accredited nursing program
3. Mary Reider American History Scholarship – Open to any PA high school senior who plans to study American History at an accredited college/university

### **Kay Ertel Scholarship**

**Deadline to apply: March 1, 2020**

Applications available in the WAHS Guidance Office

- Two \$400 scholarships will be awarded to women pursuing an undergraduate degree in a liberal arts field
- Applicant must be a female high school senior, in a public school in Lycoming County, who is interested in public service and is pursuing an undergraduate degree

### **2020 John Sharp Memorial Scholarship**

**Deadline to apply: March 27, 2020**

Applications available in the WAHS Guidance Office or at <https://www.horizonfcu.org/2020-john-sharp-memorial-scholarship/>

- Applicant must be a senior who is an active account holder in good standing of Horizon Federal Credit Union, graduating with a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and is accepted as a full-time student at a college or university

### **PALCO Members Helping Members Scholarship**

**Deadline to apply: April 24, 2020**

Applications available in the WAHS Guidance Office

- Two \$1,000 scholarships available to graduating high school seniors enrolling in an accredited college/university or other recognized institution of higher learning full-time in the 2020 school year
- Applicant must be a member in good standing with the PALCO Federal Credit Union for six months or more

Be sure to check out FastWeb ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)) to search for thousands of other scholarships as well. Complete a profile and then you'll have access to \$3.4 billion dollars of funding!

### ***Need a reminder?***

Want a reminder about when these important events are happening? Sign up for the Remind app and you'll receive reminders from your counselor!

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

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Check out the High School Guidance webpage @

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