

Planning for Your Future



What path will you choose?

Another school year has started and we have already made it through the first marking period! Seniors, only 3 marking periods to go before you are out in the “real world.” Are you ready? What is your plan? Juniors, it may seem far away, but it is time for you to start thinking about your plan too.

Are you struggling with keeping track of deadlines, college visits, scholarships, etc.? Each grade-level counselor has their own Remind class, so make sure you are signed up. Remind saves you from having to check your email or Facebook to check when events are happening or when a deadline is; instead, your counselor will send out reminders and you can receive them on your phone as a text message!

Here’s how to join Remind:

Class of 2019 – Ms. Sieber – <https://www.remind.com/join/mspsie>
 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>



What’s been happening in the Guidance Office?

We have had a lot going on in the guidance office – approximately 30 **colleges** have visited our office to meet with students and offer information about college and the admissions process. Talking with the admissions representatives when they come to the high school is a great opportunity to narrow down your list of colleges without having to travel to multiple schools. There won’t be many college visits happening during the winter, but we will continue to advertise them as they are scheduled.

College-bound seniors and their parents/guardians also had the opportunity to hear about the financial aid process and receive support while completing the **FAFSA**. The financial aid process can be overwhelming so do not hesitate to seek out support! If you have not submitted your FAFSA, check out more details about this process later in the newsletter.

Maybe you were one of the 50+ students this school year who have applied to Aramark, interviewed and received job offers! **Aramark** at UPMC provides food service, patient transport and hospitality services within the UPMC campuses in Williamsport. Williamsport Area High School and Aramark have created a great partnership which continues to grow and develop! Mrs. Eck can offer support to students who want to apply or who have received job offers – stop in guidance if you want more information. A position at Aramark is a great opportunity for students interested in food service or health care – these part-time jobs can serve as a stepping stone to your future career path!



UPMC & Aramark have also 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>.

What's coming up?

Students who took the **PSAT** in October will be able to access their scores online beginning December 10th. Make sure you have a CollegeBoard account set up to be able to access scores when they are available. Visit www.collegeboard.org to setup or access your account.

The **ASVAB** will be given at the high school on **Tuesday December 4th**. If you are considering enlisting in the military or if you are looking for additional help finding careers that match your abilities, then you should sign up for the ASVAB. The ASVAB is free for all students and will be given in the morning at school. Come to the guidance office to sign up for the ASVAB (more details below)!



Important Dates & Deadlines

Monday Nov. 19:	Late Registration Deadline for December ACT
Tuesday Nov. 20:	Late Registration Deadline for December SAT
Wednesday Nov. 28:	Shippensburg University visit, 8am, WAHS Guidance Office
Friday Nov. 30:	Deadline to sign-up for the ASVAB
Saturday Dec. 1:	SAT administration @ WAHS
Tuesday Dec. 4:	ASVAB administration @ WAHS
Saturday Dec. 8:	ACT administration

Is a STEM career in your future?

Careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are a hot topic these days and STEM careers can be applied to a variety of career paths. Maybe you are trying to find out if a STEM related career is right for you. If so, there's a free quiz you can take that will ask about your interests and then match your interests to specific careers. Check it out this new quiz that we recently learned about: <https://candidit.com/stemtype/>



ASVAB Administration

The ASVAB will be administered on **Tuesday Dec. 4th** at the high school. Most people associate the ASVAB with an enlistment tool for the military; and while it does serve that purpose, it also offers additional insight for students who might be undecided about which path to take. For high school students, we administer the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) as a career exploration tool that allows students to identify their skill strengths. Students who take the ASVAB will have access to an interest inventory (FYI) and a catalog of careers (OCCU-Find) with relevant occupational data and a full suite of future-oriented planning tools to help students develop an action plan.



We will be administering the paper-pencil version of the ASVAB, which means that everyone takes the same set of questions at the same pace. This version consists of eight subtests (a total of 200 items) and takes about three hours to complete.

- Participation is voluntary
- No obligation to the military in anyway
- Open to students in grades 10-12
- Sign up in the guidance office – **deadline to sign up is Friday Nov. 30, 2018**

Check out this short video about the ASVAB:



<http://www.asvabprogram.com/>

Senior Section: Applications, Financial Aid, and more!

Applying to College

Maybe you aren't ready to think about how you are going to pay for college yet, because you are still trying to finish applying to college (or maybe you haven't started yet!). First of all, don't panic! Read through this checklist to make sure you've completed all of the necessary steps. If you can't decide where to apply, stop in the guidance office to see Ms. Sieber or Mrs. Eck for some extra guidance.

- Apply to 3-4 colleges. Consider the following: What do you want to major in? How close to home do you want to be? How large of a campus do you want to be on?
 - Not sure how to apply? Visit the college's website and go to the Admissions page – there will almost always be an “Apply Now” link. You can also find a list of requirements for admission.
 - Some colleges have their own application, but others will use Common App, SendEDU, and others.
 - If you used a SAT fee waiver, you will receive 4 college application fee waivers.
- Send your SAT/ACT scores to the college. Some schools will accept the SAT/ACT scores from the high school, but other colleges require that they be sent directly from College Board/ACT program. In order to send them from the testing company directly, you'll need to log in to your account.
- IF** the college requires letter of recommendations, ask your teachers/counselor NOW! Give your teachers enough time and don't wait until the day before the application is due. Not all colleges ask for letters of recommendation, so make sure you check – you don't need to send extra materials that aren't required.
- Send your transcript to all of the schools you have applied to. Create an account with Parchment – www.parchment.com.

Your application to college will not be considered complete until they have received all of the required documents, so don't procrastinate! Be sure to keep an eye on application deadlines for each of the schools you are interested in.

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

FAFSA[®]
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

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.

Still 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.

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!

fastweb!

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.



How can I get in contact with my counselor?

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Mr. Jamie Yonkin
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Ms. Phyllis Sieber
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Mrs. Kaitlin Eck
Career Counselor
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Visit the High School Guidance website at:

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