

Planning for Your Future



What path will you choose?

Whether you choose to pursue employment, military or college after graduation, there are things you can and should be doing now. Check out the information in this newsletter to stay up-to-date on what opportunities are available for you at Williamsport Area High School!

News & Updates

- PSAT Registration is open – check out the details below.
- Scholarship applications are available for seniors in the HS Guidance Office
- College-bound seniors can access the FAFSA on October 1
- Financial Aid Night will be held at WAHS on Tuesday October 8, 2019 – college-bound senior students and parents/guardians should attend to better understand options for paying for college.



Important Dates & Deadlines

Tuesday Oct. 1:	IUP admission rep. @ 1pm
Wednesday Oct. 2:	Deadline to register for the PSAT
Thursday Oct. 3:	Penn State University admission rep. @ 1pm Registration Deadline for November 2 SAT
Tuesday Oct. 8:	Marywood University admission rep. @ 1pm Financial Aid Night @ 6:30pm at WAHS
Thursday Oct. 10:	Millersville Univ. admission rep @ 8am Susquehanna Univ. admission rep @ 9:30am

*College admission representatives meet with students in the Guidance Office. If you want to meet with any of the scheduled admission reps, stop in the Guidance Office to sign up and get a pass.

PSAT Registration

PSAT/NMSQT®

CollegeBoard

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Who should take the test?

Any 11th grade student who is considering going to a 4-year college. WASD has committed to paying the registration fee for all 10th grade students to take the PSAT for the 2019-2020 school year.

What is the PSAT?

The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT that is administered during the school day at the high school. The PSAT “measures college and career readiness and gives students tools for planning their future” (www.collegeboard.org).

Where and when is the PSAT?

The PSAT will be given on Wednesday October 16 at the High School. This is a national test date, so there will not be any make-up test dates.

Why should you take the PSAT?

- Practice for the SAT
- Access to a tailored study guide after completing the PSAT through College Board and Khan Academy
- 11th graders taking the PSAT are eligible to compete for the National Merit Scholarship competition (=potential FREE money!)

How do I register for the PSAT?

- Stop in the High School Guidance office between now and October 2, 2019
- The cost to register is \$17 (cash, check or money order) – 11th grade students who qualify for free/reduced lunch can receive a fee waiver to cover the cost of the PSAT
- When students register, each student will receive a Student Guide that provides sample questions and more detailed information about the PSAT and the National Merit Scholarship competition.

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. We are more familiar with the SAT because College Board (the company who produces the SAT is based out of New Jersey) as compared to the ACT which was developed at the University of Iowa. 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?	www.sat.org	www.act.org
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When should 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 2nd or 3rd 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
November 2, 2019	October 3, 2019	October 22, 2019
December 7, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 26, 2019
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

ACT TEST DATES

	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
October 26, 2019	September 20, 2019	October 8, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 22, 2019
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

Curious about the military?

- Listen to the announcements to find out when the recruiters will be at lunch
- Plan on taking the **ASVAB** (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery) on November 14th at the High School – no cost to students. Registration for the ASVAB will start in mid-October.



How will I pay for college?

Seniors, are you heading to college next fall? Make sure you've considered the cost of college and take advantage of all of the financial aid opportunities!

Anyone heading to college will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Current seniors & parents/guardians can now start the FAFSA on October 1. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer student and parent tax information to the FAFSA.

Here's the link for the FAFSA → <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Be sure to attend **Financial Aid Night** to help you better understand the Financial Aid process, such as what happens after you submit the FAFSA? What information will they ask for on the FAFSA?

Financial Aid Night: October 8th @ WAHS, 6:30pm

If you want more help completing the FAFSA, consider attending the **FAFSA Completion Night** which will be held on October 29 from 6-8pm in the High School Library. Financial aid representatives will be on hand to help guide you through completing your online FAFSA application and the PHEAA state grant application. This event is open to **all** college bound seniors and their parents/guardians.

More Financial Aid Resources

PA Student Aid Guide (<https://www.pheaa.org/college-planning/student-aid-guide/>) – 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.

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/> - Are you a senior planning on going to college? You'll need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

<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.

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. A hard copy is also available in the guidance office or you can visit the guidance website at <https://www.wasd.org/our-schools/williamsport-area-high-school/scholarships>.

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

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

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?

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Check out the High School Guidance webpage @

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