

# **SENIOR ORIENTATION**

Guidance Office Phone Number (Mrs. Link) - 419-739-5201

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## **ACT/SAT Testing Dates**

If you plan to go to college, you will need to take the ACT for most state schools, or the SAT for out of state /Ivy League colleges. It is most common that students register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for the ACT and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for the SAT. There are study guide materials and additional information for both of these college entrance exams available in the guidance office. Wapakoneta High School is one of the test sites for the ACT. Our ACT site number is 227-210.

## **Senior Announcements**

Every few weeks there will be a set of announcements available to you that has important information. They are available in the guidance office and in your English class. It is your responsibility to listen to announcements to learn when they are published. They are printed on different colored paper each time to help you know a new set has been printed. These announcements can also be found on the school website: [www.wapak.org](http://www.wapak.org)

## **College Application Procedure**

The guidance office has applications available for a few universities and colleges; however, most schools prefer that you apply on-line. The paper applications can be found in the guidance resource room in the college information file cabinets. See your counselor if you need a paper application.

When filling out the paper application, read all directions first - many will ask for black ink. ***(Do not use pencil)***. When you have completed the application, bring it along with the check made out to the college or university (no cash) to your counselor. Counselors will then fill out any official school information and add a copy of your transcript (which you must request) with it. Mrs. Link will then make note that she has sent it and place it in the mail for you. She will also send the college/university a confirmation postcard, which verifies that the information has been received. Wapakoneta High School pays for all postage needed to send out the application.

If you apply over the Internet, please make sure that you fill out a transcript request form in the guidance office. It is a good idea to get your applications sent out before Christmas break as many schools have application filing dates and deadlines for scholarships.

If you are thinking about participating in a sport at a Division I or Division II school, be certain that you have applied online at the NCAA eligibility center. You will enter the portal as a student and begin the process of applying with the NCAA. This is in addition to applying to colleges. When you take your ACT, make sure that you mark 9999 when filling out the ACT registration so that your scores are sent directly to the NCAA institution.

### **Ohio Career Information System (OCIS)**

Below are the web address, user name, and password for the Ohio Career Information System (OCIS), which our high school has purchased for your use. This is an outstanding site for career and college exploration. All occupations, degrees, and fields of study are available, along with any college or technical school you can imagine. You should remember doing some work with this website in your financial literacy class.

Web Address is: <http://ocis.ode.state.oh.us>

User Name is: wapakhs

Password is: ohiocis03 (all lower case with Zero Three at the end)

### **Financial Aid**

The guidance department will be hosting a financial aid meeting in early 2012. After your parents complete their tax information from this previous year, you will be able to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You can complete this process online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). This application process is used to determine what type of aid may be available to you based on your family's financial situation and the colleges you have applied to. Therefore, it is important that you have applied to your chosen college(s) before filling out the FAFSA. After completing your FAFSA form, make a copy of it. It is also important for your parents to be in contact with the financial aid office of the school you plan to attend. Some other sources of financial aid would be Co-op programs, military programs such as ROTC, and local scholarships, which become available in early spring.

### **Scholarship Information**

- All scholarship information that we receive is announced on the guidance announcements. The scholarship forms are kept in trays in the guidance office on the wall to your left as you walk in the door. If a tray is empty, then please see Mrs. Epperly so that she can make more copies.
- Be certain that you apply for everything for which you are eligible.
- Have your parents check their place of employment for scholarships that may be available.
- If you need a teacher or counselor recommendation, ask well in advance, since he/she is doing you a favor. Also, it is very beneficial to the counselors to have a copy of your resume on file so that we know all of the activities you are involved in.
- **WATCH FOR DEADLINES-** most scholarships have strict due dates that you must meet.

Scholarship search ideas:

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

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

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

<http://www.ed.gov/money.html>

<http://www.finaid.org>

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.ed.gov>

### **Selective Service**

If you are an 18-year-old male student, you must sign up for the Selective Service. You may do so with Mr. Rex, online, or at the United States Post Office. It only takes about 5-10 minutes.

### **College Nights and College Visits**

There will be several college nights available in our area. In the past, Rhodes State College, Memorial High School, Centerville High School, and Hara Arena have hosted extensive and quite helpful college fairs. These fairs will be mentioned on school announcements as well as in the senior announcements. Please plan to attend at least one event. Also, you should have visited a few universities/colleges by this time and should plan to attend one or two more this autumn as you narrow down your choices. If your visit is during the school day, come to the guidance office for the college visit form.

## JUNIOR/SENIOR ORIENTATION CHECKLIST FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION

### Junior Year Winter/Spring

1. \_\_\_\_ You should have taken or be signed up to take an ACT or SAT test.  
-www.actstudent.org  
-sat.collegeboard.com

### Junior Year Spring/Summer

2. \_\_\_\_ Plan to visit at least two colleges before returning for your senior year.
3. \_\_\_\_ Register for the ACT or SAT for a second/third, etc., test.

### Senior Year Autumn

4. \_\_\_\_ Finalize visiting colleges and meeting with reps.
5. \_\_\_\_ Begin the college application process by applying to the college/s of your choice.  
-consider applying to two or more  
-ask for your letter or recommendation at least ten days in advance  
-be sure to fill out a transcript release form in the guidance office for each college  
-apply online, or be sure to use a PEN for your mailed-in applications
6. \_\_\_\_ November 1 and December 1 are often early decision deadlines; try to have your applications sent by this time
7. \_\_\_\_ If you are planning to play college athletics at the Division I or II level, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center online.  
-fill in 9999 when you take the ACT so that your scores are sent to the NCAA

### Senior Year Winter

8. \_\_\_\_ In January, your parents must get his/her taxes done quickly so that you can complete the FAFSA form in February.  
-at the end of January, we will have a financial aid night at WHS  
-College Goal Sunday is February 12, 2012, and this is the time when professionals meet to help parents get the FAFSA done and sent. Go to [www.knowhow2goohio.org](http://www.knowhow2goohio.org) to learn where the closest site is for your family to get this help.

### Senior Year Spring

9. \_\_\_\_ Local scholarships become available in January and February. Pay attention to our school announcements to learn about scholarships that are right for you.  
-keep in mind websites like [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) for national scholarships too  
-ask for your recommendation letters at least ten days in advance
10. \_\_\_\_ In May, you should receive a letter from your college about financial aid and housing; deposits are due at this time as well. By now, you should know where you will go and have plans about preparing for college itself.