



# Planning for Your Future

WAHS School Counselor Newsletter

## What's included in this newsletter?

- [School Counselor Contact Info](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Post-secondary Partner Visits](#)
- [Military Contacts](#)
- [Testing](#) (PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, Keystones, etc.)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Planning for Your Future Resources](#)
- [Dual Enrollment Opportunities](#)

## WAHS Counseling Office Staff

<p><b>Mrs. Kate Harris</b>  <i>12th grade - Class of 2025</i>  <a href="mailto:mkharris@wasd.org">mkharris@wasd.org</a>                      570-323-8411 ext. 60524</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Susan Hunsinger</b>  <i>11th Grade - Class of 2026</i>  <a href="mailto:shunsing@wasd.org">shunsing@wasd.org</a>                      570-323-8411 ext. 60521</p>
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<p><b>Mrs. Kaitlin Eck</b>  <i>Career Counselor</i>  <a href="mailto:keck@wasd.org">keck@wasd.org</a>                      570-323-8411 ext. 60525</p>	
<p><b>Mrs. Carol Shipman</b>  <i>Guidance Secretary</i>  <a href="mailto:cshipman@wasd.org">cshipman@wasd.org</a>                      570-323-8411 ext. 60520</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Barb Fritz</b>  <i>Guidance/Athletic Secretary</i>  <a href="mailto:bfritz@wasd.org">bfritz@wasd.org</a>                      570-323-8411 ext. 60528</p>

## Important Dates

- September 20, 2024: Registration deadline for 10/5 SAT Administration
- October 5, 2024: SAT Weekend Administration@ WAHS
- October 16, 2024: Registration deadline for 10/22 SAT School Day
- October 17, 2024: College Night @ Lycoming College, 6:30-8:30pm
- October 22, 2024: SAT School Day (12<sup>th</sup> graders)  
PSAT/NMSQT (All 11<sup>th</sup> graders)
- November 25, 2024: Financial Aid Night, 5pm  
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8pm
- November 26, 2024: College & Career Fair, 5:15-7:15pm  
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 8am-8pm



## Post-Secondary Partner Visits

Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to meet with a variety of military recruiters, college admissions representatives, and employers. For most of these opportunities, students just need to stop in the Guidance Office to sign up to attend these events. Students will then receive a pass in their 1<sup>st</sup> period class on the day of the event.



Students can meet with the **college admissions representatives** as a first step in creating a potential college list. After gathering some basic information and checking out the school's website, students can create a list of schools they want to visit in-person, if possible. Many colleges also offer virtual tours on their website if you aren't able to get to the campus.

Many of the **employers** coming to campus are interested in hiring students after graduation. Students can establish connections with potential employers before graduation.

Here's an overview of all visits currently scheduled at Williamsport Area High School:

SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER		
<b>9/16</b>	1pm	Washington & Jefferson University	<b>10/1</b>	8:30am 11am 12:43pm	Bucknell University Elizabethtown College Commonwealth Univ. of PA
<b>9/17</b>	10am 12:45pm	Gannon University Misericordia University	<b>10/8</b>	7:40am	Marywood University
<b>9/18</b>	9:30am	Moravian University	<b>10/9</b>	8:30am	Lycoming College Instant Decision Day ( <i>12<sup>th</sup> grade only</i> )
<b>9/19</b>	10:15am Lunch 12:45pm	Susquehanna University Marines Recruiter Allegheny College	<b>10/10</b>	All day	PA Department of Corrections (Employer Visit)
<b>9/20</b>	9:30am	Elmira College	<b>10/16</b>	9:30am	PA College of Technology
<b>9/24</b>	10:15am	Wilkes University	<b>10/22</b>	1:15pm	Harrisburg University of Science & Technology
<b>9/25</b>	Lunch 12:45pm	PA National Guard University of Pittsburgh	<b>10/23</b>	9:15am 10:30am	Indiana University of PA (IUP) Messiah University
<b>9/26</b>	8:30am 9:30am	Juniata College Univ. of Pittsburgh @ Johnstown	<b>10/30</b>	8:30am	Commonwealth University Instant Decision Day ( <i>12<sup>th</sup> grade only</i> )

## Military Contacts

Below is the current contact information for the military recruiters working with WAHS. You can reach out directly to them or you can talk with Mrs. Eck or your school counselor to setup a meeting time.

<b>Air Force/Space Force</b> Conner R. Bentley, SSgt, USAF Enlisted Accessions Recruiter 311th Recruiting Squadron 1774 E 3 <sup>rd</sup> St Williamsport, Pennsylvania Call/Text: (570)-317-7326 <a href="mailto:Conner.bentley@us.af.mil">Conner.bentley@us.af.mil</a>	<b>PA Army National Guard</b> SFC Dana Ackard Williamsport Career Counselor- PANI Pennsylvania Army National Guard 1307 Grove Street Williamsport, PA 17701 C: 570-447-6217 <a href="mailto:Dana.c.ackard.mil@mail.mil">Dana.c.ackard.mil@mail.mil</a>	<b>PA Air National Guard</b> Caleb Woodring, SSgt, PAANG Production Recruiter 193d Special Operations Wing Cell: (814) 577-3987 <a href="mailto:caleb.woodring@us.af.mil">caleb.woodring@us.af.mil</a>
<b>Marines</b> Sergeant Lech, Alexandre D. United States Marine Corps Recruiter 1774 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. Williamsport, Pa 17701 (W) (570)877-7710 (W) <a href="mailto:alexandre.lech@marines.usmc.mil">alexandre.lech@marines.usmc.mil</a>	<b>Navy</b> STS2 Sams-Galuszka Cell: 570-710-0606 <a href="mailto:austin.m.sams-galuszka.mil@us.navy.mil">austin.m.sams-galuszka.mil@us.navy.mil</a>	

## Testing

WAHS students will take a variety of assessments throughout high school including (but not limited to) the ASVAB, PSAT, and Keystone exams. Some students will also take the NOCTI and AP exams. Others may also choose to take the SAT and/or ACT assessments.

### ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a free standardized test that helps determine a person's aptitude for different subjects and careers. It's used by the military to help determine enlistment and job training eligibility, and to help identify careers that may be a good fit for a person. Even if students aren't interested in the military, ASVAB offers a comprehensive career exploration program for students who take the ASVAB.

#### Testing Dates @ WAHS:

- November 12, 2024 (for interested 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students) – sign up in the Guidance Office
- March 18 & 20, 2025 – all 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the ASVAB (no personal information is shared with the military)

### PSAT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>) gives students a preview of what to expect on the SAT as well as gives student access to scholarship opportunities and future planning tools.

#### Testing Date @ WAHS

- October 22, 2024 – all 11<sup>th</sup> graders and any interested 10<sup>th</sup> graders

#### Cost

- 11<sup>th</sup> graders take the PSAT for FREE
- 10<sup>th</sup> graders pay \$11 to take the PSAT – go to the Guidance Office to register and pay

## SAT School Day



We will be offering the SAT School Day twice this year. SAT School Day allows students to take the SAT during the school day, rather than needing to go to a testing center on a Saturday morning.

**\*Students will register in the Guidance Office – NOT on College Board’s website.**

### Testing Dates @ WAHS

- October 22, 2024 – SAT School Day (for 12<sup>th</sup> graders)
- March 4, 2025 – SAT School Day (for 11<sup>th</sup> graders)

### Cost

- SAT School Day is offered at discounted price of \$35/exam
- If the cost of the exam is an issue, talk to your school counselor for other payment options

### SAT (Weekend)

- Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Cost: \$68
- Test dates are on Saturdays
- WAHS is a testing center for 10/5 and 6/7 administrations only; for remaining test dates, the next closest testing center is Lewisburg HS or Selinsgrove HS

### Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

SAT TEST DATE(S)	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DATES
October 5, 2024 (WAHS Testing Site)	September 20, 2024	September 24, 2024
November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024	October 22, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024	November 26, 2024
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025 (WAHS Testing Site)	May 22, 2025	May 27 2025

### ACT

- Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- Cost: \$69 (no writing), \$94 (with writing)
- Test dates are on Saturdays
- Closest testing centers are Canton High School and State College HS

ACT TEST DATE(S)	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DATES
September 14, 2024	August 9, 2024	August 25, 2024
October 26, 2024	September 20, 2024	October 7, 2024
December 14, 2024	November 8, 2024	November 22, 2024
February 8, 2025	January 3, 2025	January 20, 2025
April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 6, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025

### 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. Both are good options as you complete the college admissions process but the SAT has closer test centers, including 2 test dates at WAHS plus 2 test dates during the school day!



Many schools are still test-optional for their admission process, but you are encouraged to take one of the tests so you are prepared if a school does require or request them.

## Financial Aid

### 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!

### FAFSA

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 December 1, 2024.

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: November 25 @ WAHS, 5pm**

*\*Come to Financial Aid night and then visit your student's teachers during parent/teacher conferences.\**

Can't attend Financial Aid Night? Or just want more information about the financial aid process? Check out these webinars hosted by PHEAA:

### Creating Your Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

In order to fill out and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you will need an FSA ID. Join us to learn more about what the FSA ID is, who should create an FSA ID account, when you should create an FSA ID, and what will be needed to create an FSA ID.

Wednesday, November 13

[Register](#)

6:00–7:00 PM (ET)

### Financial Aid 101

PHEAA Access Partners will present information on the financial aid application process, what types of aid are available for students, and strategies to start thinking about affordability before getting ready to apply for postsecondary school admission. Time will be built into the presentation to allow you to ask any questions you may have regarding the financial aid process.

Wednesday, December 4

[Register](#)

6:00–7:00 PM (ET)

## More Financial Aid Resources

[PA 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.

[PHEAA](#) – Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency – Offers information about the financial aid process, college planning, and more!

<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 (<http://www.fastweb.com/>) to search for thousands of other scholarships as well!

## Planning for your Future Resources

Not sure what path to take after high school? That's okay and not uncommon! Check out these resources to help explore your possibilities.

**College Board's Big Future Program** - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

- A free online planning guide that helps all students take the right first step after high school
- Take a Quiz – Career Quiz, College Quiz and Scholarship Quiz
- SAT & PSAT Prep available
- Qualify for scholarships just for using the Big Future site!



**My Next Move** - <https://www.mynextmove.org/>

- Research information about specific careers or take an interest assessment to see what careers would be a good match for you



### Smart Futures

- All WAHS students have access to Smart Futures on their Dashboard!
- Students can complete interest surveys, learn about budgeting, complete activities related to job applications and resumes and much more!



## Dual Enrollment Opportunities

Did you know that Williamsport Area High School students can earn college credits while in high school? Usually these credits can be taken at a reduced cost! We currently have three partnerships with local colleges to offer college courses to our students. If you are interested in this opportunity, talk to your school counselor!

### Penn College [Dual Enrollment](#)

- Courses are offered within the WAHS classroom
- Students must meet certain eligibility criteria and complete an application
- No cost to students
- Classes available: PCT Psychology, PCT World History, PCT English, PCT Math, L1 & L2 Construction, L2 & L3 Welding, L3 Commercial Art

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### Lycoming College [Early Warrior Program](#)

- Students go to Lycoming College campus for classes
- Students must meet certain eligibility criteria and complete an application
- Students must submit a "Request for High School Credit" form at WAHS
- Students pay discounted price of \$100/credit
- Your school counselor and Lycoming College will help to determine class enrollment based on availability/schedule



### Commonwealth University of PA [Early College Program](#)

- Students can take classes at a Commonwealth campus or online
- Students must meet certain eligibility criteria and complete an application
- Students must submit a "Request for High School Credit" form at WAHS
- Students pay \$115/credit (\$345 for a 3-credit course)
- Your school counselor and Commonwealth U will help to determine class enrollment based on availability/schedule



## Counseling Office Resources

- Check your School Counselor's Schoology page for updates and important information
- Watch for Dr. Ross's updates on Schoology
- Additional resources are available on the High School Guidance website:  
<https://www.wasd.org/our-schools/williamsport-area-high-school/guidance>
- Students can stop into the Guidance Office during the school day to make an appointment with their counselor or send a message to them on Schoology