

November Newsletter

Waubonsie Valley High School Counseling Department

Post-Secondary Night

On Thursday, November 15th from 6:30-9:00pm, the Waubonsie Valley Counseling Department and friends will host the annual Post-Secondary Planning Night. Post-Secondary Night is open to students and families of all grade levels. This is great for upperclassmen looking to confirm their post high school direction or underclassmen who are just beginning the exploration process. The night will feature three forty-five minute rotations, so that families can learn about the topics most relevant to their student. A wide range of topics will be covered. A description of the available sessions* can be found below.

We encourage all Warrior families to attend.

Session Descriptions:

What Makes a Great College- We've all seen the rankings, but what really makes one school better than another? Join us for a conversation about the factors that truly make a great college and perhaps more importantly, what makes a college a great fit for your student.

College Essays That Work- Have you ever wondered what makes a college essay stand out to an admissions counselor? What experiences or topics are sure to grab attention? How can you make sure your personality comes through in your words? Hear from an experienced college admissions counselor on what really works in a college admissions essay.

Other Factors in Admissions: Beyond the Transcript- Many colleges use holistic admission review processes that encompass factors beyond GPA, course rigor, and standardized test scores. Based on data from the National Association for College Admission Counseling and input from college admission representatives, learn more about the impact of other factors such as essays, recommendations, interviews, extracurricular involvement, and why, ultimately, your child is THE most crucial factor in the process.

Applying to Highly Selective Schools- Ever wonder what it takes to get into Harvard, Yale, or Brown? We will discuss insights into the admissions and application process of America's most selective post-secondary institutions. There will also be a question and answer session to address any specific questions or concerns.

College Athletic Eligibility- Is your student interested in playing athletics in college? Do you know all of the requirements these students need to fulfill? If not, please attend our Eligibility Center presentation where we will go over all of the requirements outlined by the NCAA and NAIA.

Standardized Testing & College Admissions- Illinois recently made the transition from the ACT to the SAT. What does this mean for your student and how can you help them prepare for success on the SAT? Come learn about the newly redesigned SAT and other standardized tests that may help your student strengthen their college applications.

Success in the New Economy- In the new economy where a college degree no longer guarantees success, what other options do students have? In the right field, a two year degree/certificate holder can earn more than students with a traditional four year degree. Learn more about viable alternatives to the four year degree and post-secondary resources right in our backyard.

Naviance- The Family Connection (powered by Naviance) is an online tool custom designed for Waubonsie Valley High School that students, parents and counselors can use together to determine the best path to college and ultimately a career. This interactive presentation dives further into the Naviance college and career portals available to your students in their post-secondary planning.

Parents attending this session must bring student log in and password for Naviance

The Financial Aid Process- How do you pay for college? What's the FAFSA and why do I have to fill it out? Come find

answers to these questions and more. A financial aid counselor will help break down the cost of college, look at strategies for paying tuition, and discuss financial aid basics.

STEM Careers- What are possible careers in STEM and what can you do now as a high school student in order to prepare for them? Join us for a session that provides an overview of potential career paths and explore coursework and experiences that will lead you to success after high school.

College Night for Musicians- Members of the WVHS Music Department will discuss topics such as college music major options, audition processes, and careers in the field. We will also leave time for questions at the end of the session.

Career Paths in Business- Many students want to work in a business field, but what business related major is right for you? Come hear from members of the business department as they share college and career advice to help navigate your path.

*Sessions are subject to change.

Freshman Career Connections Program

The Class of 2022 is gearing up to participate in the annual Career Connections Program here at Waubonsie Valley. The Career Connections Program has been a huge success over the past years. Hundreds of professionals, from each of the sixteen career clusters, will visit Waubonsie Valley to share their expertise, backgrounds and personal stories with our freshman students. Students will learn about a variety of careers and the choices they can make now to help them succeed later in life.

Activities started, October 18th as students took a career interest inventory through Naviance during their freshmen advisory period. Results from this inventory will help students select a series of career panels throughout November and December. We encourage you to speak with your student and have them take the Career Connections program seriously so that they can receive the maximum benefit from the upcoming sessions. All activities will take place during the student's advisory period.

If you would like more information on the program or would like to volunteer to be a presenter, click here <http://wvhscareerconnections.weebly.com/>

Senior College Applications & Financial Aid

College application season is in full swing and our first major deadline is upon us. November 1st marks the early admissions deadline for many schools, but regular and rolling admissions deadlines are still to come. We encourage all students who haven't applied to a college program yet to seek out assistance from their school counselor. Keep in mind that as deadlines approach, the counselors are processing an increased number of transcript requests. With this in mind we ask that students submit their requests to Waubonsie 10 days ahead of their colleges advertised deadline. This ensures that our counselors have time to process your transcript and give each application the attention it deserves.

Scholarships have begun to be posted on Naviance. From now until the end of the year, be sure to check the scholarships portion of Naviance for updates and new scholarship applications. Naviance will be our main posting location for local scholarships. Other great resources for state and national scholarships are www.WhatsNextIllinois.org and www.FastWeb.com. One particularly interesting scholarship is the College of DuPage Scholar Award Program, which provides anything from free books to full tuition while attending COD. This is a great way to make a quality education even more affordable.

As a reminder, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open. This year the federal government has elected to open the FAFSA in October rather than waiting until January 1st as has been past practice. By filling out the FAFSA, students can find out if they are eligible for state & federal grants, student loans or work study programs. More information can be found at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

For students who participate in the Free & Reduced Lunch program, please keep in mind that application fee waivers are available through a variety of sources including: Common App, College Board, and NACAC. If you qualify for FRL please see your counselor for additional information.

Midterm Grades and Academic Resources

The first quarter at Waubonsie Valley finished on October 19th. Now is the perfect time to have a conversation with your student about their academic progress and what supports they have taken advantage of at Waubonsie Valley. We would like to encourage all students to utilize the Academic Resource Centers during their lunch periods if they think they can benefit from additional content area support. If you notice that your student has struggled on tests, quizzes or other assessments, have your student reach out to their teacher and inquire about the class reassessment policy. The Testing Center is open all lunch periods to help support student growth through reassessment. This will look different for every class, but students should find the opportunity to relearn material and show what they have been able to master.

PSAT Test Results

Did you junior take the PSAT on October 10th? The results from the PSAT Exam will be posted to student's College Board account in mid-December (projected 12/12/18), approximately six to eight weeks after the exam date. Students and families can access their College Board accounts to view a detailed score report. Score reports contain detailed feedback on the student's PSAT performance, academic skills and readiness for future AP courses.

If students are having difficulty accessing their PSAT scores through their College Board account, they will need to work with College Board directly to resolve the issue. Waubonsie Valley does not have access to a student's College Board account, or the ability to verify usernames or passwords. Common reasons for score release issues are: inconsistencies in demographic information between PSAT registration and College Board accounts, use of non-matching email address when setting up accounts or having multiple College Board accounts. College Board can help resolve these issues by having the student call 866.433.7728

Practice Tests Available at Aurora & Naperville Libraries

The Aurora and Naperville libraries continue to host free practice ACT and SAT tests for students looking to gain experience in a simulated testing environment. Students interested in these opportunities should contact the appropriate library to sign up or for additional information.

Aurora Public Library (Eola Branch) <http://www.aurorapubliclibrary.org/>

-Saturday, November 10th- ACT Practice Test

-Saturday, November 17th- SAT Practice Test

-Saturday, December 1st- ACT Practice Test

Naperville Public Library (Nichols Branch) <https://www.naperville-lib.org>

-Saturday, November 3rd- SAT Practice Test