

# PATHFINDER

## West Chester B. Reed Henderson High School Counseling Department Newsletter

September 2022

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## **GENERAL NEWS**

The Henderson High School counselors are excited and ready to begin the 2022-2023 school year! Our role is to help students focus on academic, career and social/emotional development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

WCASD school counselors are committed to ensuring ethical, equitable, and inclusive school environments. Our guidance in this area comes in part from the American School Counselor Association standards addressing racism and bias. As always, Henderson counselors will work collaboratively with students, their families and our staff to ensure a smooth transition for our students into this next school year.

In addition to our role of counseling students in the areas of social and emotional development relevant to the school setting, all WCASD high school counselors to rely on Naviance—our web based platform for career and college planning (including scholarships and financial aid), for guiding our students in career education and college planning. Each student will create a College and Career Portfolio, (housed in Naviance) consisting of at least 8 activities by the end of their junior year. Using the career planning tools, student can discover interests, research careers, link careers to post-secondary requirements and create a resume. Using the college planning tools, students can research colleges and manage the college application process. And finally, Naviance allows us to submit application materials to colleges electronically, thus saving time and money so that we can spend more time working directly with students.

We also recognize that communication with families is of the utmost importance, and we are dedicated to maintaining frequent and varied communication. On that note, the WCASD high school counselors will be providing a “College Application Process” informational presentation for students and parents in September, and a “Financial Aid Night” for parents in November. Details regarding these events and communication in general are provided on the following pages.

**GENERAL NEWS CONT.....**

In the second semester we will host a “College Planning Night” for parents (date, location and time TBD). Parents will receive emails and students can view information on their Naviance accounts and the Counseling Dept. Schoology pages announcing all of these annual events.

Our counseling department has many resources for parents and students to access. In addition to Naviance and Schoology, please visit the [Henderson counseling department website](#).

**COMMUNICATION**

In addition to receiving information via our newsletter, the counseling department regularly sends pertinent and informative announcements and information to students via Naviance and Schoology and to their parents via parents’ email. Please make sure that your contact information is up-to-date in our system. If you have had any recent changes to your phone numbers and/or email addresses, please contact one of the Counseling Dept. Admin. Assistants listed on page one of this newsletter.

Most importantly, we encourage you to contact your student’s counselor as soon as you have concerns or questions. Counselors will continue to be accessible within the school day during which students and parents can meet or speak with virtually. By working together proactively, we can help your student reach his/her goals and enjoy a positive high school experience.

**COLLEGE PLANNING**

Utmost on many students’ and their families’ minds is the college admissions and planning process. Many families have questions specifically regarding standardized testing (ACT/SAT). While almost all colleges still accept scores, many colleges are now test optional, providing more choice for students. You should check the college’s website for the most updated information on their application requirements.

**PSAT/NMSQT**

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (commonly known as the PSAT) is a practice test for the SAT and will be administered to all Sophomores and Juniors on Wednesday October 12th, 2022 at Henderson during school hours. Students are not required to register or pay for the test. The WCASD will provide student test registration and fees to the College Board for all Sophomores and Juniors. The WCASD will be using the PSAT to measure student aptitude. As always, the 2022 PSAT scores will not be reported to colleges.

The PSAT/NMSQT is also used to identify and enter Juniors in competition for national recognition and scholarships. So juniors should especially make an effort to be at school on October 12th., since the College Board only allows schools to administer the PSAT on one day each year. *There are no retakes for the PSAT.* Stay tuned to the HHS website regarding additional practice opportunities that may arise on a Saturday in mid to late September. Any additional practice tests not associated with the College Board will NOT be used by the College Board to identify and enter Juniors in competition for national recognition and scholarships.

PSAT results are released in early December through the collegeboard website.

While 10th and 11th grade students are taking the PSAT on October 12th, 9th grade students will be participating in several activities run by the counseling office. More information will be provided about these activities as the day approaches.

## SAT ~ ACT ~

The following information is for planning purposes relevant to college bound Juniors and Seniors and is subject to change based on college admissions requirements. The decision to take either the SAT or ACT will depend upon the requirements of the college of your choice. Check multiple college websites before registering for either test. As a general rule, most schools will accept both the SAT and the ACT. We encourage students who may be concerned about potentially low test scores to take both the ACT and SAT exams. Students are responsible for their own test registration on-line at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (SAT) and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT).

**SAT/ACT DATES FOR 2022-2023**

Remember to use the **Henderson's school code #395170** when registering. Early decision candidates, Penn State Main Campus applicants, or military academy candidates should take the SAT's or ACT's twice before their senior year if required or optional.

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Test</b>
	<b>*please also check late registration dates*</b>	
October 1, 2022	September 2, 2022	SAT
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	ACT
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	SAT
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	SAT
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	ACT
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	ACT
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	SAT
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	ACT
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	SAT
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	SAT
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	ACT
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	ACT

**COLLEGE FAIRS and COLLEGE REP. OUTREACH**

The Counseling Office schedules college admissions representatives to visit HHS during the year to meet with prospective students. The college rep. visit schedule is posted on Naviance. Please encourage students to register for an college visit in which they are interested! In addition, there are a few upcoming college fairs, which students are encouraged to attend:

- [Chester County College Fair: October 17, 2022](#)
- [Philadelphia National College Fair: October 30, 2022](#)

## SENIOR CONFERENCES & HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

As part of the WCASD developmental counseling program, students were given the opportunity to meet with their counselor in small groups during the Warrior Block in the first few weeks of school. These meetings were to provide an overview of the college application process and answer general questions. In addition, school counselors will meet individually with each senior during the first marking period to review credit requirements for graduation, the student's transcript, and their senior schedule. Other relevant issues discussed during this conference will include educational options, standardized testing, grade point average, financial aid, post high school career plans and the college and scholarship application procedure used by the HHS Counseling Office. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend their students' senior conferences upon request. Conferences are scheduled during the school day during a period when it is least disruptive to instructional time. Contact your student's counselor as soon as possible to confirm a date and time that you can attend.

**The WCASD high school counselors will be providing a "College Application Process" informational presentation for students and parents within the month of September.**

**This presentation will be posted for viewing on the website and emailed to families.**

**AND**

**The WCASD high school counselors will be hosting a "Financial Aid" informational presentation for students and parents on November 9th at 7pm at East High School**

**Parents and students will receive an email announcing this annual event.**

During the college application process, the student should take the lead and assume the responsibility of gathering information, meeting deadlines, and communicating with the relevant school personnel. The counselors are here to help students by providing them with the tools and resources necessary for them to complete their application requirements. If a student encounters difficulty during this process, it is very important that he/she contact his/her counselor for assistance. **SAT's and ACT's are not on WCASD transcripts, so students are responsible for sending their own scores (if required or optional) directly to colleges from [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) and [act.org](http://act.org).**

**On-line applications and materials:** Since college applications, essays, activities and application fees are submitted on-line by the student, many colleges require nothing more from the school counselor than a student's official transcript and a Henderson school profile. Students should meet with their counselor to review their transcript for accuracy. Students will use Naviance to make requests for teacher letter of recommendations, requests that transcripts be sent, track application deadlines, explore scholarships, find schools and college majors suited to them and much more. In most cases, counselor forms and/or the student's transcript and school profile (application packet) will be sent directly from the counseling office to the college electronically via Naviance. Naviance aids communication between students and counselors concerning college-related information.

**Teacher, administrator and counselor recommendations:** Don't be surprised if many colleges either do not require recommendations, or they make them optional (try to send one or two if they are optional). Students will invite their teacher recommenders to upload a recommendation electronically via Naviance only AFTER they have asked the teacher for a letter. Colleges may also require a counselor letter of recommendation. Students must follow their counselors protocol for requesting letters of recommendations.

Faculty and administrators are not required to write recommendations, but may agree to do so upon request. Students should be prepared to provide an unofficial electronic copy of their transcript and a list of extra-curricular activities to their recommender (unofficial copies of transcripts can be obtained electronically from a counseling office administrative assistant listed on p. 1 of this newsletter). Students are responsible for creating their own record of school-related and outside-of-school activities, including employment and volunteer work. This could look like a simple bullet pointed list or a resume using the resume builder in Naviance.

**Confirmation:** Students will be able to check when all supporting materials have been submitted through Naviance Family Connection. Many colleges also have their own separate portal to track application progress.

**Deadlines:** Application deadlines are the student's responsibility. Our preference is that all requests to send transcripts be made to the counselor via Naviance at least **5 school days** prior to application deadlines - even if students haven't submitted their applications yet. Because of the volume of transcripts processed around Thanksgiving and winter break, the recommended guideline for all requests for transcripts with a **January 1, 2023** receipt is **December 16, 2022** for your best chance that the transcript will be sent before winter break starts. Counselors will not be checking for transcript requests over the winter break.

**Rolling admissions:** Often, you will not see an application deadline listed anywhere in a college's literature. Instead you may read the term "rolling admissions." Colleges with "rolling admissions" (no set deadline, rather a "first come, first served" admissions policy) usually fill up their freshman class more than halfway by the end of December. So, the earlier a student applies, the better their chances of admission as a general rule. If you are holding off on applying because you are waiting for better SAT or ACT scores—don't! Apply by mid-November and indicate on your application that you are planning to take SATs/ACT's one or more times, and provide the dates that you are registered to take them. The same advice holds true for Early Action (non-binding) deadlines.

### **STUDENT COURSE SELECTION AND SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR 2022-2023**

The procedure for establishing class size, schedules and staffing of teachers as well as ensuring a positive educational environment began last February with the course selection process. Teachers, administrators, counselors, students and parents collaborated on students' course selections through the Spring. Schedules are now finalized and changes from one elective to another will not be considered. As outlined in WCASD Course Selection Guide, and per district policy, level changes for math, English, science and social studies (when appropriate) will be addressed and considered. Level changes down for math, English, science and social studies (when appropriate) will be addressed and considered on an as needed basis on or after September 23rd. Level changes up will be considered at this time with teacher and parent input. All level changes for full year courses must be completed no later than February 3, 2023. All level changes for semester courses including English 12 Hon. and English aca. lit. levels must be completed no later than September 30, 2022.

Deadlines for adding electives to existing study halls was September 16th for first semester and full year courses, and February 3rd for second semester courses.

A Schedule Change Form must be completed with the appropriate signatures required and turned into the Counseling Office within the time frames listed above or they will not be considered.

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

Our Intervention Counselor, Ms. Candy Jakubowski co-facilitates several support groups with and without outside agencies throughout the year at Henderson. Students receive support with a variety of issues such as substance abuse recovery, grief, stress/anxiety management and anger management. For more information contact Ms. Jakubowski at [cjakubowski@wcasd.net](mailto:cjakubowski@wcasd.net) or at (484) 266-3408.