

WHS COUNSELING NEWSLETTER: *Underclassmen Edition*

September 2020



Welcome back, students!

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your families in good health and excited about returning to school. As you are very well aware, this pandemic has been a game changer in terms of how we prepare for the new school year. Below you will find important information including our new Block Schedule. Our Class sizes will be smaller; therefore, some electives will not be able to run in the first semester. Please know

that we may need to make changes to the master schedule if any unforeseen issues arise, which could change your schedule. FLEXIBILITY is a must! We hope the school year runs smoothly, but as we can see already there are going to be adjustments along the way.

[Click here](#) to view the re-opening meeting held virtually with Principal Tara Winch and Interim Superintendent Patricia Charles. You may also visit our WHS Website for more information about the school year.

Stay Well!

The School Counseling Team

Mrs. Britton, Miss Cunningham, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Eno, and Mrs. Wallace

WHS Block Schedule

One big change you will see this year is block scheduling, a format our school has shifted to because of many logistical changes required by COVID-19. This format includes longer class periods that meet less frequently. For example, you will have four classes a day instead of six, and each class will be about 90 minutes long. We will still have a four-day cycle (A-D days), but your classes will meet every other day instead of three days on and one day off. Please refer to the table to the left and begin to familiarize yourself with this new block schedule. As you will see, we will still have three lunch waves, built in passing time and a scheduled morning break.

	7:50-9:20	9:20-9:25	9:25-9:40	9:40-11:10 L1: 10:50-11:10	11:10-11:15	11:15-12:45 L2: 11:15-11:35 L3: 11:45-12:05	12:45-12:50	12:50-2:20
A Day	Period 1	Student Passing Time	Announcements/ Break (In period 2 class)	Period 2	Student Passing Time	Period 3	Student Passing Time	Period 4
B Day	Period 5	Student Passing Time	Announcements/ Break (In period 6 class)	Period 6	Student Passing Time	Period 7	Student Passing Time	Period 8
C Day	Period 2	Student Passing Time	Announcements/ Break (In period 1 class)	Period 1	Student Passing Time	Period 4	Student Passing Time	Period 3
D Day	Period 6	Student Passing Time	Announcements/ Break (In period 5 class)	Period 5	Student Passing Time	Period 8	Student Passing Time	Period 7

Student Schedules

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, students will not be able to drop into the School Counseling Office to change their schedules once school is in session.

Students need to either email their Counselor or fill out an appointment slip outside of the counseling office to schedule an appointment. Students will be required to complete a Course Change Form to add or drop a course. This process is pretty well wrapped up for the fall semester. These forms require teacher signatures, parent approval and, in some cases, administrative approval. Students have the first two weeks of school to add or drop courses. After that add/drop period ends, dropping a class may result in a withdrawal.

Naviance

It is very important that students and parents utilize our Naviance program for college, career, scholarship, and personal exploration. Please access your accounts through the WHS website under the student resources tab. (Login Portals). Once you are in, create or update your resume, request teacher recommendations, sign up for virtual college visits, Repvisits, and explore colleges and careers. Each section of Naviance has a tutorial called: "Show me how" in the bottom right of your screen. This is very helpful if you are not sure how to utilize a particular area or activity, or simply curious about a particular section. Follow [this link](#) to log in to your Naviance Student account.

AP and ECE

UCONN EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Students please be aware that the application and enrollment portal to apply and register for your ECE UConn is open! Below is the link you will need to click on in order to sign up for your UConn dual enrollment courses. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Britton for help. Additionally, no payment is required at the time of enrollment. Course fees are waived for students who participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch program, also known as the NSLP (National School Lunch Program). For information on the ECE UConn application/enrollment process please click on the link below.

[Click here](#)

Application Deadline: 9/25

Enrollment Deadline: 10/9

ADVANCED PLACEMENT Students who are taking AP classes will receive join codes from their teachers for AP Classroom at the beginning of the school year. You'll receive a unique code for each AP class you're taking and will need to enter each separately online. There is no action required on your end at this time, other than knowing your CollegeBoard login information. Please be aware that all students who take an AP course are expected to participate in the corresponding AP exam in May. You will be asked to sign an AP Contract at the beginning of the school year agreeing to these expectations. Be on the lookout for a letter with details about AP Exam fees and payment. The cost of each AP Exam is \$86.00 and payment will be due at the end of October. Students who are enrolled in or eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) qualify for the AP Exam fee reduction and will be charged \$53.00 per exam. If your family is facing financial hardship

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but you do not participate in the NSLP, please reach out to Miss Cunningham to discuss alternative payment options.

Career Connections

Career Connections activities will begin again this year, but they will look a little different due to COVID-19 precautions at the school. Please watch the Career Connections web page for announcements. We are finalizing plans for activities focused on career exploration and career preparation, including internships, industry panels, resume and interview feedback sessions, and job shadowing.

Please see Ms. Carson if you fall into one of the following categories:

- You are looking for a community partner for community service
- You are interested in completing an internship
- You need help with resume writing or interviewing
- You are stuck and want to figure out what career you want to pursue after high school
- You are interested in joining the military
- You have any questions related to jobs and careers.

JUNIORS

PSAT We will be administering a Practice SAT (PSAT) to all Juniors on the morning of **Wednesday, October 14th, 2020**. This practice exam will help prepare you for the official standardized test that you will take in March 2021. We will automatically register all Grade 11 students to take the PSAT, so no action is required from you at this time. If you would like to familiarize yourself with the test, visit

[College Board](#) for more information or reach out to your School Counselor.

PSAT/SAT PREP We are opening up our Senior SAT preparation sessions to Juniors this fall! These sessions will cover both math and verbal sections. They will be held virtually, after school hours, in the days leading up to the PSAT in October. Mark your calendars for the following dates, and be on the lookout for more information regarding these preparation sessions if you would like to participate:

- Thursday, October 1st at 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 6th at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, October 8th at 3 p.m.

REP VISITS College representatives from around the country are eager to meet YOU! All visits from college representatives will be virtual this fall due to COVID-19. You can see what schools are scheduled and sign up for virtual sessions through your Naviance account. Log in, click the “Colleges” tab in the upper right corner, click “Research Colleges” then “College Visits.” A list of schools will appear and you can register for sessions. Visits will be hosted on the Google Meets platform between the windows of 1:30-3:30 p.m. and this schedule will be updated throughout the first semester. Please contact Mrs. Wallace if you have further questions. Follow [this link](#) to log in to your Naviance Student account.

VIRTUAL FAIRS It is never too early to start thinking about your plans after high school. With all of the virtual opportunities being made available, we encourage Juniors to participate in as many post-secondary exploration opportunities as possible. NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) will be hosting four virtual fairs this fall. More than 600 college and university representatives will be available to talk with you and other students! Create your itinerary by selecting which colleges you'd like to learn about. There is a filter tool that allows you to narrow your

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(virtual fairs continued)

search based on specifics such as size, major and location. Sign up to attend their live and interactive Zoom sessions or schedule a virtual meeting with a college. You can access sessions via phone, computer or tablet. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the application process, student life, financial aid and more. See the fall schedule and links to register below:

Monday, Oct. 12th 1 p.m.-9 p.m. [Register here](#)

Sunday, Oct. 18th 12 p.m.-8 p.m. [Register here](#)

Sunday, Nov. 8th 2 p.m.-10 p.m. [Register here](#)