

The Road to College

A College Counseling Newsletter



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Class of 2025, you have arrived for your junior year! I hope you are excited and ready to tackle all that this important year has in store for you. I know I speak for the entire College Counseling team in saying that we are eager to begin our work with you and look forward to all that this year will bring!

While our efforts will primarily be focused on supporting your peers in the Class of 2024 through the college application process over the next few months, we are, of course, very mindful of you and your process. As such, I am sharing this special edition of "The Road to College" to help you and your family get a better sense of what to expect this fall! Please take the time to review the information included, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to be in touch.

Again, we are looking forward to what promises to be an exciting and productive year!

What To Expect - Fall 2023

Academic Coursework: As you begin this year, we encourage you to set some academic goals. As this will be the last full year of academic work colleges will see when you apply next fall, it is important that you work hard toward your best success. If you have questions about your course selection or wish to make changes to any of your core academic courses (math, science, English, foreign language, and/or social science), we encourage you to stop into the office, and discuss with your counselor.

Learn To College/Individual Meetings: All juniors are enrolled in Learn to College (LTC) for one semester. Individual meetings between students and their college counselor will begin in November, though if there are pressing questions or concerns, do not hesitate to be in touch with your counselor. Students and families will be copied on meeting notes at the conclusion of every individual college counseling meeting, and it is our expectation that these notes will be consulted and reviewed closely by students and families.

MaiaLearning: As you begin to think more about your college process, we welcome you to check out [MaiaLearning!](#) We are excited to introduce you to this platform and encourage you to [check out this introductory material](#) so that you can begin to explore the many resources available! You'll find that Maia is incredibly user friendly and provides a wealth of information about colleges and universities. Students will learn more about Maia in their Learn to College class, and families will also have access. Login information for families will be shared in an upcoming edition of "The Road to College" newsletter.

Methodize: All students at WRA have access to Methodize, an online, self-paced SAT and ACT preparation program. Student account login information will be shared during the first week of school, and juniors will work through the program both in Learn to College as well as in partnership with their college counselor.

Standardized Testing will be an important component of junior year. While many colleges and universities remain score-optional for admission, we still encourage students to prepare for and take standardized tests as a part of their process. Like all aspects of the college counseling process, decisions about standardized testing are highly individualized and will be discussed with your counselor.

Our approach to testing is to afford students the opportunity to take one full-length practice version of each testing format (ACT and SAT) and/or complete the SAT and ACT diagnostic exams in their Methodize account. Once we have a baseline score for each test, we will make a comparison and ultimately determine which of the two tests will be the better for the student to pursue. Please note that practice tests will be administered on the following dates below:

Practice ACT: Saturday, September 16, 2023. This is an optional practice test, and student accounts will be charged \$18.00. For students who qualify, financial assistance is available to help with the cost of this practice test. Students will take a full-length practice ACT which will then be scored. Detailed score reports will be provided by mid-October. **To sign up to take the practice ACT test, please email Mrs. Barry (barryb@wra.net) by Tuesday, September 5, 2023.**

PSAT: Friday, October 13, 2023. New this year, the PSAT will be administered digitally. More information will be shared as the date draws closer. In the meantime, please know that this is a required exam as all students who sit for the PSAT will also be considered for the National Merit Scholarship. Student accounts will be charged \$23.00 for this test, and financial assistance is available.

Please contact Mrs. Barry (barryb@wra.net) to request financial assistance for one or both exams.

For your reference, here is information for [upcoming standardized test registration](#) dates and deadlines this fall.

Lastly, for non-native English speaking students, please review our [TOEFL testing calendar](#) which includes the dates when school-provided transportation to a TOEFL test site will be available. Should you need to take the TOEFL this fall, please register for one of these dates at the test center in Akron

College Admission Representatives: College Admission Representatives will be visiting WRA again this fall. Visits will take place in person in the dining hall over dinner and you can see the [calendar of visits here](#), on the rep visit calendar and on Maia. Students may sign up to attend these visits via their MaiaLearning accounts. New this year, WRA will be hosting two mini-college fairs on September 28, 2023, and on October 18, 2023. These college fairs will only be open to WRA students and will begin at 3:30 p.m., in the Memorial Gym. Athletic practices and co-curriculars will be suspended those afternoons to allow all students the opportunity to attend. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

These meetings and college fairs are a great opportunity for students to learn about different college options and enhance their understanding of the types of institutions that might best fit their interests and aspirations. For tips regarding how to prepare for these visits, [check this out](#). Feel free to also discuss these visits with your counselor. Lastly, if you have an unavoidable conflict with a college representative visit, stop by the CC Office to write a brief note of introduction, which a counselor will be glad to deliver for you directly to the admission representative.

NCAA Eligibility Center: For aspiring Division I and/or Division II athletes, if you have not already registered with the NCAA eligibility center, please follow [these instructions](#) to do so.

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