

# The Road to College

## A College Counseling Newsletter



As we flip the calendar to another month, I must admit I find myself wondering “gosh, how is it December already?!” In some respects, it feels like this fall semester has flown by and in others, it feels like August and the start of school occurred a lifetime ago! Throughout these past few months, I have been amazed at all the Class of 2024 has achieved and am so proud of their efforts in submitting their college applications — over 95% of the class has already applied! The next few weeks will be filled with many of the first admission decisions of the cycle and with this comes the possibility of great celebration and some disappointment. In a college admission landscape that remains highly unpredictable, my hope is that no matter the news, students and families are thoughtful and considerate with their responses. Remember, college admission news is private and does not need to be shared widely; please be intentional about how and when and with whom you share your news, no matter the result.

Students, good luck with final assessments as we close out the first semester and I send everyone my very best wishes for the upcoming holiday season. For more class-specific news, please read on!

Anna Barlow-Boesch  
Director of College Counseling

# CLASS NEWS



Families, we really value your feedback. Please take three-minutes to

[complete this short survey!](#)

Students who have applied to colleges with Early Action and/or Early Decision deadlines will begin to receive admission decisions over the coming weeks. This can be an emotional time (both exciting and possibly disappointing) for students and families, and we encourage you to [read this blog post](#) from Rick Clark at Georgia Tech for some great perspective.

Students should share all admission decisions directly with their college counselor and can reach out at any time to schedule a meeting should they wish to discuss their results in person.

As we approach the Winter Break, it is imperative that all students review their “Applying” list in Maia Learning to ensure that their college application list is accurate. Any additions to the list must be made in person in the College Counseling Office by updating their Application Processing Form.

Counselors will have limited availability over the Winter Break and will be in touch with their respective cohorts to share when they will be most accessible via email prior to the end of the semester. We ask that students share all essays for Regular Decision deadlines with their college counselor no later than Dec. 20, 2023 to guarantee time for review and feedback. Students, please also make sure you schedule a pre-break check-in with your counselor.



Counselors have begun meeting with members of the Class of 2025. As a friendly reminder, students must complete the Junior Questionnaire in their

MaiaLearning accounts before scheduling their first meeting.

If you were unable to attend the College Counseling Webinar on Dec. 4, the program was recorded and [the link is posted](#) on the College Counseling page of the parent portal.

Save the date! The college counselors of the Cleveland Council of Independent Schools (CCIS) are planning for the annual dean’s event panel, “Navigating the College Process.” The virtual program, moderated by Dan Moulthrop of The City Club of Cleveland and featuring admission directors from UCLA, University of Connecticut, Spelman College and Williams College, will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. More details will be shared in early January for how to register and receive the link to this excellent program.

Juniors who took the PSAT now have access to their online score report. These scores are just one piece of your college process and can be used to provide helpful feedback regarding your strengths and areas for improvement. [Visit satpractice.org](#) to create an account and then link it to your College Board account to receive personalized prep and practice based on your PSAT scores. Please [review this document](#) for insight regarding how to interpret your test scores.

As a reminder, students are granted an excused absence when visiting colleges. However, students must stop in to the College Counseling Office and pick up a College Trip Slip to secure the necessary signatures to excuse them from all campus commitments during their trip. [The College Visit Leave policy](#) is included in the Student Handbook.

Interested in seeing colleges in New England? Mark your calendars! We will be offering a college tour to the greater Boston area from May 25-30, 2024. A detailed itinerary and other information will be shared prior to the winter break via email. Stay tuned for more details!



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As we move toward the second half of the school year, we are excited to offer opportunities for families to engage and begin learning more about the college process. As you may know, all sophomore students will receive their college counselor assignment by May 1, 2025. In the meantime, be on the lookout for information regarding our Sophomore Family College Counseling presentation, which will occur in February, and our virtual Book Club, which will take place in April.

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Freshman tip of the month: Can you believe that you are almost finished with the first half of your freshman year? As we get to the midpoint of the year, our tip for you is to take a few minutes (once you get to break!) and reflect upon the past few months. Ask yourself: What are you most proud of? What went well? What could have gone differently? In answering these questions, be honest with yourself and think broadly, not just in terms of your academics

and grades. So much of your first year at WRA is meant to be foundational — you are establishing the base from which you will build the rest of your high school career. So, what can you do in the second half of this year to make that base even more stable and secure? Maybe commit to seeing a teacher for extra help once a week, join a new club, read a novel for fun, or try out for the spring play! The sky is the limit, and we hope you are ending this first semester proud of what you have already achieved and eager to do even more this spring!

## Standardized Testing

It’s never too early to start thinking about test prep! Many students find that they are best prepared to take the ACT or SAT when they form good study habits, and this starts in the classroom. If you’re interested in learning more about practical strategies to maximize success for all learning styles, with special attention given to those students with learning differences, Revolution Prep [offers a free webinar](#) with multiple opportunities to register.

### Classes of 2025 and 2026

This is a reminder that you can access your PSAT score on CollegeBoard.com. Be sure to [check out this post](#) from Revolution Prep about how to best prepare for the digital SAT after receiving your results.

### Class of 2025

You and your college counselor will be using the information from your PSAT to help guide test preparation and planning during your meetings. If you have not already done so, please be sure to complete the diagnostic tests on Methodize for both the ACT and SAT unless otherwise instructed by your college counselor. This will provide additional context so your counselor can help you study for the test best suited to your strengths.

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

[Checklists for Academic and Financial Preparation \(Grades 9-12\)](#)

[FAFSA Simplification Changes to Expect](#)

[Financial Intuition Podcast \(Episode Title: Managing Your Money, Part 1: Financing Your Future and How to Pay for Higher Education\)](#)

## Upcoming Dates & Tips

**Dec. 7, 2023**  
CCIS Athletic Recruiting Night

**Jan. 24, 2024**  
CCIS “Navigating the College Process”

**What NOT To Discuss At The Holiday Table**

**The Committees and Decisions of College Admission**

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