

The Road to College

A College Counseling Newsletter



Well... October was just as busy as we anticipated! Approximately 80% of the Class of 2024 successfully applied to college (woohoo!), we welcomed over 50 college admission reps to campus, we hosted four application help sessions AND, with the help of our awesome technology team, we successfully administered the Digital PSAT for the very first time. What a whirlwind!

Now, as we move into November, we begin the next phase of the cycle. While we continue to support members of the Class of 2024 in their college application process, we are also turning our attention more fully to the Class of 2025 as they take the necessary steps toward scheduling their first individual meeting with their assigned college counselor. Additionally, we are also thinking ahead to the winter months and upcoming opportunities for families to benefit from some excellent and informative programming.

Please read on for more class specific news and information.

Anna Barlow-Boesch
Director of College Counseling

CLASS NEWS



On-going meetings: Students, you should still be checking in with your college counselor as we make our way toward the next round of application deadlines. If you haven't scheduled a pre-Thanksgiving break meeting, make sure to do so ASAP!

The next Application Help Night will be specifically for those students who are preparing applications for the University of California and will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the south end of the dining hall. The [UC Application Guidelines](#) has been shared with students via email.

Missing materials: Students, please make sure you are checking your applicant portals to ensure receipt of all materials. While we have sent all supporting documentation, sometimes processing errors may occur. If a document is listed as missing, do not panic! Please let your counselor or Mrs. Barry know, and we will follow up.

A special note for international students: Carefully review your applicant portal to determine if and when you will need to submit a document called the [Certification of Finances](#) and whether you will be required to provide bank statements in support of that documentation. If you have questions about this, please consult your college counselor.

Application reminder: Please remember that students must fill out their Application Processing Form with their college counselor and check to ensure their MaiaLearning "Applying" list is accurate to ensure that all intended applications are accounted for.



First meetings: Students, we are excited to begin our work with you this month. Students (with families copied) received an email earlier this week detailing the tasks we have asked students to complete in order to schedule their first individual college counseling appointment. Junior meetings will begin the week of November 13, 2023. Families, you will receive a comprehensive summary of the first two college counseling meetings once they have occurred, and we will host family conferences later this year!

Junior College Counseling Webinar: Join the college counselors for an informative webinar on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 beginning at 7 p.m. EST. Topics will include a timeline for the remainder of junior year, standardized testing guidance and support, as well as information about when and how to schedule college visits and how we partner with students and families in creating a preliminary list of colleges. There will also be time for Q&A from the audience!

Maia Learning: If you have not done so already, it is very important that you login to your [MaiaLearning account](#). MaiaLearning is a wonderful resource and tool which will support your college search and application process. Students will login to Maia (selecting the single sign on option) using your WRA Network Credentials (your WRA email address and network password). Families, you have access to MaiaLearning as well! If you have any trouble logging on, please contact Mrs. Barry (barryb@wra.net) who will be glad to assist.

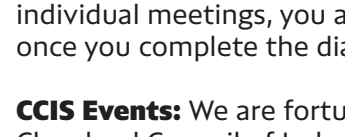
PSAT scores: Congratulations on completing the digital PSAT! We hope this was a useful experience and gave a good sense of what to expect when you take the digital SAT starting next year. If you provided contact information at the beginning of the PSAT, you should have received a link to access your scores from CollegeBoard on Monday, November 6, and your component scores are also posted to your MaiaLearning Dashboard. [This link](#) will also show what a practice score report looks like. If you are curious about how to interpret your scores and what they mean, please [see this resource](#) from the CollegeBoard. As always, please contact your college counselor or Mr. Biehns (biehns@wra.net) with any questions.

For students who took the practice ACT on October 1, we have received the scored tests and uploaded them to your MaiaLearning account. You can find the score report in the "Notes" section.

The digital SAT is right around the corner! To prepare, please [read this post](#) containing five myths about the new digital format and what to expect.

Method Learning: If you have not activated your Method Learning Test Prep account, please search for a registration email in your WRA Inbox from Methodize. It may have gone to your Trash or Spam folder, so be sure to check there as well. You will see a link to sign in and activate your account. In Methodize, you have access to ACT, SAT, and digital SAT test prep through quizzes, lessons, units, and practice tests. In your individual meetings, you and your college counselor will come up with an individualized plan for test prep once you complete the diagnostic tests.

CCIS Events: We are fortunate to partner with our colleagues in the college counseling offices of the Cleveland Council of Independent Schools to offer families several informative webinar presentations throughout the year. Please mark your calendars for two that are coming up in the next few months! An Athletic Recruiting Night will take place on Thursday, December 7, 2023 and then the Deans Event, which will feature four college admission deans, will occur on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. More details will be shared about these events as the dates approach.



College visits: We hope you found attending the college fairs this fall exciting and informative as you begin learning about different types of colleges! With several upcoming school breaks (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break), we'd like to encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to visit a college that may be close to your home. The more you can learn about different colleges and universities right now, the better! Remember that this is an important year of exploration — of your interests, your passions, and yes... even college!

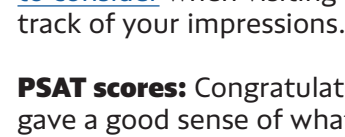
A typical college visit includes an information session (a presentation by a college admission representative that sometimes includes current students) as well as a student-guided campus tour. Often, advance registration is needed (though not always). To learn more about specific visit opportunities, it is always best to visit a college's admission website.

It is also worth noting that, due to the pandemic, many colleges and universities have a wealth of virtual visit opportunities. So, whether you are able to do an in-person visit or not, the upcoming breaks are truly a wonderful chance to learn more about any number of institutions!

We also have some great resources available on the College Counseling portal. [Check out these questions to consider](#) when visiting a college and, if helpful, we have this [suggested notecard](#) that you can use to keep track of your impressions.

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Each month, we will offer a tip specifically geared toward our youngest students. While we want you to focus on embracing all that your first year at WRA has to offer, we also recognize that this is the first of several important years as a student here. As such, there is certainly some important advice to consider.

November's Tip: Commit to outside of class reading! Yep, I said it and you may be saying to yourself, "does she have any idea how much work I have?" or "I do a lot of reading for class, there's simply no time." And I am sensitive to both of those realities — truly. To be clear, I'm not suggesting you read a novel every week or take a "fun" read (even if it takes you two months!) or make a commitment to read three-five news articles every week. The reason? Well, beside the fact that it will help you expand your knowledge, enrich your perspective, and quite possibly introduce you to an interesting new story or topic — reading outside of class also helps to build your vocabulary!

Why is building your vocabulary important? Well, we sometimes field questions about how best to prepare for standardized tests (SAT, ACT, etc) and right now, you are getting much of the preparation you need simply by taking the classes in which you are enrolled. However, another really important way to "prep" for these exams is to build your vocabulary. So, pick up a book the next time you are in the Ong Library or ask Ms. Bunt about how to access newspaper subscriptions for free. You'll be glad you did!

Standardized Testing

Class of 2024: If you are submitting applications during Regular Decision and plan to include your ACT or SAT scores, remember to [check out this website](#) to ensure you know which schools on your list require official test scores.

WRA will host the next ACT taking place on Saturday, December 9. The late deadline to register is November 17. You can sign up through [ACT.org](#).

December is the last chance to take the paper version of the SAT. The late registration deadline is November 21. Please sign up through your CollegeBoard account and reach out to your college counselor if you have any questions.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Which Colleges Require the CSS Profile for Financial Aid? Explained" - College Aid Pro

"How Much Financial Aid Can You Get? Cracking the Code on College Costs" - College Aid Pro

"CSS Profile Line by Line" - College Aid Pro

"How to Use a Net Price Calculator" - Nerd Wallet

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