

# The Road to College

## A College Counseling Newsletter



Class of 2024, 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 2023 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!

Anna Barlow-Boesch  
Director of College Counseling

### What To Expect - Fall 2022



**Welcome Ms. Grandison!** First and foremost, please join us in welcoming Ms. Vanessa Grandison as WRA's new Associate Director of College Counseling. A native of Ohio, Ms. Grandison is a proud Denison University alumnae and has spent time working in the admission offices of Purdue University and Miami University of Ohio. In addition to her college admission expertise, her warmth of spirit and enthusiasm for supporting students are an invaluable asset not just to the College Counseling Office but to the entire WRA community. Feel free to stop down to the office and say hello once you are back on campus!

**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 in to the office and discuss with your counselor.

**Learn To College:** 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 students to this new 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 Learn to College class and families will also have access. Login information for families will be shared in an upcoming edition of Connections.

**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 Method Learning account (more information about Method below). 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, 10/1/2022. This is an optional practice test and student accounts will be charged \$15.00. 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 early-November. **To sign up to take the practice ACT test, please email Mrs. Barry ([barryb@wra.net](mailto:barryb@wra.net)) by Wednesday, September 7, 2022.**
- PSAT:** Wednesday, 10/12/2022. 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](mailto: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** will be visiting WRA this fall. Visits will take place either in person or virtually, 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. These meetings 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 stop in to the CC Office to discuss these visits with a 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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