



PANTHER PRIDE GUIDE

WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

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INSTANT ADMISSIONS

***** Don't miss this incredible opportunity *****

Wallkill Senior High School will host its annual Instant Admission event this November! Instant Admissions is an event where students have the opportunity to meet with different college admissions representatives and receive an immediate admission decision. There will be a mix of in person and virtual opportunities at this event.

Looking to participate? Here's what you should do:

- Sign up for the event in the School Counseling Office or check Schoology for the registration link
 - Sign up for the schools you are interested in
- Make sure you complete and submit applications for all colleges you are interested in at least one week in advance of the event
 - Some colleges use Common App, some use individual platforms, some use paper applications. If you are unsure which type of application your college prefers, see your school counselor for assistance
- Once all documents have been submitted, begin preparing for the event by going on the college websites to learn more about the school
- The morning of your assigned day, come to the school counseling office and get the supporting documents you will need
- Meet with your admissions representative during the timeslot you've been assigned to

Other important notes:

- Dress for success!
- Be prompt
- Most colleges will waive the application fee for students participating in this event (with the exception of 4-year SUNY schools)
- Check out this [link](#) for more preparation tips!

★ IMPORTANT DATES ★

- October 31st: Early Release
- November 9th: Quarter 1 ends
- November 10th: School Closed for Holiday
- November 13-15th: Instant Admissions @ WSHS
- November 14th: Deadline for AP payments & Financial Aid Night @ WSHS at 6pm
- November 21st: Early Release
- November 22-24: School Closed for Holiday



SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

We had a very exciting and busy start to this new school year! Here's a quick recap of some of what we have accomplished with students so far:

- All 284 senior students have met with their school counselor for their senior meeting to discuss post-secondary plans.
- We have had 45 College Representative Visits with about 15 more to go. Students have had the chance to ask questions and learn more about a specific school. Many juniors and seniors have taken advantage of this opportunity.
- We held 2 in-person PSAT Readiness Check Sessions with Juniors for the new Digital PSAT format. Between the 2 days and a few students stopping by guidance, 58 Juniors have received help in making sure they are ready for the test.

UPCOMING

- We look forward to many more College Rep Visits throughout October. **Juniors and Seniors:** check out **"What's New" or "College Visits"** (Under the College Tab) on Naviance to find out what schools are coming and to sign-up! (More detailed steps below under "College Visits").
- We also are looking forward to starting our Freshmen meetings this month to get to know our new Wallkill class.

CLASS OF 2024

Counselors have finished their Senior Meetings with all 284 students. These meetings were one-on-one with the student to review transcripts, post-secondary plans, college application help, and info on how to access scholarships on Naviance. For any further questions please reach out to your school counselor.

FAFSA- Financial Aid

Students and families are encouraged to complete the FAFSA as early as possible. The window opened December 1st on www.FAFSA.ed.gov. Refer to College Planning Guide for documents needed.

Financial Aid Night

November 14th

In the High School

Auditorium

Snow date: Nov. 16th

Scholarships

Colleges and universities have their own scholarships that they offer to students! Visit the Financial Aid page on the colleges websites for more information. Local Scholarships will be posted in Naviance in early 2024.

CLASS OF 2024

Common App Companion

For students applying through the Common App, please refer to [this guide](#).

College Planning Guide

As a reminder from the junior meetings and individual parent zoom meetings that took place Spring 2023 regarding post-secondary planning, refer to [this guide](#), that is located on our WSHS Counseling Department Page.

Online Resources

We have several informational videos to help guide students in their college process. Access them [here](#).

Check it out!



Applying to a
SUNY school?
Planning on
Instant
Admissions?

**APPLY TO SUNY
FOR FREE
OCT. 16-29**



suny.edu/apply

Apply up to 5
colleges the
weeks of Oct. 16-
29th through the
Common App!

CLASS OF 2025

- On October 16th the Counseling Dept. administered the PSAT at WSHS.
- 60 students took the test. Results will be distributed in approximately 3 weeks.



What's next? Getting ready for the SAT!

Reasons to attend SAT prep:

- Become familiar and comfortable with the test
- Review math skills you haven't used in a while
- Learn valuable test taking strategies
- Boost you scores for more financial aid and college acceptances

SENIORS & JUNIORS

Interested in **FREE** SAT Prep??



SAT Prep Classes are free for all students.
Click [here](#) for more information.

Questions? Contact Ms. Ley at:
kley@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us

Seniors:

Remaining SAT Test Dates for 2023:
Test: Nov 4th - Late Registration Deadline Oct 24
Test: Dec 2 - Registration Nov 2 - Late Registration
Nov 21

Click [here](#) for more information.

ESTIMATED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION CALCULATOR

Did you hear that the Federal Government mandated all colleges and university to post Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) calculator on all their websites?

This calculator helps estimate how much a student's family will be expected to contribute towards the cost of attendance for the year, and what their financial aid eligibility looks like.

If you're unable to contribute the entire cost of college, financial aid is available to bridge the gap.

That's how the financial aid system works. The difference between the total cost and the student's EFC is considered the student's financial need and the amount of aid you may be eligible to receive.

See the below site:

https://fafsa.ed.gov/spa/fafsa4c/#/STUDENT_DEMO/



*** COLLEGE VISITS ***

SUPER IMPORTANT: YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS

The Counseling Dept. has booked over 60 colleges/universities to meet with students in the high school from September through December. Juniors and Seniors are highly encouraged to join these College Visits. Check Naviance daily for updates on the dates and times of these visits!!!

Directions to Participate:

1. Log into your Chromebook and 365
2. On the top left hand corner, click the little square and drop down to NAVIANCE
3. Use CLEVER as single sign on and no password is needed
4. Naviance Homepage
5. See "What's New"
6. Register to meet with college
7. Save the date on your calendar phone
8. If you have a class during the same time as your visit with the college, let your teacher know.



CLASS OF 2026

Transcripts and GPA

It is NEVER too early to start looking at your transcripts and working on your GPA. Your transcript and GPA are important for:

- Improving your chances of getting into a college of your choice.
- Getting into AP (Advance Placement classes), ADV, and college level classes that will further boost your GPA.
- Getting a job after high school.
- Receiving scholarships.



CLASS OF 2027

Freshman Meetings

The Counseling Dept. is using the month of October to meet with the Freshman class. These meetings consist of counselor introductions, graduation requirements, and club/extracurricular information. They are a great opportunity for students to ask questions and gather information as they settle into the school year!

Tips for Success in High School

- Never be afraid to reach out for help from your teachers or us.
- Engage in your class discussions; this helps the teachers to get to know you.
- Keep an eye out for any extracurricular activities!
- Use a calendar or planner to keep track of your classes and all due dates.
- Keep your workspace clean!
- Show up for **ALL** of your classes.



Students participating in AP courses will be required to make a non-refundable payment for scheduled AP exams by Tuesday, November 14th.

- Each exam costs \$98
- Students who qualify for free reduced lunch (must be approved and on file in District Office), pay \$53
- Checks are made payable to Wallkill Senior High School (please include student name and name of exam on check)
- Checks should be given directly to Mrs. Marvulli in the School Counseling Office



Tips for Mastering Time Management



1. Plan ahead by creating a to-do list
 - Identify what you need to do, prioritize based on due dates and how much time you need to complete it
2. Identify time wasters and set goals
 - It's easy to get distracted. Do you find yourself:
 - i. Spending too much time checking social media?
 - ii. Texting or answering phone calls while studying?
 - No matter what is wasting your time, set a goal not to engage in that behavior during dedicated study time. Instead, use those activities as a reward for staying focused and accomplishing the tasks you set out to complete
3. Tackle small tasks to start
 - When large projects and big exams make you feel overwhelmed, the anxiety can make you want to procrastinate. Starting with simpler, shorter or smaller tasks can help ease into the work and build your confidence to move onto larger tasks.
4. Establish routines
 - Setting a routine can help you accomplish the things you need to do. Is your house quietest early in the morning? You may want to get in the habit of regularly using that time to read or study.
5. Take time off
 - It's important to take time to give your mind a rest. Long study sessions or large chunks of time working on assignments should be broken up with small breaks. Don't let yourself burn out.

