

College Planning Night

We are planning for an in-person event for the College Planning Night for Juniors, so please mark your calendar for 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 22 in the auditorium. Mrs. Ledbetter and Mrs. Tenbrink will lead you through key aspects of the college search and application process. You will also have the opportunity to speak with actual college admissions representatives about what colleges are looking for in your applications. This meeting is highly encouraged for all juniors and at least one parent.

Transcript Release Form

Students who attend the College Planning Night for Juniors will have the opportunity to complete and return the attached transcript release form. These forms authorize us to submit transcripts to colleges/universities on your behalf. Without this document, we legally cannot release your transcript to admissions counselors or coaches. Please return this no later than October 31 (we need the hardcopy; please **NO** electronic submissions).

PSAT News
The PSAT is scheduled for all juniors, sophomores, and freshmen for **Thursday, October 8.** You will not need to do anything special to register for this test. If you've been at WCA for several years, you've taken the PSAT before and know that your results are one factor considered when placing students in honors and AP classes. Additionally, and important to note, your PSAT results from the Junior year will be used to determine eligibility for the National Merit Program. With this said, it is extremely important that you attend to take this test. However, we don't want you to stress about the PSAT, but we do encourage you to take it seriously.

Extended Time Testing
Students with documented learning differences who have been approved by the College Board or ACT may register to take the SAT and/or ACT with extended time. Please see Mrs. Murray (jmurray@wcatrojans.org) or Mrs. Davis (ndavis@wcatrojans.org) for details.

AP Exam fees
AP exam fees will be posted to your account in November.

Admission Representatives Visiting WCA
Below is a list of upcoming visits:

Furman University	Oct. 2	12:50pm - 1:30pm

SCOIR
SCOIR is our portal for submitting transcript requests and for our office to send recommendation letters, transcripts, and other school documents needed for college applications. SCOIR is a user-friendly site, so we hope you find it easy to navigate. Students must check their email to accept the SCOIR invite and log in to start the account. I hope to have some time to get in the classroom to go through it but you must sign in first. You will find your updated GPA here, information about colleges, a career interest inventory you can take, and many more helpful tools for applying to college.

Helpful Tools by College Board
The College Board is well known as the organization that provides the PSAT, SAT and AP products. They have provided a helpful website for preparing for the PSAT. Please visit this site to download a range of SAT tools and templates to help you get informed, encouraged, and prepared for the digital PSAT given on October 8. This website offers practice tests and instant feedback, so please check it out!

Helpful Hints: Getting Ready for the Test.
Stay positive before the test. You can do it! Try using these test-taking strategies:

- Read all directions and titles
- Read the entire question
- Determine what is being asked
- Reread the question if you need to
- Identify key clue words
- Watch out for the word "not" in the question
- Select a strategy to solve or answer the question
- Think through your solution
- Eliminate choices you know are incorrect
- Select the best answer
- Go back and check your work
- Relax and just do your best!

SCAM Alert
The National Society of High School Scholars is NOT National Honor Society where we honor students who have achieved a specific GPA in high school. Please be aware that if you choose to subscribe to this it does not make you eligible or a member of the NHS at our WCA.

Governor's School

The NC Dept. of Public Instruction will once again be offering the NC Governor's School. If you are interested in this opportunity go to https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/north-carolina-governors-school for an application. Please complete the application and submit to Mrs. Ledbetter by October 31, if you are interested. Our school has a limited number of nominations. Scholarships are available through the NC Governor's School Foundation.

States Senate Youth Program

The 64th Annual Washington Week will take place March 6-13, 2027, for students interested in pursuing a career in public service/politics. The deadline is December 1, 2026. Please check this site for further information. https://ussenateyouth.org/

B.R.A.K.E.S. Teen Pro-Active Driving Course

When NHRA drag racing star, Doug Herbert, lost his two young sons, Jon and James, in a tragic highway accident in January of 2008, his grief led to his resolve to create a driving program that would help to prevent other families from experiencing similar heartbreak by teaching young drivers more conscientious and confident skills behind the wheel. Herbert wasted no time in putting his mission into motion. That same year, he created B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe), a 501(c)3 organization which provides free advanced driver's education in a program entitled the Teen Pro-Active Driving Course. Over 5,000 teenagers lose their lives each year across the country in traffic accidents. This staggering number of fatalities can be reduced through the efforts of B.R.A.K.E.S. and its Teen Pro-Active Driving Course. B.R.A.K.E.S's primary goal is to prevent injuries and save lives by training and educating teenage drivers and their parents about the importance of safe and responsible driving. This program comes highly recommended by many WCA parents. Please visit here for more information https://putonthebrakes.org/home

College Visits



The junior year is a great time to begin visiting colleges and compiling a list of schools that are a good match for you. Juniors and seniors are allowed to **take two "college days" per year**. Forms for college days are available outside the high school office in the red folder. Have your teachers sign the form **before** the day of your visit, obtain a signature from a college/university staff member, and then give the form to Mrs. Russell when you return to school.

SAT and ACT Reminder

If you haven't taken the SAT or ACT yet, you should plan to do so as tests become available this fall and spring. We recommend that students consider taking both the SAT and ACT at least once (all juniors will take the ACT in March here at our school); many colleges/universities will "super-score" results, combining the best sections to yield the highest possible composite score. Test results are typically available about three weeks after the test date. WCA's College Board (CEEB) code, is the same for both the SAT and ACT, is 342018

SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT Exam Date	ACT Exam Date
October 3	October 17
November 7	December 12
December 5	

SAT vs. ACT – Comparing Scores
These two tests are different, so how does one compare scores between them? While you really cannot equate one score to the other, you can determine a comparable SAT score for a particular ACT score (and vice versa) by using a concordance created by the ACT and College Board. This may prove helpful when determining which scores to send to a college or university. They have not updated the concordance since last year, but it should be a good point of reference. Click here to view the concordance: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/guide-2018-act-sat-concordance.pdf

SAT Prep Option
Students who are interested in a SAT prep course may want to consider College Prep Genius, which offers several ways to prepare for the exam. If you'd like to learn more about these options, visit www.collegeprepgenius.com or contact a local certified instructor. (Note: Inclusion of this program in the newsletter does not constitute an endorsement.)

OneLife Gap Year Program
The recently introduced "Gap Year" program provides students with opportunities to grow in their walk with God, develop leadership skills, travel to places like London and New York City, and earn up to 30 college credits. There is a OneLife program at Southern Wesleyan University in SC. If you're not sure that "college" is the next step for you right after graduation, you may want to check out what OneLife has to offer: http://onelifepath.org/ (There are other Gap year programs available too.)

Athletic Eligibility
Students who plan to play a sport in college need to become familiar with eligibility requirements. Those who intend to participate at the NCAA Division I or II levels must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, which can be done online at https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/ Similarly, students who wish to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NAIA institution should register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at www.playnaia.org .

Upcoming Off-Campus Events
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville provides opportunities for prospective students to chat with a variety of UT faculty, staff, and students. Register here https://admissions.utk.edu/virtual-experiences/

Virginia Tech is hosting an in-person Open House on November 7th or 8th. Learn more about the admissions process, your interested major, and more. See this link for more info.
https://vt.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit/open-house/schedule.html
Besides in-person tours, they are providing virtual tours as well. Click the following link to sign up for some of these virtual tours.
https://vt.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit/virtual-vt-visit.html

Join **Furman University** for conversations with current students and alumni from your area. On-campus tours will be offered at 9:00 am and 1:30pm Monday- Friday and select Saturdays at 9:45 am. Visit here to register
https://www.furman.edu/admissions-aid/visit-furman/virtual-visits/
Furman also has Virtual tours and virtual self-guided tours that you can access

Messiah College will be hosting in-person Open Houses on October 12 and November 14. To learn about financial aid, career services, study abroad, and so much more! Please register at the following site
https://www.messiah.edu/info/21371/open_house

NC State is hosting Open House visits utilizing a calendar sign-up system. University Open House is your opportunity to learn more about what NC State has to offer. Visit here for more information https://admissions.ncsu.edu/visit/schedule-your-visit/

The University of Pennsylvania is offering a variety of opportunities for students and families to engage and tour with Penn in a virtual platform. Please check their Visit Penn website https://admissions.upenn.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/visit-penn regularly as additional programs and resources will be posted throughout the fall.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The **Daughters of the American Revolution** offer several scholarships. Check out this site: https://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships/general-info

The **Voice of Democracy** scholarship program, which is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is an audio-essay contest for students in grades 9-12. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2026. Check out more information here: https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

Christian colleges and Christian college scholarships are what The Christian Connector is all about. They have dozens of Christian colleges, Christian universities, and Bible colleges that are ready to send you the information you are looking for. Completing the free information request form is like attending a huge Christian college fair without ever leaving home. Not only that, when you complete the form, you'll automatically be entered into their annual $5000 Christian college scholarship drawing. Check it out at www.christianconnector.com.

Featured College of the Month



Montreat is much more than a Christian college; they provide a broad, rigorous liberal arts curriculum for traditional and non-traditional undergraduate students. They also provide leading accelerated programs for adult students, including graduate, professional, and online degree programs. Their goal is to provide higher education that is high quality, relevant, and diverse—united by a single, clear focus. Montreat's mission is to strive to be Christ-centered, student-focused, and service-driven. Likewise, their vision is to become a leading provider of Christ-centered higher education, enriching lives through engagement in its communities and by promoting responsible growth, culture, and spiritual life.

Montreat College fosters an interdisciplinary learning environment that helps shape the whole person. In addition to helping you acquire the essential knowledge and experience you'll need for your future career, Montreat teaches how to read and think deeply and critically, how to write persuasively, how to work together well on a team, and many other important attributes. These are the types of tools that employers are looking for, and they will help give you the ability to adapt and make sense of the changing world you'll encounter upon graduation.

With 461 total undergraduate students, and a student to teacher ratio of 11:1, Montreat College helps students build a social relationship with professors and fellow students. Montreat encourages fellowship, and offers plenty of opportunities on campus and off campus. Especially, if you like outdoor adventure, you're in the right place. Montreat's area is known internationally for its beautiful, rugged setting. But that's not everything; Montreat boasts about enjoying good food, good fellowship, good music, and a wide variety of cultural events. Check out their website for more information http://www.montreat.edu/ .