October 2026

Wesleyan Christian Academy

Senior Newsletter



PSAT Day

The PSAT will be given to 9th - 11th graders on Thursday, Oct. 8. **Seniors are not required to be at school that day. This would be a good day to visit colleges or finalize those college applications!**



Reminder about Transcript Requests & LORs

After you have submitted an application for admission, you must also place an online transcript request through SCOIR. To place a transcript request, move the name of the college from the "Applying" column to the "Applied" column in your SCOIR account, if you are not applying through the common app. This notifies your counselor to send your transcript. If you are applying through the common app. then it will automatically move to the applied column if you have connected to the common app on your profile page of SCOIR. Typically, we send transcripts to colleges/universities along with letters of recommendation and a school profile. As a reminder and if you have not done so already, **please give your teachers who are writing your recommendation letter the survey given to you at the beginning of this year along with a thank you note**. Also, be mindful that it is common courtesy and policy to give teachers **at least two weeks'** notice before the submission deadline.

In the rare case of transcripts required to be sent through the US Post mail, we will mail them with letters of recommendation. Most colleges/universities require an official score report, which you will need to send through your College Board or ACT student account (but remember many are test optional). If you have not requested that these scores be sent to the colleges when you took the test, there will be an additional fee.

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

FAFSA !!

Completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) just got easier, but you will want to know about changes too so you're prepared! To be eligible for federal financial aid, you must file the FAFSA for each year you'll be in school.

What do you need?

If you're a dependent student, you'll need this information for you and your parents. You and your parents will need an FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID to access the FAFSA® and sign the form electronically. The **FSA ID** must be obtained at **studentaid.gov before** you start the FAFSA®, and we recommend going ahead and getting your FSA ID.

You will need:

- Your Social Security number
- Your parents' Social Security numbers

What do you no longer need? Student and parent tax documents. All of this information will be automatically accessed from the IRS through the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FADDX).

Finally, remember the word ***free*** in the acronym. The FAFSA is a ***free*** application but there are sites that will charge a fee to "help" you to submit it. Make sure you avoid these sites and use www.studentaid.gov website instead.

FAFSA Assistance

I recently viewed a webinar that was very informative about the changes coming to the FAFSA. Here is a link to register for a similar webinar: https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/virtual-events/

Financial Aid Tutorial

The following link is a great tool that will help students and parents understand and complete the FAFSA. The video makes the FAFSA completion process much less intimidating through its step-by-step instructions and explanations. Check it out!
https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/fafsasimplification/

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.

FERPA Reminder
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. When you are submitting your college applications, especially on the Common App, make sure you check to waive your rights to FERPA. If you do not waive your rights, it lends less credibility to your recommendation letters. If you have not waived your FERPA rights on SCOIR, you must do this also.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
Similar to the FAFSA, The PROFILE is an additional form that some institutions require applicants to submit. If required, students should complete the PROFILE as soon as possible after October 1, even with the later FAFSA deadline. Some schools are using this tool to estimate your financial aid this year. To learn more about the PROFILE and see a list of colleges and universities that required it in years past, go to: http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile

Be sure to keep up with the scholarships – names and amounts throughout the school year!

CFNC College Application Month
College Application Week will take place October 19-25, 2026. Some colleges offer application fee waiver opportunities (typically not NC State, UNC, Appalachian, or UNCW).

The **UNC System** Universities are hosting Virtual Open Houses during October. Check them out at https://www.northcarolina.edu/unc-system-virtual-open-house/

Admission Decisions
Offers of admission are starting to roll in! As you hear back from schools to which you have completed an application for admission, please **notify your assigned counselor with the news,** so they can post it on the bulletin board! Later next spring, we will collect information about scholarships and grants you have been awarded, as well as which college or university you have chosen to attend.

Counselor Assignments:

Last names: **A-Li**
Mrs. Tenbrink



Last names: **Lo-Y**
Mrs. Ledbetter



SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT Exam Date
October 3
November 7
December 5

ACT Exam Date
October 17
December 12

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://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-SAT-Concordance-Tables.pdf

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.

Residency Determination Service
Residency Determination Service (RDS) establishes if students should have in-state or out-of-state tuition. The statute also places the burden of proof on the student to establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that they are a bona fide domiciliary rather than mere residents of North Carolina. **Be sure to complete the RDS** (sponsored by CFNC) to claim NC residency and receive in-state tuition rates for NC public colleges/universities https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/

College Days
Remember that you are allowed to take two "college days" this year. Forms for college days are available outside the high school office in a 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 your homeroom teacher when you return to school. College days do not count as absences.

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary from school to school, so make sure you know which deadlines are approaching. Do not wait until the last minute to submit your application or your transcript request. Below, you'll find deadlines for several colleges/universities to which WCA students commonly apply.

NC State
Early Action: November 1, 2026
Regular Admission: January 15, 2027

UNC-Chapel Hill
Early Action: October 15, 2026
Regular Decision: February 1, 2027

UNC-Wilmington
Early Action: November 1, 2026
Regular Decision: February 1, 2027

East Carolina University - rolling
Honors College Deadline: October 15, 2026
Other Merit-Based University Scholarships: December 15, 2026
Regular Decision: April 1, 2027

UNC-Charlotte
Regular Decision: July 15, 2027

University of South Carolina
Early Action: November 1, 2026
Regular Decision: December 1, 2026

Clemson University
Early Action: October 15, 2026
Regular Decision: January 1, 2027

Appalachian State University
Rolling but for scholarships: November 15, 2026
Rolling Admission: July 1, 2027

EPIC Platform

The **EPIC** platform is a place where students can record a 90-second informal video (their "Elevator Pitch") while also giving a "high five" to five schools. In some ways, it's like a virtual college fair, but students can be much more intentional about the message they send. All students will get responses from their "high five" colleges, and maybe a few others. EPIC believes this will help students realize the importance of personal connections in the application process and get them excited about connecting and seeking out opportunities. Colleges miss meeting with students in person, but hopefully, this will be an empowering and productive replacement. Go to https://initialview.com/epic for more details.

Upcoming Off-Campus Events



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. You can sign up for a visit, do a virtual tour, or a self-guided tour. 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 or in person. 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.

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

Interested in Joining the Military?

The University of North Georgia is one of only six senior military colleges in the nation. Applicants should be natural leaders with good grades, a record of extra-curricular achievement, and be physically fit. If interested, apply for the ROTC scholarship now! The early action deadline is November 15. If you are interested, please apply at
http://ung.edu/military-college-admissions/application-process/index.php

Marine Corps Interest Survey
If you are interested in learning more about the Marine Corps and the opportunities it offers, this link https://www.jotform.com/202614270301035 will allow you to fill out a questionnaire to find out more. Completion of this questionnaire does NOT obligate you to enlist in the Marine Corps. This survey simply allows the Marine Corps recruiter to contact you directly for more information on the career and educational opportunities

Scholarship Opportunities



Note: Some universities may require a separate application for scholarships and those may have a deadline as early as the early action admissions deadline. Make sure you know the deadlines for your college's scholarships. Be sure to check out the hall bulletin board for more scholarships.

The **University of Miami's** George W. Jenkins Scholarship, founder of Publix, is awarded to three high school graduates who have overcome significant adversity to achieve academic excellence. It is valued at more than $85,000 for the academic year and more than $350,000 over four years. Interested applicants should apply by the November 1 early admission deadline and for this scholarship nominated before November 10. (i.e., EDI or EA). It is available at miami.edu/jenkins .

The **Eugene McDermott Scholars Program** offers a full-ride scholarship for **UT Dallas** to top students who are seeking academic engagement, leadership development, and the challenges of direct service in the community. Students should first complete an application to UT Dallas and then submit a complete McDermott application by December 1. Learn more at https://provost.utdallas.edu/the-mcdermott-programs/mcdermott-scholars/ .

The University of Georgia offers several scholarships. You must submit the UGA undergraduate admissions application through their website by October 15. Please visit here for more details https://www.admissions.uga.edu/Prospective-Students/Tuition-Fees/Scholarships/Foundation-Fellowship-Part-I

Liberty University is aiming to help the middle class gain a much-needed step up with the new Middle America Scholarship. Students with a student aid index (SAI) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that is between $1-$17,000 may be eligible to receive the Middle America Scholarship to bring the student up to the equivalent of the full Federal Pell Grant amount each year when combined with the Liberty Champion scholarship. Please visit here for more details https://www.liberty.edu/student-financial-services/scholarships/middle-america-scholarship/

The **Wilson College of Textiles at NC State University** is now accepting endorsements for the Centennial Scholarship program and several other scholarship opportunities. The Centennial Scholarship program is designed for students who are interested in career fields such as engineering, business management, design, chemistry, polymers, forensics, medical fields, fashion merchandising, and retail management. For scholarship consideration, students must submit a NC State admissions application by the November 1 deadline. Check out more here https://textiles.ncsu.edu/admissions/scholarships/

NC State's Park Scholarship is open to all students applying to NC State with a GPA of 3.8 or higher and a United States citizen or permanent resident. The scholarship offers full 4-year tuition, including room and board. All students must apply to NC State and the scholarship by November 1, 2026.

NC State's Goodnight Scholarship was created to assist low and middle-income families in North Carolina with the financial obligations of college while providing enriching and meaningful programming to prepare them for successful careers in STEM and STEM education. You must submit the general application to NC State by November 1, 2026. For more information and to apply, visit here https://goodnight.ncsu.edu/first-year/#eligibility

Are you a 15- to 18- year old visual, literary or performing artist? The National Young Arts Foundation is hosting a competition to receive a $10,000 Leadership in Service scholarship ($2,500 per year), recipients complete one leadership opportunity — such as attending a leadership conference, participating in on-campus leadership activities, or writing personal reflections — each semester. Application closes October 6, 2026. Visit here for more info https://www.youngarts.org/apply

The Presidential Scholarships at **Montana State University** are the most distinguished academic awards, recognizing scholastic achievement, demonstrated leadership, and unique personal qualities. Scholarship recipients receive annual tuition waivers, a generous stipend, and other unique incentives for each of four years. Recent Presidential Scholars have gone on to receive such renowned awards as the Goldwater, Truman, Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell scholarships. For more information, visit here http://www.montana.edu/honors/scholarships.html Deadline is Dec. 1, 2026

Boston College's Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program works in tandem with the University's honors curricula, challenging Scholars over four years through summer programs focusing on service learning, international experience, and professional internships. To apply to be a Boston College Presidential Scholar you simply apply through BC's Early Action application process and meet the early action deadline of November 1, 2026. There is no separate Presidential Scholars application form. Visit here for more information https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/academics/sites/gabelli-presidential-scholars-program.html

Teaching Scholarships at the **Catawba College Academy for Teaching** is a yearly award of up to $12,000. Interested students may apply online or contact them to discuss this scholarship. To be eligible for the Teaching Scholarships, students must apply to Catawba by their deadline. Please visit here to apply http://catawba.edu/academyforteaching

Duke University Trinity Scholarships are merit-based scholarships that provide full tuition, fees, room, board, and summer study, work, or travel expenses. They are awarded on a rotating basis to some of the most gifted students residing within specific geographic areas of NC and SC. No separate applications or recommendations are required. All eligible students applying to Duke for admission as first-year students are automatically considered.

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

The Ron Brown Scholarship honors the legacy of Ronald H. Brown through a selective scholarship program that advances higher education for community-minded and intellectually gifted **African Americans**. Deadline December 1. For more information, click here https://www.ronbrown.org/section/apply/program-description

Davidson College is offering the John M. Belk Scholarship. It recognizes powerful students with demonstrated academic excellence, integrity, intellectual curiosity, willingness to take risks, and potential to be change agents in both their local and global communities. It covers comprehensive funding (tuition, fees, food, and housing) for four years, plus $10,000 in special opportunity stipends. See Mrs. Ledbetter for nomination. We also encourage you to explore all scholarship opportunities for first-year applicants to Davidson, and for more information please see our scholarships website. We hope this is helpful as you advise your students.

The **NCCPA Foundation** is offering a scholarship to students who are interested in pursuing accounting in college and possibly becoming a CPA. They encourage applications from students who: Enjoy finding practical significance in abstract ideas, have strong interpersonal skills, are technologically adept, highly disciplined, and equally productive, whether working alone or with others. Applicants will be asked to provide information demonstrating they possess these traits or have potential to develop them. Deadline Oct. 24, 2026.Check out this site: https://www.ncacpa.org/nc-cpa-foundation-scholarships/

There are some scholarship lists on the bulletin board outside of my office that are not listed here. Check them out!

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. The program, OneLife, is affiliated with Lancaster Bible College, located in Lancaster, PA. 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.)

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/ .