Wesleyan
Christian Academy

AUGUST 2026 JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back, Juniors! We hope you had a fantastic summer! We are so excited to begin the 2026-2027 school year with you and can't wait to get to know each of you as we start planning for your future after high school. This is an exciting year, and we are looking forward to helping you explore colleges, careers, and all the opportunities ahead of you!

This year, we will be using **SCOIR** as our portal for submitting transcripts, recommendation letters, and other school documents needed for college applications. It is **VERY important** that you check your email, accept your SCOIR invitation, and log in to set up your account. Please use your **personal email address**, not your **wcatrojans.org** email, as we will need your personal email on file.

We hope to spend some time with you in the classroom at the beginning of the school year to show you how to use SCOIR, but you'll need to sign in first. Once you're logged in, you'll have access to your updated GPA, information about colleges, a career interest inventory you can complete, and many other helpful tools that will make the college planning and application process much easier.

PSAT

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.
The best way to improve your scores is to practice. See the practice opportunities below.

Extended Time Testing

Students with documented learning disabilities who have been approved by the College Board or ACT may register to take the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT with extended time. Please see Mrs. Murray (jmurray@wcatrojans.org) or Mrs. Davis (ndavis@wcatrojans.org) for registration details and approval for accommodations.

Kaplan Test Prep is hosting online PSAT Cram Sessions to help students prepare for the upcoming PSAT. To Sign up for a Cram Session today, please visit http://www.kaptest.com/psat

The College Board and Khan Academy have teamed up to create free practice resources for the PSAT and SAT, making it easier than ever for students to achieve their personal best. These online resources generate individualized practice recommendations to help promote and improve student scores. Just go to your college board account to find Khan Academy.

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.

MAKING THE GRADE

Most admission reps will tell you that grades are not the only thing they consider…but they sure are important! You simply can't count on a resume chocked full of extracurricular activities to outweigh a shaky academic record. Selectivity of colleges and universities varies widely and each institution will take into account a variety of factors when reviewing applications for admission. In general, one thing is abundantly clear: **your grades matter.** Your junior year is critically important; in most cases, it's the last full year of grades colleges and universities will consider before making a decision on your application. A call to UNC-Chapel Hill revealed that the actual letter grades you make in the classes you take are more important than a weighted GPA.

Athletic Eligibility

Students who plan to play a sport in college need to be familiar with eligibility requirements. Those who intend to participate at the NCAA Division I or II levels must be registered 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 EVENTS

College Planning Night

The College Planning Night for Juniors will take place at **6:30 pm on Thursday, October 22** in the auditorium. I will lead you through key aspects of the college search and application process. This meeting is required for all juniors and at least one parent. Please reserve this date on your calendar.

VISITING COLLEGES

Your Junior year is an ideal time to start narrowing your college search and visiting places of particular interest. There are over 4,000 public and private degree-granting institutions of higher education in the United States, so you obviously can't visit them all! You may, however, be able to get to several of your top choices this fall or next spring which will help you decide where you'd like to apply. **WCA allows two excused absences for college visits** per year for juniors and seniors. Before your visit, please pick up a College Day Form (located in the hanging baskets outside Mrs. Russell's office) and have it signed by your teachers before your college visit. You must then return the form signed by a college official to count the absence as a "college day."

SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The start of your Junior year may seem like an odd time to search for college scholarships, but the sooner you begin looking, the more you'll know about what's available. Searching for scholarships can seem like a daunting task; if you invest the time and energy, though, it may pay off (literally) in substantial ways. There are many search engines (e.g., www.fastweb.com) that provide information about national scholarship programs. Looking locally may also prove to be fruitful. We recommend that you consider checking with local banks and businesses, community foundations, parents' employers, and even your home church to see if they have a college scholarship program. If you can learn what's out there this year, you'll be in better shape to submit your applications when the time comes. Another helpful website is www.affordablecollegesonline.org

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. Awards ranging up to $35,000 were granted last year! The 2026-2027 theme is *"What a veteran taught me about America."* and the deadline for submission is midnight, October 31, 2026. Check out more information here: https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

SAT and ACT

In the past, we recommended students taking both the SAT and ACT at least once, with those who took either test to take it again to improve scores and take advantage of "super scoring". However, many schools have changed their policy to "test-optional", and it is uncertain if schools will adopt this "test-optional" policy in the following years. For Juniors, we still recommend registering for standardized testing when testing is available. WCA's College Board (CEEB) code, which is the same for both the SAT and ACT, is 342018.

SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT Exam Date	**ACT Exam Date**
September 12	October 17
October 3	December 12
November 7	February 27
December 5	April 10
March 6	June 12
May 1	July 10
June 5	

HELPFUL WEBSITES

There's a tremendous amount of college information available on the web. While access to all of this information can be helpful, it can also be a bit overwhelming. Where do you start? Here are a few places we'd like to suggest:

College Board – www.collegeboard.com
At the College Board site, you'll be able to learn about SAT registration deadlines, test dates, and fees, as well as score report options and other services. You can also register for SAT Program Tests online, search for scholarships, and access college planning tools.

College Foundation of North Carolina – www.cfnc.org
The CFNC website is a great place to explore the more than 110 colleges and universities in the state of North Carolina, access information about financial aid and careers, and plan for college.

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities – www.cccu.org
Clicking on the "Students and Parents" tab in the upper right corner will enable you to search for CCCU schools and check out the study abroad and off-campus program options available to students who attend member institutions.

www.findyourchristiancollege.com – This website is run by the organization (NACCAP) that sponsors our Christian college fair. One of the features is a blog with posts from admission professionals at Christian colleges. There's some great stuff here!

Helpful Hints

No matter what career or field of study you may be pursuing, there are universal qualities, and skills that colleges and future employers look for in college students. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers 2020 research, here are the top ten career readiness competencies:

- Ability to verbally communicate with personnel inside and outside the organization
- Ability to work in a team structure
- Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
- Ability to obtain and process information
- Ability to analyze quantitative data
- Technical knowledge related to the job
- Proficiency with computer software programs
- Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- Ability to sell or influence others

Perfecting these skills starts in the classroom, and it is never too early to start!

Featured College of the Month

Bluefield College offers a challenging academic and co-curricular experience within a climate of diverse Christian tradition. In covenant with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the college is committed to developing students' potential through academic excellence and the integration of faith, the liberal arts, career-oriented programs, and service to God and the global community.
Located in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains in southwestern Virginia and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Bluefield College boasts 40+ academic offerings, including business, forensic science, graphic communication, criminal justice, teacher education and Christian studies. Bluefield College is touted for its classroom technology, affordability, personalized instruction, and learning settings on the mission field and in countries abroad. At Bluefield College, your experience is not just about college. It's about destiny or a calling. It's about exploring and finding your passion at place where you can *know and be known*. Whether you have identified your passion or are looking for a place to discover it, Bluefield College is a place that is dedicated to your pursuit of passion. For more information, visit here http://www.bluefield.edu/

***See the next page for the current listing of colleges and universities scheduled to attend the National Christian College Fair in September!

National Christian College Fair Participants
Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Anderson University (SC)
Asbury University (KY)
Bluefield University (VA)
Bob Jones University (SC)
Cedarville University (OH)
Charleston Southern University (SC)
Colorado Christian University (CO)
Covenant College (GA)
Gardner-Webb University (NC)
Geneva College (PA)
Grove City College (PA)
Johnson University (TN)
Lee University (TN)
LeTourneau University (TX)
Liberty University (VA)
Lipscomb University (TN)
Mid-Atlantic Christian University (NC)
Montreat College (NC)
North Greenville University (SC)
Olivet Nazarene University (IL)
Palm Beach Atlantic University (FL)
Regent University (VA)
Southeastern University (FL)
Southern Wesleyan University (SC)
Toccoa Falls College (GA)
Trevecca Nazarene University (TN)
Waynesburg University (PA)

Please look for an updated list as this may change in the next few weeks with additional schools!