WL College Information Night

September 13, 2023

Welcome class of 2024 and families! My name is Elysse Catino and I am the CCC at WL. Thank you so much for joining us this evening. The college application process can often feel overwhelming or stressful. But it's also a time of excitement and independence. The senior counseling team and I are here to support you through every step. So take a deep breath, sit back, and listen up.

As we begin our presentation, I want to share that students have heard most of this information through classrooms lessons and meetings with counselors. We will direct our conversation toward parents/guardians but it is still a good idea to review this information together as a family. The primary focus of this presentation is specifically the college application process. We know our students also take gap years, join the military, or enter directly into the workforce. Our senior counselors and I are here to support all post-secondary paths, so please reach out if you would like to discuss any of these post-secondary options.

And finally, a few housekeeping items: The chat feature is available to ask questions during the presentation and we will leave time at the end to

answer a few questions in real time. This presentation will be recorded and shared with families as well as a copy of the slides.

Congratulations! It is your Senior Year!

Presentation Topics:

- 1. Naviance, Financial Aid, & Scholarships
- 2. Deadlines, Transcripts, & Transcript Requests
- 3. Student Responsibilities in the Application Process
- 4. Counseling Responsibilities in the Application Process
- 5. Northern Virginia Community College
- 6. Digital Presence & Staying Connected
- 7. Resources & Visits

As we give you a glimpse into the procedures and process of the college application, we will discuss:

- 1. Naviance, Financial Aid, and Scholarships
- 2 Deadlines, Transcripts and Transcript requests
- 3 Student Responsibilities in the Application Process
- 4 Counseling Responsibilities in the Application Process
- 5. Northern Virginia Community College
- 6. Digital Presence and Staying Connected
- 7. Resources & Visits

Naviance, Scholarships, & Financial Aid





So let's get started talking about naviance, Scholarships, and Financial AId

Naviance College Planning System

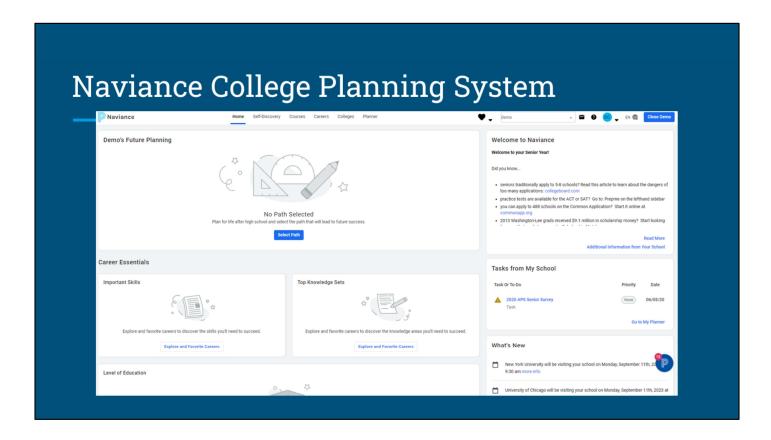
Tools for Students & Parents

- College Planning
- Career Exploration
- Naviance lessons for all grade levels
- Requesting Teacher Recommendations
- Sending Supplemental Information to Colleges
- Signing up for College Visits

Naviance is a college and career planning tool. We use naviance to provide lessons to students on different topics such as strengths, career clusters, or how to search for colleges. In some of these lessons, Students take assessments to help with their college and career planning. For seniors, Naviance is used to finalize college lists and send supplemental material which includes transcripts, letters of rec, and secondary school reports.

Students can access naviance through their MyAccess single sign-on. So no separate username or password needed. Parents/guardians have access to a mostly view-only account. If you have not activated your account or need a password request, please send me an email. If you have more than one HS student, you will be able to see either student.

We will discuss the topics on the screen in depth later in the presentation.



For families who may not be familiar with Naviance, this is a screenshot of the Naviance student homepage. Our senior students will mostly be working in the college tab this year and they are also listed as favorites on the homepage. Most students have completed what we call the Common App to Naviance integration. This allows all colleges that are generated in the CA to automatically show in a students Naviance account and for WL staff to send all supporting documents electronically to the CA. For non CA colleges, students can still manually add and build their college list in the Colleges I'm applying to tab in Naviance. Students have access to Naviance through the end of senior year.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Scholarships are emailed home & in Naviance
 - Scholarship season January-April
 - o Join a national search engine
 - College Specific Scholarships
- FAFSA & Financial Aid
 - Opens December 1
 - Virtual Paying for College Workshop
 - November 29; 7:00pm
- CSS Profile
 - o Opens October 1st
 - Mostly private Colleges/Universities

Paying for college is often a stressful topic. There is money available for students but it does require work. Generally, the the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens each year on Oct 1st. This year, the FAFSA is slated to open in December due to the FAFSA Simplification redesign. This application is open to all students who are US citizens as well and eligible non-citizens. The citizenship status of the parent does not determine eligibility, only the citizenship status of the student.

Undocumented students who have lived in the state of VA for a min. of two years may be eligible for VA in-state Tuition. Please reach out to me for more information.

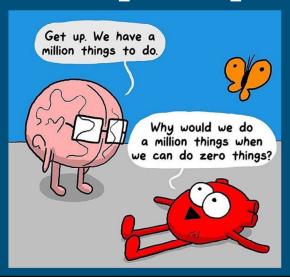
CSS Profile opens on October 1st and can be found through a students college board account. It's similar to the FAFSA but requires a lot more financial information. This is mostly for private schools, so not everyone will need to complete this, but anyone can opt in like UVA, so definitely check if the colleges that students are applying to require this application. A Virtual workshop for families will be on November 29th to discuss these applications and other ways of paying for college. If you are interested in more information now, please look at the C& CC website- on the page Financial Aid Information Session

The class of 2023 received just over \$24 million in scholarships last year. Scholarships are available year round, but scholarship season does not really ramp up until January.

I will email scholarships and other information through Naviance so make sure you have an email address that you check frequently. Naviance holds a database of those scholarships i send out, plus some. SO check it regularly. Many of the scholarships I send out are local and want to give to WL students. There are also general search engines out their like the collegeboard, fastweb, or going merry. Look around and find a search engine that works for you. Never provide information that does not feel right like a SSN or having to pay for a scholarship.

A final note about scholarship money. Colleges also offer scholarships. Most will have priority deadlines you need to apply by, and many of those deadlines will be on the early side. So look at college websites to get clear information on when application deadlines are and when you need to apply in order to be considered for scholarships. VCU is a prime example of this. In order to be considered for scholarships, you must apply Nov 1st.

Deadlines, Transcripts, & Transcript Requests



I will be going through some deadlines, information about transcripts, and how to request transcripts to be sent to colleges.

2023-2024 Deadlines

College deadlines

- SAT/ACT registration deadlines
 - o www.collegeboard.org
 - o www.act.org
- WL Registrar deadlines
 - o <u>karla.mcghee@apsva.us</u>

Make sure you use a college application checklist that works for you! We have an example template in the module in Canvas; it is helpful for students to keep organized when applying to several colleges. Staying organized in general is extremely helpful – it will look different for each student so use the organizational tool that you are comfortable with – binder, folder, spreadsheet, etc. whatever works best for you!!

SAT/ACT information will be shared as it becomes available- keep up to date on the websites for upcoming testing and cancellations

SAT deadline: Still trying to squeeze in the October 7th SAT? You can late register for an additional fee until 9/26. Nov. 4th SAT. test date; registration deadline is Oct. 5th The next SAT test after that is is offered on December 2nd.

students need to check box when registering for SAT to send scores to WL – that way they will update in Naviance. Can give proof to Mrs. Catino to manually update scores, but that will just be put into Naviance.

ACT: October 28th test; registration deadline is Sept 22nd,

Fee waivers are available for students who meet the College Board and ACT requirements. Please see Ms. Catino.

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Transcript -shows all courses including MS classes that earned HS credit; NOVA transcripts sent separately if you took college credits— you are responsible for sending that.

- SOL's -5 total SOL credits Math, sci, ss, 2 english
- GPA calculated using the scale from previous slide; calculated on a 4.0 scale and IB/AP/DE courses earn an additional quality point. We have a weighted GPA
- Rank Anyone above a 4.0 will be rank as 1. Rank is weighted as well.
- Credits 22 standard, 26 advanced

Unofficial Transcript

- Please direct any Questions/Concerns to your counselor
- Deadlines have passed:
 - o Middle School Grade Removal
 - Form that parent, counselor, and director sign
 - Please discuss removing any classes with your counselor 1st!
 - o SAT/ACT removal from transcript
 - Email registrar: karla.mcghee@apsva.us

Grading Scale:

AP/IB/DE:

Middle school grades – can be eliminated if you do not need the credit and/or the SOL attached. At this time, we are no longer accepting the MS drop forms.

SAT/ACT scores are posted on your transcript. Colleges do not consider these official scores, but they are there. if you would like them removed, please contact our registrar karla.mcghee@apsva.us

Students can visit their counselor at anytime to get a copy of their transcript. Students please review and bring any questions or concerns to your counselor as soon as possible. You have the option of eliminating middle school courses from your transcript. The deadline to drop MS grades has passed. Students would consult with their counselor as some classes are needed for graduation. The form to drop middle school grades is on the counseling website and is signed by parent/guardians and counselors. Again, the deadline to drop MS classes has passed.

Electronic Transcript Request

Where can you find the link?

- 1. WL Counseling Website
- 2. WL College & Career Website
- 3. Counseling Canvas Course
- 4. Will be emailed/sent in remind

tinyurl.com/WLTranscript24

Students need to be logged into APS account to access the transcript request form

One submission per college

Make sure the college you are requesting is listed in Naviance under Colleges I'm applying to listed on your Common App or Coalition, depending which one you are using

Request should be a minimum of 15 school days before your deadline - this gives your counselor enough time to write you a thoughtful letter of rec, complete necessary forms such as your school reports, and send your documents to the college

Student Responsibilities in the Application Process



In the next couple of slides, I'll review students' responsibilities for this process.

The Application Process: Student Responsibilities

You own the list, application, and so on

Have a diversity of colleges (i.e., reach, target, likely)

You send exam scores from College Board and/or ACT, if at all

Plan ahead – and advance notice for transcripts, letters, etc.

You request recommendations and decide where they go

Review your own materials

Check email regularly/frequently (!)



First, the college application should only be done by students - not a parent, or an advisor, or a guardian.

It *is* ok to have someone or even multiple people *review* the application, including essays and other supplemental materials.

But this is the student's college application; colleges want to hear from the student. So students, You should be taking as much ownership as you can.

As a reminder: We recommended students apply to a range of schools, somewhere between 7-9 in total. We've also recommended creating a spreadsheet with all your key college information, since it's really the easiest and best way to keep track of it all.

Now, that information includes due dates, how many letters of recommendation they need, essays, and any other supplemental materials each college requires.

Again, because students are responsible for their own application, you are

the one to make sure you that meet those application requirements, and you are in charge of making sure you meet those deadlines.

Another key responsibility of students is sending in SAT and/or ACT scores to colleges directly from College Board and/or ACT. We know many schools are test-optional and the decision to send in scores is solely up to students/families. One thing to think about when making that decision, and what it could mean for your application, is: looking at the college's middle 50% scores and comparing whether your score is within or above that range, which can tell you whether sending your score could add value to your application.

Colleges also have different application deadlines, so it's vital to remember to provide counselors at least 15 school days (or at least 3 weeks) notice in advance of the deadline for any given school when requesting transcripts and/or letters of recommendation. Electronic request forms can be found in your counselor's Class of 2024 Canvas page, or on Washington-Liberty's counseling pages, under "frequently used forms."

When you're making recommendation requests in Naviance and selecting where you want individual teacher letters to go, it's also your responsibility to keep track of which letters go where; that's not something we're able to verify for you, so you need to be the one to double-check that you've selected what you want there.

You can pick up a copy of your transcript from your counselor later this month - we recommend that you do that.

Students are additionally responsible for checking email regularly, as colleges and counselors often use email as a primary source of communication. (And it'll be expected for formal communication for the foreseeable future, so that's a crucial habit to get into.)

BRAG Sheets

Help us help you!

- Student BRAG Sheet you fill and give to counselor
- Parent/Guardian BRAG Sheet parent(s) fill and give to counselor
- Teacher BRAG Sheet you fill and give to teacher(s)

You likely have already done this. If you have not, please turn those into your counselors ASAP. Brag sheets are an opportunity for you to tell us all about your involvement, challenges, and activities from the past 4 years. Now is not the time to be shy, so don't hold back. But it doesn't need to be the best thing you've ever written - so, if you've been sitting on a BRAG sheet, please just turn it in!

And why do we have these again? We know you, but we want to be sure we're not leaving anything out - and writing a robust letter on your behalf - since we will be writing a letter.

In the Canvas module we showed you last year - which is still there for you to review - there's one BRAG sheet for you to complete, and there's one for your parent or guardian to complete. Both are to give to counselors. Sometimes teachers do ask for one, and there's is a separate version for you to describe your participation in class, intellectual curiosity, and preparation for college level work. And that one goes to the teacher.

Counseling Responsibilities in The Application Process

The Application Process: Counseling Responsibilities

- Send official transcripts
- Letters of recommendation
- Send Secondary School Report
- Communicate important info
- Support in planning
- Help troubleshoot



The counselors are responsible for sending all official documents through Naviance, writing the counselor recommendation if required, sending official transcripts and sending secondary school reports to the colleges of your choice. Secondary School Reports are supplemental documents requested by the college, which include information about the students as well as demographic information about WL.

We are responsible for sending transcripts and supporting documents to your colleges of choice through Naviance, Coalition, and there are even some that are mailed or emailed.

We will also be communicating with information needed for the process and reaching out to the student if we receive information directly from the college regarding missing documents.

We are also here to support you through planning and troubleshooting. Our office are always open, even if the door is closed! Feel free to knock, leave a note, send a remind message, or send an email. In addition to the counselors, Mrs. Catino is also available to support.

Application Basics Recap

Speaking of providing support, we wanted to provide a very brief recap of the application.

Common Vocabulary

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Early Action Admit

Early Decision Waitlist

Regular Decision Defer

Deny

Early Action: An option to submit an application to a college before regular deadlines. You find out your decision on the early side but you have no commitment to attend. These deadlines generally fall October 15-December 1

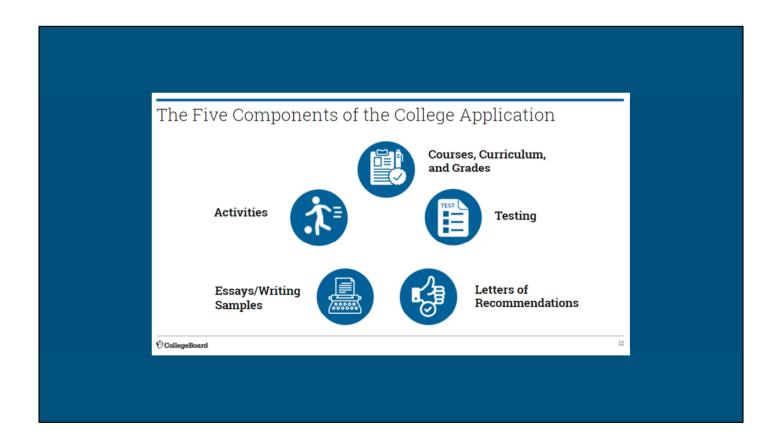
Early Decision: An option to submit your application early to your first choice school. This is a binding agreement. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs.

Regular Decision: College deadlines that fall in January or February **Admit:** Yay, you've been accepted and offered a spot to study at that college

Waitlist: An applicant can be added to a colleges waitlist. The applicant may be admitted to a particular college is space become available. They didn't want to say no because they like you, there just isn't enough room.

Defer: A college can defer your application from EA/ED to RD. They want to reread the application with the RD applicant pool. Sometimes they may want to wait for mid-year grades before making a decision.

Deny: The college has not chosen the applicant for admission to their institution.



Another form of support that the counselors provide is application advisement. Students often wonder what colleges are looking for in an application. This is a great infographic depicting the 5 components of the college application.

Northern Virginia Community College

NVCC

NVCC has restructured the way they do advising and is very student driven

Jasmine Haywood

Email: jhaywood@nvcc.edu

703-845-6029



NVCC has restructured the way they do college advising. For those of you who have older children or know older students that went through APS, you may have heard of the NOVA Pathway Program. NOVA discontinued this program and have restructured the way they do advising and admissions to a more student centered approach. We are fortunate enough to continue to have a NOVA HS outreach person work directly with our students. Ms. Haywood will begin working with our students on a regular basis in January. We will have a series of workshops dedicated to helping our students transition to NOVA as well as the opportunity for students to work with her one-to-one here at WL.

Why Community College?



Class sizes



Guaranteed Admissions Honors College

Why Community College?

Students decide to attend NVCC for many reasons: Stay close to home, cost, improve study skills/grades, small class sizes, or certificate/training programs.

Added benefits include: guaranteed admissions agreements with Virginia Colleges, career services, an option to attend the Honors College, and participation in collegiate athletics.

Digital Presence & Staying Connected

Digital Presence

- Make sure you have a professional email address, check it regularly.
- Be mindful of what you say on social media
 - o Even if your accounts are private
- Google yourself to see what others could see if they googled you





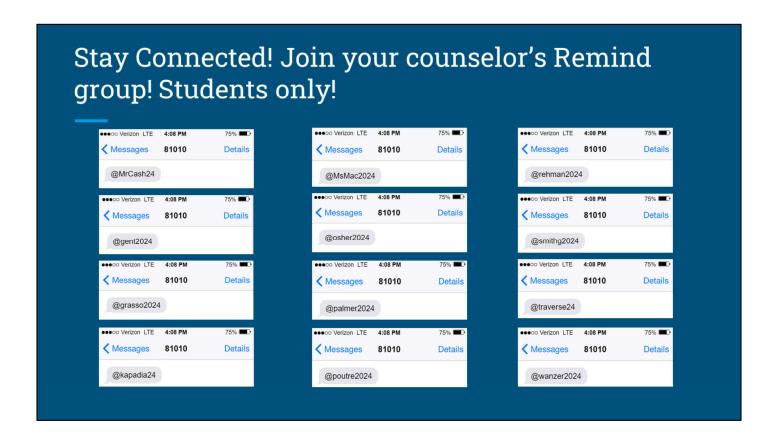




Students should make sure that they have a professional and appropriate email address. An example would be your firstname.lastname31@gmail.com. remember, colleges will see this email. An example of an inappropriate email would be partykid24-7@gmail.com.

Also, students should be mindful of what they post on social media accounts. Delete anything that might be inappropriate or concerning. A good rule to follow would be that students shouldn't have any posts up that they wouldn't want a guardian to see.

Additionally it is a good idea for students to make social media accounts private. We also recommend that students google themselves to see what information might be online about you. Colleges might do this as well when reviewing your application..



Students can connect with their counselors through the Remind app. Counselors send out information using this app. Hopefully they are already signed up! If not, please use the code for the corresponding counselor

How to Stay Connected: Social Media

General WL Counseling Accounts:



@wlhscounseling



@wlhscounseling

WL College and Career Counseling Instagram Account:



@wlhsccc



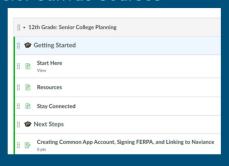
Another way to stay connected with the counseling department is through our Twitter and Instagram accounts. Students and guardians, please take a moment and follow us!

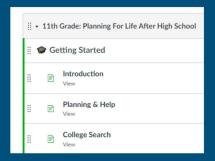
How to stay Connected: Websites

WL College & Career Website

https://wl.apsva.us/office-of-counseling-services/college-career-counseling-office/

Counselor Canvas Courses





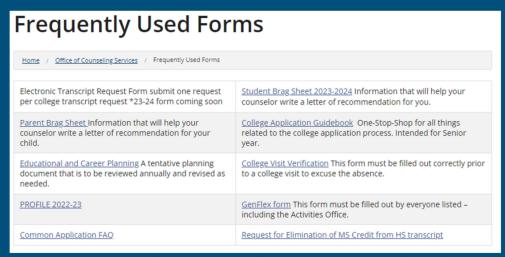
Another great source of information is through the WL College & Career Website (paste in the chat) https://wl.apsva.us/office-of-counseling-services/college-career-counseling-office/

There is a ton of info here from testing to financial aid & scholarships

Additional resources for the college application process can be found on your student's Counselor's Canvas Page under "Modules"

During English class lessons over the past week, counselors walked students through this important part of the Canvas Course. There is a lot of extremely valuable information here including very detailed videos and links to many resources.

Frequently Used Forms



https://wl.apsva.us/office-of-counseling-services/frequently-used-forms/

On the W-L Counseling Website, there is a link to Frequently used forms we'll put in the chat shortly

https://wl.apsva.us/office-of-counseling-services/frequently-used-forms/

This is another very helpful place to find information that seniors will need this school year including a link to the transcript request form and a link to the form for dropping middle school grades.

Thank you for your time! I would now like to turn the Presentation over to Ms. Laura Smithgall

Resources & Visits

Saturday Application Help

Counselors available to help with: applications, essays, forms, etc.

Dates:

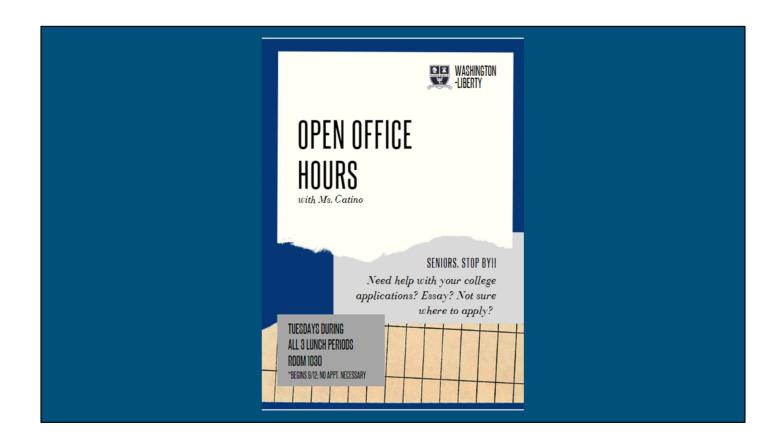
- September 30
- October 21
- November 4
- November 18
- December 9
- January 6

(Above sessions will run from 9am to 12pm in room 1030)





We know that applying to college is a lot so we have several Saturdays where counselors come in to WL to support our seniors in whatever they may need. That can be reading essays, helping with an application, or just to provide a quiet place to work..

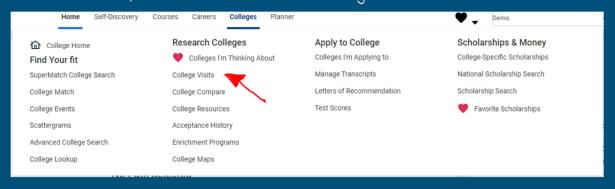


Ms. Catino has open office hours every Tuesday during all 3 lunches where seniors can get support from her. No appointment necessary. We also recommend that essays are read by a few people.

College Visitation Procedures

- 1. Sign-up on Naviance
- 2. Both in-person and virtual visits are available

REMEMBER: You are responsible for all work missed in your classes!



Washington-Liberty is fortunate to have lots of college reps come directly to the school to meet with students

if you are interested in attending a specific session please see anyone in the counseling office to obtain a pass at least two days before the visit.

You must also register in Naviance. Keep in mind that you are responsible for any work that you miss while attending a college visit.

Visiting a College Campus

Verification Forms Available

- Approval from Assistant Principal
- Verify with College Official

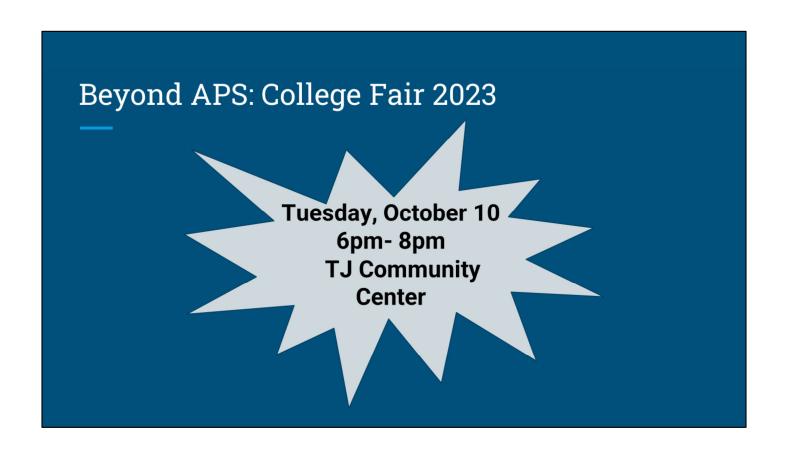
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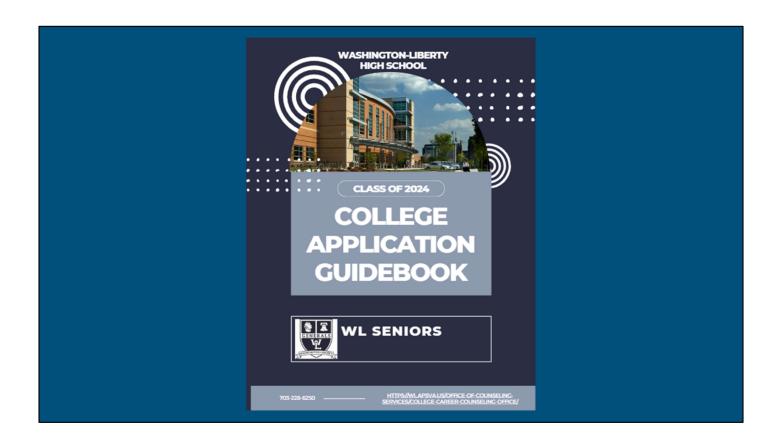


Mary Washington University

We realize that many of you are still researching colleges and may wish to visit college campuses. To get approved to visit a campus during the school day, you must pick up a College Visit Verification form from the Counseling Office.

These visits must be approved by your designated AP-Mr. Jamelske. He will need to sign the form before your visit, and then you will bring the form to your visit to have a college official sign off as well. Finally, you will bring the form to our attendance office.





The guidebook was developed as a one stop shop for students and families. It has much of the information we talk about today, but also has links to How-to videos and additional resources. This is also available in Spanish and other languages as requested

Credit by Exam

Exam Date: November 7th

Students who would like to take an exam in a language they are fluent in for potential credit.

Registration due September 28th

Students in grades 9-12 who have proficiency in another language have the opportunity to take a proficiency exam and potentially earn up to three world language credits in nearly 100 languages. Registration deadline is Sept 29th. More information as well as the sign up form can be found on the APS World Languages website.



