
Empowering Students Through The College Application Process, Senior Year & Beyond



Empowerment in the College Application Process Through:

Ownership



Organization



Self-Advocacy



Inquiry



*Westborough High School
Post-Secondary Planning
Handbook*

~ Class of 2016 ~

<http://westborough.ma.schoolwebpages.com>
Naviance: www.connection.naviance.com/westborough
On Twitter: @WboroCounselors
Westborough High School CEEB Code: 222-300
WHS SAT Test Center Code: 22-860
WHS ACT Test Center Code: 224-180

*Prepared by:
The WHS School Counseling Department*

Personal Copies for
Every Student

Also Available on the
School Counseling
Website



“The 4 years spent at college end up changing you in SOOO many ways, so it’s important to consider ALL aspects of your personal well being and growth and to make sure the school you choose will support most if not all of those needs.”

*Excerpt from the WHS Pathways
After Graduation Survey



Trends in College Admissions



- Number of Test-Optional Schools Growing
- Alternative Kinds of College Acceptances
- Importance of Engaging with Colleges
- Employers Looking for Skills Learned in Liberal Arts, Less Focused on Specific Majors
 - Critical Thinking
 - Communication
 - Problem-Solving



Where Have We Been So Far?



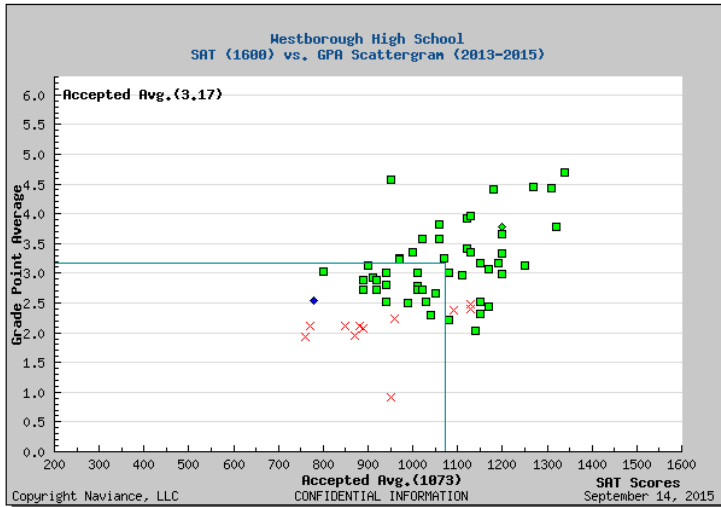
- Junior Kickoff Assembly
- Junior Workshops
- Senior Speak Seminar
- Junior Night On-Demand Website
- Individual Junior Conferences
- College and Career Day in School
- College Fair
- Senior Seminars



Picking Colleges



- Characteristics and Features to Consider
- Balance between Target, Reach, and Safety
- Best Fit for the Applicant
- Early Action/Decision vs. Regular/Rolling Admissions



Application Basics

Common Application

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing

- Common App
 - May Include Supplemental Writing
- Institutional Applications Online
- Paper Application



Essay



- May be Required
- Topic Less Important Than Delivery
- Have Others Review It

Make it Personal,
Keep “Your Voice”



Activities

Activity type *

Position/Leadership description and organization name,
if applicable *

Please describe this activity, including what you
accomplished and any recognition you received, etc. *

Participation grade levels *

<input type="checkbox"/> 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 10
<input type="checkbox"/> 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Post-graduate

- Customize To Best Fit the Application
- List Your Most Meaningful Activities First
- Anything Done Outside the Classroom Can Count
- Show Your Commitment and Passion

You Don't Have to Fill the Space to Make a
Positive Impact



Additional Items



- Financial Items
 - Application Fees
 - FAFSA/CSS Profile
- Standardized Test Scores
- Portfolios
- Auditions
- Interviews

Communicate With Colleges About Specific
Required and Recommended Items



Teacher Recommendations



- Ask Two Teachers
- Request Letters in Person
- Give AT LEAST Four Weeks Notice Before Deadlines
- Discuss What Information They Want From You
- List Teachers in Naviance
- Recommendations to Colleges with “Stamp” Icon Must be Mailed



Remember to Send Them a “Thank You!”



Counselor Recommendations

Submit this form to the School Counseling Office By:	If your earliest College Application Deadline is:
September 15	October 15
October 1	November 1
October 15	November 15
October 27	December 1
November 20	January 1
December 1	January 15
December 18	February 1
At least 4 School Weeks Before	Any other deadline not listed

- Counselor Recommendation Request Form
- Draft of College Essay
- Activity Resume
- Junior Questionnaire
- One-time \$5.00 Transcript Fee

Keep Us Updated with Anything New!



Counselor Recommendation and Transcript Request Form

Counselor Name: _____ Date of Request: _____
 Student Name: _____ Earliest Deadline: _____
 E-Mail: _____ College/University Name: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Application Type: Early Decision Early Action Regular Rolling Other _____

Teacher Recommendations: Students must speak with teachers **in person** to request/verify recommendations before listing them on this form.

Please identify the Primary Recommender if your college only accepts one letter, and if your teachers will mail or upload into Naviance

1. Primary Recommender: _____ Mailed _____ Naviance
2. Additional Recommender: _____ Mailed _____ Naviance

Submit the following documents and fees to: Mrs. Kenefick for: Mrs. Caira, Mrs. Goodliffe, and Mr. Wolfson
 Mrs. Morse for: Ms. Jango-Cohen and Ms. Vavruska

	Submit this form to the School Counseling Office By:	If your earliest College Application Deadline is:
_____ Counselor Recommendation & Transcript Request Form	September 15	October 15
_____ Final Activity Resume	October 1	November 1
_____ Copy of Essay	October 15	November 15
_____ Junior Questionnaire (Completed on Naviance)	October 27	December 1
_____ \$5.00 Transcript Request Fee	November 20	January 1
	December 1	January 15
	December 18	February 1
	At least 4 School Weeks Before	Any other deadline not listed

In addition to submitting this form and additional required items listed above to the School Counseling Office, you must also complete ALL of the steps below before transcripts and recommendations will be sent.

✓ Complete the FERPA Release Authorization in the Common App (How to Video: <http://bit.ly/ferparelease>)
 ✓ Add colleges to your list of "Colleges I'm Applying To" in Naviance, and indicate if you are applying Early Action, Regular Decision, etc.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TO COMPLETE ON THE "COLLEGES I'M APPLYING TO" PAGE IN NAVIANCE

✓ Match your Naviance and Common Application accounts
 ✓ If you are applying to a Common Application school, but using an application other than the Common App, indicate that you are not using the Common Application for that school
 ✓ Add your "Teacher Recommendation Requests"
 ✓ After submitting each college's application, mark it as "Submitted"

Video Instructions for these steps can be found at: (<http://bit.ly/WJ1Stranscriptsrequest>)

If your application deadline is on a weekend or holiday, and you will still be working on the application right until the deadline, we recommend that you mark your application as "submitted" a few school days beforehand to ensure your transcript/recommendations are sent on time.

It is the **STUDENT'S** responsibility to submit scores from the SAT, ACT or other standardized tests directly to the colleges. **WHIS DOES NOT** submit these scores with transcripts and recommendations.

Student Verification

Find in:

- Naviance Document Library under "Senior Documents"
- School Counseling Website under "Quick Links/Forms"
- In the School Counseling Office

This form needs to be turned in only once per student



There are several **ways to connect with Undergraduate Admissions:**

- Contact your **admissions counselor**
- Join our **mailing list**
- Read our **student blog** written by current students
- Meet our **student ambassadors**
- **Live chat** with a student ambassador or admissions counselor
- Phone us at:
☎ 607-777-2171
- Fax us at:
☎ 607-777-4445
- E-mail us at:
✉ admit@binghamton.edu
- Mail us at:
📍 Binghamton University
Undergraduate Admissions
Office P.O. Box 6001
Binghamton, NY 13902-6001 USA

And lots more **ways to learn more about the University:**

- Schedule a **campus visit**
- Get social with us on:
 - 📘 Facebook
 - 🐦 Twitter
 - 📷 Instagram
 - 📌 Pinterest
- Check us out on YouTube and be sure to see:
 - 📺 **Welcome to Binghamton**
 - 📺 **Binghamton by Air**
- Download our mobile app (**bMobi**)
- View our 📷 **Daily Photo**
- Read the **top 10 reasons out-of-state students choose Binghamton**
- Take a look at **Baxter's favorite things about Binghamton University**

Communication with Colleges

- Engage with the College
- Demonstrate Interest
- Learn More about Schools
- Update Application Details

Direct Contact by the STUDENT is Most Effective



College Representative Visits at WHS



Upcoming college visits

- 9/18/15 Boston University [details »](#)
- 9/18/15 University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth [details »](#)
- 9/21/15 University of South Carolina [details »](#)

[view all upcoming college visits](#)

- Almost 100 Colleges Will Visit WHS to Meet Students
- Great Way to Get Known By Admissions Reps
- View the Full List and Sign Up on Naviance
- Print a Visit Pass and Have Your Teacher Sign at Least 24 Hours Before



Pass for College Representative Visit

Complete the information below and submit to your teacher at least **24 hours** prior to the college visit.

This signed form must be brought with you to the designated visit.

If you do not have the form or it is not signed, you will not be able to attend the college visit.

Student Name: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

College Visiting: _____

The above student has signed up to attend a college information session in the School Counseling Office. If you approve his/her attendance, please sign below and excuse the student at the scheduled time.

Teacher Approval: _____

***Students are responsible for making up any missed work during the time of the College Representative's Visit.**

Find in:

- Naviance Document Library under “Senior Documents”
- School Counseling Website under “Quick Links/Forms”
- In the School Counseling Office



College Athletics



- Required for Division I or II Athletes
- Sliding Scale for GPA & SAT/ACT Scores
- Official Test Scores and Transcripts After Jr. and Sr. Year are Required
- Your Counselor and Coaches Can Be Great Resources for Help

Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center

www.eligibilitycenter.org



Services for Students with Disabilities



- Anyone with a Documented Disability may be Eligible for Services
- Level of Services Vary Between Schools
- Colleges Review Documentation to Determine Accommodations for Classes
- Student's Responsibility to Self-Advocate





Ms. Jango-Cohen



Mr. Wolfson



Mrs. Goodliffe



Ms. Vavruska



Mrs. Caira

Counselor Role

- Individual Meetings
- Writing Recommendations
- Preparing and Sending Transcript Packets
- Help and Support as Needed



What is Sent in a Transcript Packet

Initially For All Students

Form
School Report
School Profile
Active Transcript
Common App Counselor Rec.
Written Evaluation
Common App Teacher Eval.
Letter of Recommendation

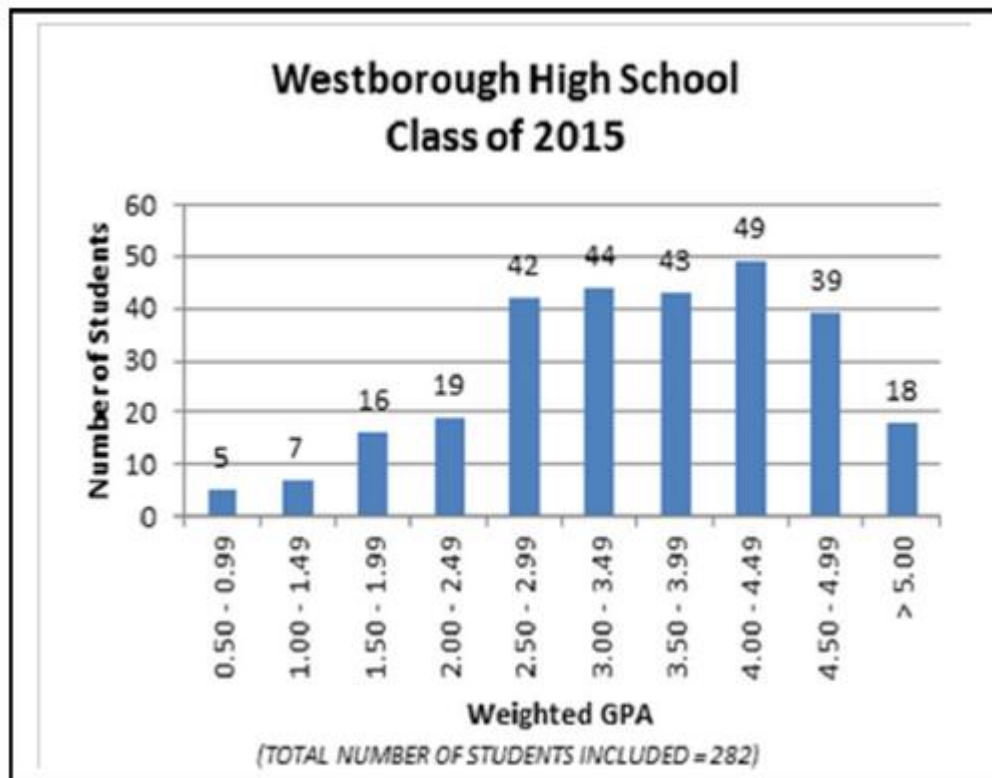
...Then

- Quarter 1 and Semester 1 Grades Automatically Sent, Unless Students Opt Out
- Final Transcript Sent to Attending College

Review the WHS College Application Procedure Handout for All Necessary Steps Before Transcript Packets Are Sent



GPA Histogram

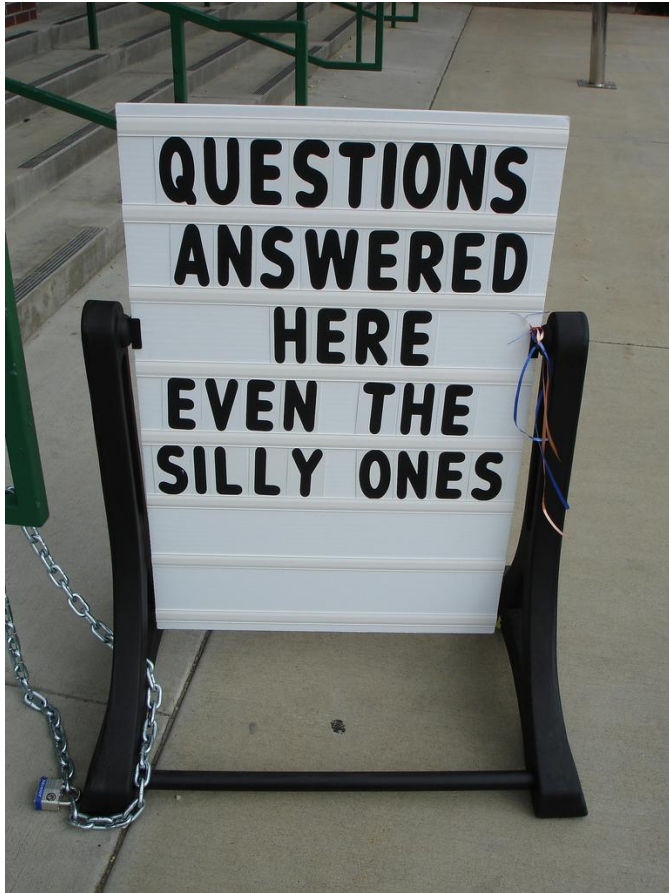


Scholarships



- Independent Student Research
- Scholarships Advertised to the School Counseling Department
- Koplik and Adams Scholarships
- WHS Local Scholarships in Spring 2016





Every Question is a
Good Question



Communication With the School Counseling Department



Naviance: <https://connection.naviance.com/westborough>

Updated Website: <http://westboroughschoolcounselingdept.weebly.com/>

Phone: 508-836-7720

Mrs. Caira	cairak@westboroughk12.org	x3114
Mrs. Goodliffe	goodliffed@westboroughk12.org	x3135
Ms. Jango-Cohen	jangocohenj@westboroughk12.org	x3111
Ms. Vavruska	vavruskat@westboroughk12.org	x3136
Mr. Wolfson	wolfsonr@westboroughk12.org	x3112



Join the Class of 2016 Remind Account



Follow us on Twitter



After School College Lab Sessions



Upcoming Dates

- September 24
- September 29
- October 7
- October 15
- October 20

In the College and Career Center
No Signup Necessary!

https://c1.staticflickr.com/9/8110/8635887874_c6ce5e2fc5_z.jpg



College Lab Sessions During School



- October 13, 14, & 15
- Available Every Period
- Counselor Available for Questions and Help
- Students Must Sign Up Ahead of Time
- In the College and Career Center

More Details to Come!

https://c1.staticflickr.com/9/8110/8635887874_c6ce5e2fc5_z.jpg



Parent-to-Parent Coffee Chats

Informal Gatherings for Parents to Learn and Get Support from Other Parents
7-8 PM in the College and Career Center

Monday, September 28

Theme: Working Through the
College Application Process

Future Dates

October 26

December 1

January 13

February 9

March 28

May 5



Join Us For Financial Aid Night

Presented by MEFA

Wednesday, October 14

7-8 PM in the WHS Auditorium

