

Senior Class of 2024

Worthington Kilbourne High School



August 2023- May 2024

Welcome to Senior Year at WKHS

Congratulations on making it to your senior year! We are so proud of you and are looking forward to seeing your progress throughout your senior year. Life after high school is right around the corner and it is okay to be scared about the next chapter of your lives. Please know that the faculty and staff are always here for you, so feel free to reach out to any of us if you need help. We are all in this together!

To get started, you may want to ask yourself the following questions: What remaining graduation requirements do I need to meet this year? How can I begin transitioning from high school to life after high school? Where do I see myself next year? In 5 years?

What you need to know about this packet: Parents and students will find this senior packet helpful as it contains information needed through senior year and it is to be used as a reference. It is still your responsibility to check for updates and current information. Information will always be posted on the counselor website at:
www.wkhscounselors.com.

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Counselor Information

If you have any concerns, please contact your designated school counselor so that we can try to help. The Counseling Center staff values the partnership of working together to help create a positive and supportive educational experience for every student. Throughout the year we will provide additional information and updates on the counselor website and in the weekly WKHS newsletters.

Please be aware that we have added a 5th counselor and the alphabet break down for counselor's has changed. Please review the counselor's assigned alphabet split below.

Student Last Name:	Counselor	Email	Voicemail
A-Co	Brianna Abbott	babbott@wsccloud.org	614-450-6490
Cr-He	Sarah Schnell	sschnell@wsccloud.org	614-450-6484
Hi-Mi	Lauren Himmel	lhimmel@wsccloud.org	614-450-6456
Mo-Se	Erica Mann	emann@wsccloud.org	614-450-6487
Sg-Z	Molly Lord	mlord@wsccloud.org	614-450-6491

Remind Codes for Students

Counselors will use Remind with students to facilitate appointments. As a result, we ask students to sign up for Remind so that you can send/ receive messages from your counselor about meeting appointments.

To sign up by text message, text your code to 81010

Ms. Abbott (Last names A-Co) @2024Abbott
Mrs. Schnell (Last names Cr-He) @24Schnell
Mrs. Himmel (Last names Hi-Mi) @2024Himmel
Mrs. Mann (Last names Mo-Se) @2024EMann
Mrs. Lord (Last names Sg-Z) @2024Lord

Parent Information

Contacting Counselors

The Counseling Center's office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:45am to 3:30pm. Every effort is made to return phone calls within 24 business hours. We may not always be able to do this during busy times, but we'll do our best. In particular, please be patient during the first 5 days of each semester and during registration weeks. You may also contact us using e-mail. Please remember that each counselor is responsible for approximately 350 students, so setting up appointments prior to stopping into school is helpful and strongly recommended.

Updates and Information

The Counselor website is the primary method we will use to communicate updates with parents. Please note that we will not be using Remind as a tool to pass out information to parents so you do not need to sign up for Remind. Additional timely information will be communicated in our Counselor Connection Monthly Newsletter and Kilbourne Weekly Building Newsletters.

Lunch and Learns

Throughout the school year we will host brief meetings over zoom to dive deeper into topics of interest for parents. These meetings will run from 12-12:30pm and the zoom link will be sent via email and will also be posted on the Counselor website on the morning of each lunch and learn session. Below are the anticipated dates and topics for this year's lunch and learn sessions.

- Friday, September 15 Study Skills
- Friday, October 13-Scholarships
- Friday, November 10-Career Fit
- January 19, 2024-Grad requirements
- March 1, 2024-Stress Management
- April 12, 2024-Understanding GPA
- May 3, 2024-Perfectionism

Dates to Remember

- Common App 101 Workshops: Thursday August 10th at 11:00am or Monday, August 14th at 1:00pm in Room 207 (Same content will be covered both days)
- First day for Seniors: August 17th
- Senior College Information Night: August 31th at 7pm
- Columbus Suburban College Fair at Otterbein University: October 8th
- Financial Aid Information Night: November 29th at 7pm

- College Decision Deadline: May 1st
- Senior Recognition Night: May 9th
- Graduation Rehearsal: May 17th
- Graduation: May 26, 2023 at 12pm

Graduation requirements

The Graduation requirements for students are established by the State of Ohio and include requirements related to the classes they take and additional requirements to demonstrate competency and readiness. Detailed information about the graduation requirements is available at: <http://www.wkhscounselors.com/index.php/graduation-requirements>

Additionally, all students and parents are encouraged to review your transcript on Infinite Campus and the Graduation Summary Sheet is on the Worthington Portal in the Student Graduation Status tab which shows progress towards competency and readiness requirements.

Plans for After High School: Military

Students who are interested in pursuing a future involving the military have a range of options available. Not only are there different branches of military service to consider, but students can also elect if they want to join as an enlisted member or pursue a career as an officer.

Students that enlist in the military are typically going to participate in boot camp and then complete their service requirements. There are educational benefits available as a component of their service. Students that pursue military careers as an officer will typically participate in an ROTC program while attending college or wait to join the military after they have completed their college degree.

All students interested in a military career will want to complete the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) which is the qualifying exam and can help identify military career opportunities. Information about the ASVAB is available at: <https://www.officialasvab.com/> Worthington City Schools will offer the ASVAB this winter for interested students. Please see your counselor to sign up for the test if interested.

Military recruiters and college ROTC officers are great resources for information about the options students have for pursuing a future military career.

[Information links for the military branches and ROTC programs](#)

Plans for After High School: Employment

Rather than continuing with additional education after high school graduation, some students may elect to pursue full time employment. Ohio employers want to find hard working, dependable employees who can contribute positively to their work environments.

Below is a checklist of steps students should complete if planning to work full time after high school.

Checklist:

- ☐ Meet with counselor to discuss supports needed in process
- ☐ Job Search
- ☐ Resume building with counselor
- ☐ Job Interview prep with counselor

Students who have not yet completed the [YouScience](#) aptitude assessment may find that a helpful tool in considering additional job fields. Free access codes for YouScience are available from the student's school counselor.

Worthington Schools also has a [Workforce Experience Partnership opportunity with Worthington Industries](#), Performance Columbus (Drive Direct), Simpson Strong Tie, and Eco-Plumbers. During portions of their senior year, students can participate in an internship experience that can lead to a full time job after graduation.

Plans for After High School: College

Senior year College Checklist:

August:

- ☐ Review your schedule to make sure you have all the courses and credits you need to meet graduation requirements
- ☐ Build your college list. Include safety, target and reach schools.
- ☐ Create a spreadsheet to track application deadlines and requirements
- ☐ Create application accounts. Common App, Coalition, and/or individual College Online Apps
- ☐ Start your application essays by brainstorming and writing first drafts
- ☐ Update resume/ activity information

- ☐ Register and prepare for SAT or ACT exams, if you are taking them again this fall or winter. Don't forget to request for your scores to be sent directly to the colleges.
- ☐ Research and apply for scholarships.
- ☐ Attend Senior College Information Night: Tuesday, August 31, 2023 at 7:00pm

September:

- ☐ Talk with your school counselor to finalize your college list.
- ☐ Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers and counselors, if necessary.
- ☐ Take College Visits and tour schools you're considering. (in person or virtual).
- ☐ Meet with college admissions representatives who visit WKHS in the fall
- ☐ Decide if you are applying for early action or early decision to any schools, if applicable.
- ☐ Continue working on your application essays. Edit and rewrite with peers, teachers, and your counselor.
- ☐ Fill out applications
- ☐ Create a FSA ID, which is your username necessary for completion of the FAFSA. Go to [FSAID.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).

October:

- ☐ Attend the Financial Aid Workshop: November 29, 2023 at 7:00pm
- ☐ Prepare for the FAFSA. Gather tax information, SSN's and federal school codes.
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA. Go to <https://studentaid.gov>
- ☐ If required by college(s), complete the CSS Profile.
- ☐ Male students: you must register for the [Selective Service](#) on your 18th birthday in order to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- ☐ Request transcripts be sent to all of the colleges on your list; [Transcript Request Form](#).
- ☐ Finish your application essays and get them proofread.
- ☐ Continue completing your applications.

November:

- ☐ Submit early applications with November deadlines.
- ☐ Schedule interviews if required by the college
- ☐ Continue to research and apply for scholarships.

December:

- ☐ Submit applications with December deadlines.
- ☐ Continue to research and apply for scholarships.

January:

- ☐ Submit any additional applications with January or later deadlines.
- ☐ Continue to take a rigorous academic schedule.
- ☐ Request mid-year transcripts for any schools that request them and are not on Common App
- ☐ Request mid-year transcripts to be sent to any schools where you have been deferred

February:

- ☐ Continue to research and apply for scholarships.
- ☐ Write thank you's to people who have helped you with your applications and/or written letters of recommendations for you.
- ☐ Work on local scholarship applications

March:

- ☐ Receive notifications of admission, waitlist, or rejection.
- ☐ Compare financial aid award letters for each college.
- ☐ Make second visits to colleges you are considering

April:

- ☐ Make a final decision by May 1.
- ☐ Notify other schools that you will not be attending.
- ☐ Accept your financial aid and scholarships.

May:

- ☐ Submit enrollment forms and deposit by May 1.
- ☐ Submit housing, meal plan and roommate selection, if necessary.
- ☐ Complete the Senior WKHS mandatory graduation information form, that includes listing scholarship awards and requesting final transcript to be sent to chosen school
- ☐ Apply for private student loans if you need to cover gaps in college costs.
- ☐ Register for freshman orientation if your school offers one.
- ☐ Students with College Credit Plus courses, request a college transcript from the CCP college to be sent to your chosen college.
- ☐ Students with AP course exams, request from CollegeBoard that your AP Score reports be sent to your chosen college.
- ☐ GRADUATE!

Selecting Colleges: Where will I apply?

Know both yourself and the colleges:

- Take an in-depth look at your goals, needs, strengths, and talents. Make an honest assessment of your academic strengths, weaknesses, and performance. Also, assess your extracurricular activities, interests, and goals.
- Research colleges in order to match your academic strengths, learning style, and extracurricular goals with the characteristics of the over 3,000 colleges in the USA. Make an informed decision about the schools you are applying to.
- Consider factors that will be ideal for you related to: size, location, available majors and classes, available extracurricular activities, distance from home, make up of the student body, housing options, and campus atmosphere.

- It is important to consider the “fit” of the college. The college fit includes being an academic fit, a financial fit, and a

[Tips on Investigating Colleges](#)

[What do you want in a college?](#)

[Self Reflection](#)

The following websites can be a good place to begin a general internet search for colleges:

[College Navigator](#)

[CollegeBoard BigFuture](#)

[Niche](#)

There are also apps that students and families can use such as:

College Interactive

College Hunch

College Search Guide

Exploring Colleges

Visiting colleges and getting a first-hand look at the people and places that make up a campus community can be a valuable learning experience for students as they try to determine where they want to attend college. Sometimes, it is easier to figure out what you DON'T like and then work backwards. The more colleges you are able to explore the easier that process can be and there are many ways you can learn about college campuses.

[Arranging College Visits](#)

[When Visiting Campus](#)

College Fairs provide a great opportunity to interact with a large number of college admissions representatives in one setting. There are a variety of different college fairs held both virtually and locally for students and parents to explore.

[Information about the Columbus Suburban College Fair](#)

[Information about upcoming Virtual college fairs and making the most of the college fair experience](#)

Rep Visits to WKHS are held each year in the fall. Admissions representatives from a wide array of colleges take the time out of their schedules to come to Kilbourne and meet with interested students to share more information about their college campus community. This is a great opportunity for students to have face-to-face time with the admissions representatives who may be reading your application in the future.

[Information about rep visits at WKHS](#)

Applying to College

College Application Deadline Choices

What's the difference?

How are you applying to the colleges on your list? Before making your decision, be sure you understand the differences, the pros and cons of each choice.

Rolling Admission: colleges will review applications as they are received and release admissions decisions to students soon after they are made.

Regular Decision: colleges review most of their applications before notifying students if they are accepted or not. Colleges have a deadline for completing applications and will release their decisions by a specified time - typically later in the spring (March/ April).

Early Action: students apply to a college by an earlier deadline and will receive an admissions decision earlier as well. These decisions are typically released in December - February. Students are not restricted in the number of schools they may apply to using early action.

Early Decision: students may only apply to 1 college under this option as it requires a formal decision that the student commits to attending the college if they are admitted to the college.

Types of Applications

CommonApp, Coalition, Individual School Online Application

COMMON APP



Common App will be used as an application option for approximately 900 colleges. Common App will launch for the Class of 2023 on August 1st. You will sign up using your personal email. As a reminder, create a personal e-mail or use the email you currently have that you will use and be sure that it is a professional email. (e.g., kathrynsmith@gmail.com).

Once you add a college to your “My College” list through the search on Common App, it will provide you with information as far as deadlines, application information, test policy, recommendations, writing requirements, etc. for that college. You will need to fill out the information on all of the tabs to complete the application. Create an account:

<https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount>

[CommonApp support guides and toolkit](#)

COALITION FOR COLLEGE



Coalition for College is a similar platform like Common App. It is free and you are welcomed to create a profile using your personal email.

Create an account here: <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE ONLINE APPLICATION



For colleges that do not use CommonApp or Coalition, they may prefer you complete their individual online application. Please go to the college's website under Undergraduate Admission and follow the steps for applying as a freshman applicant.

Transcript Request Form

Please complete the [Transcript Request Form](#) for each college you are applying to.

College Entrance Exams: ACT and SAT

ACT Test Dates & Deadlines:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

SAT Test Dates & Deadlines:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

Test Prep Opportunities:

<http://wkhs counselors.com/index.php/test-preparation>

It is your responsibility to send the official ACT or SAT test scores to the college directly from the testing agency. You may select colleges to send scores to during the registration process and you can send additional scores by going to the testing agency website.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Teacher and Counselor

If a teacher Letter of Recommendation (LOR) is required, choose a teacher who has taught you recently and with whom you have a relationship. This teacher should be able to write about you both as a student and as a person. Not all colleges require a letter of recommendation. Please check that information before requesting one. Keep in mind that writing recommendations is time consuming for your teachers and many have limits to how many they will write, so ask early. Make sure to request LORs from teachers at least 30 days in advance or a letter will not be guaranteed. You should provide supporting information when requesting a LOR. Please complete [the Teacher Recommendation Form](#) and share it with the teacher you have asked to write your LOR. Teachers may accept or decline requests. The more details in your Teacher Recommendation Form, the better for your recommender.

Not all colleges require a letter of recommendation from your counselor. Please check that information before requesting one. If a school counselor Letter of Recommendation (LOR) is required, please allow 30 days for your letter to be written by your school counselor. Keep in mind that writing recommendations is time consuming. You should provide supporting information when requesting a LOR. Please complete [the Counselor Recommendation Form](#) and have your parents complete the [Parent Brag Sheet](#) and share them with your counselor. The more details in your Counselor Recommendation Form and Parent Brag Sheet, the better for your counselor.

After the letter is completed, please write the teacher and/or counselor a note to say thank you.

Every college will see the same letter from one teacher. For example, if you apply to 10 colleges and they all require only one letter of recommendation, you only need one teacher to write one.

FINANCIAL AID

Completing the FAFSA

You can start your application with FAFSA (<https://studentaid.gov/>) starting December 2023. Be sure that you are on the correct website if you are using google to search since fake websites exist. You will be filling out confidential information. When you create your account, put your username and password in a safe place to remember. You will need: Social Security Number Your own mobile phone and/or email address. It is recommended that students fill out financial aid on their own-accompanied by a parent. Helpful FAFSA Information: <https://www.fastweb.com/content/fafsa>. Additional online support at www.oasfaa.org/fafsa/help.

Scholarships

Private Scholarships are awarded by private sector organizations like foundations or businesses.

Institutional Scholarships are awarded by your college or university.

Need Based and **Merit Based scholarships** are available. Need based scholarships are based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA. Merit based scholarships are awarded based on criteria; the area of merit could be academic, sports, arts, leadership, or community involvement.

Please see the [WKHS counselor website](#) under '[Searching for Scholarships](#)' for scholarship search engines and apps.

In addition, scholarship opportunities shared with the school will be posted under '[Scholarship Information](#)'.

Don't forget to search for scholarships offered by the college that you will be attending.

High School Academic Reminders:

Student Success

A new year provides a fresh opportunity for students and parents to focus on academic success. Suggestions to help make sure students have a successful year include:

- Check Infinite Campus on a regular basis. Parents and students keeping track of current grades in courses help to make sure that goals are being achieved in classes.
- Seek help from teachers by asking questions in class or meeting 1:1 with your teacher for extra assistance when you don't understand material being covered in class.
- Seek support from the Academic Assistants in the Teaching and Learning Center. The Teaching and Learning Center is located in Room 209 and 4 Academic Assistants (one for each core content area) are in the TLC all day to help support students in reviewing material, studying for tests, and assisting with homework questions. This is free of charge and an incredible resource for our students.
- Participate in parent/ teacher conferences. Both students and parents can attend conferences.

Student Course Load/ Co-Curricular Eligibility

The typical student course load is 5 to 7 classes per semester. 6 classes are recommended for all underclassmen and at least 5 classes are recommended for seniors, although many seniors take more in at least one semester.

Students who plan to participate in co-curricular activities (such as athletics, theater, music, Mock Trial, etc.) need to plan their course load to ensure they are earning sufficient credits each grading period to remain eligible to participate during the next grading period. This means that, among the courses they are taking, they must be passing five courses, each of which carry ½ credit for the semester. All Wellness for Life classes do **not** count toward eligibility. Please see your counselor or the Athletic Director if you have any questions.

Pass/ Fail Courses

Students may elect to take certain courses on a pass/ fail basis. To select this grading option:

- Check the Course Planning Handbook to see if the course allows for a pass/ fail option
- Obtain the pass/ fail form from the Counseling and Career Center
- Complete the form, including parent's signature
- Return form to Counseling and Career Center within the first 6 weeks of the semester

Advanced Course Level Changes

As a reminder, all students who are enrolled in honors, AP or IB classes which require summer work must complete their assigned summer assignments. These assignments are available on the counselor website as a reference. If a student decides that he/ she wants to change their level (out of an AP or Honors class and into a regular class) he/ she is still responsible for the

summer assignment as the grade will carry over and be included in their regular course level's class.

Dropping a Course

To drop a course without receiving an "F" on the final transcript, all students must drop the course, through their counselor, within six weeks of the beginning of the semester. After 6 weeks, students that drop a class would have an "F" on their transcript and included in the determination of their grade point average.

Counselor Website:

We work to provide a website with a wealth of information for WKHS students and parents related to your academic, college/ career and personal/ social needs. The website is www.wkhscounselors.com and we strongly encourage you to visit the site frequently for updates and timely information. Examples of information available on the WKHS Counselor website include upcoming dates, forms you can download related to college applications, credit flexibility resources, scholarships, and resources of support.

www.wkhscounselors.com

REFERENCES

1. Counselor Website: www.wkhscounselors.com
2. Coalition for College: <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
3. Common App: <https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount>
4. Financial Aid [FAFSA]: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
-Additional online support at www.oasfaa.org/fafsa-help
5. [Graduation Requirements](#)
6. [Transcript Request Form](#)
7. Virtual College Tours: <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>