



Whetstone High School Senior Update

Spring 2019 Edition

Crossing the Stage & Beyond: December and January have brought some great news for many of our Seniors! Many of you have now met (or are close to meeting) the new alternative testing option requirements that Ohio recently published! Congratulations! A few of our seniors even wrapped up all their remaining graduation requirements with their first semester of college coursework. Many of you are hearing back from colleges and making some big decisions about your plans after you cross the stage! Exciting Stuff!

In this edition, we will **focus on Next Steps**. Remember, come see us if you need help with anything, and keep us posted about college decisions, scholarship applications, etc.

Alright, you know the drill, check the sections that you know are for you, then revisit it over and over until the next edition comes out. **Read it, Know it, Pass it on.**

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➔ **Only have 5 minutes?** We get it. You're busy. **Read the bolded sections in the Table of Contents first**, then read the rest later!

Seriously, make sure you **come back and read the rest later!**

WHS School Counseling & Student Support Services Office

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School Counselors:

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Student Support Staff

Mrs. Uniacke, IKIC Advisor

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What are School Counselors? We do more than change your schedules. School Counselors are specifically Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education, have completed a Master's Degree in Counseling and are specially equipped to promote student success, wellness, and growth in three domains: Academic, Emotional/Social, and College/Career Readiness. We are here to empower all students to achieve their full potential and to set them on a trajectory for life-long success. We work with students, their families, school faculty and staff, community members and organizations, and other stakeholders to serve all students and expand access to opportunities. Every child, every day.

Tips for Parents:

Graduation Requirements- What Do You Need to Walk the Stage?

NEW Graduation Pathways for testing were approved by the Ohio Department of Education during winter break!

- Have you reviewed your Graduation Pathways with you counselor? All 2019 students and their parents must review their progress toward graduation with their school counselor.
- **DID YOU MISS OUR SENIOR MEETING IN JANUARY?** View the slides here:
<https://tinyurl.com/CCSGradPath>
- **If a senior plans to graduate using one of the two new Additional Pathways, parents and students MUST sign an updated Graduation Agreement.** We want to make sure everyone understands each student's remaining graduation requirements.
- **Make sure to attend graduation meetings. You will get updated information about your student and about your school's graduation ceremony and special senior activities.**
- **Please contact us** if you have *any* questions or concerns. We are here to work with you and support your child. We love working with parents too!

To-Do List

- **Check in on your graduation progress.** Read your graduation agreements again, make sure you haven't forgotten anything. Questions or concerns? See us right away!
 - **Review your Q2 report card.** If you have any F's make sure you talk with your teachers and counselors and make a plan to improve your grades in Q3
 - **Wrap up any VCAP courses you have left!** Remember to submit drop-boxes ASAP. You should plan on being done with all VCAP by Spring Break
 - **Turn in Internship Hours ASAP!** Please make sure you have all internship hours turned in to Ms. Oliver, she is here every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Paid Work = Bring in Pay Stubs, Unpaid work = bring in completed internship hours form (available in the counseling office)
 - Turn in a **Signed Copy of your Updated Graduation Agreement** (if applicable)

- **Notify Your Counselor about every College Acceptance, Financial Aid, Scholarship Award you are offered!** If you have received a college acceptance, a Financial Aid Award Letter from **any** college, or if you have received any scholarship award letter, **bring it to your counselor ASAP!** Even if you are not planning on attending that college. We must have records of these for all students!
 - **Have you been Deferred?** Check with your counselor to **see if you need a Mid-Year Report sent to a college**

- **College-Bound Athletes:** Make sure you have completed all steps for NCAA/NAIA eligibility, if applicable. Guide/Check list is available on the Whetstone Counseling Dept website: <https://www.ccsch.us/Page/6712>

- **Wrap up College Applications:** See following pages for Next Steps
- **Apply for the FAFSA** See Mrs. Uniacke for help
- **Apply for Scholarships** See the previous edition (<https://goo.gl/Sfv5Rp>) for detailed articles and check out the following pages for upcoming opportunities!

College Applications: What's My Next Step?

I Haven't Applied Anywhere Yet... Now What?

- ✓ **Haven't applied anywhere yet?** There are still lots of options, but see your counselor and IKIC advisor as soon as possible to figure out a plan that works for you!
- ✓ **Quick steps:**
 - 1) Meet with your School Counselor and IKIC advisor
 - 2) Complete your college applications- many take less than an hour (such as OSU Newark or Columbus State Community College)
 - 3) Work with your counselor to get application fee waivers if you qualify, or with your IKIC advisor to get 3 applications paid for if you do not qualify for waivers
 - 4) Request your transcript -and any other required school materials- from your counselor for each college (make your requests in Naviance and tell your counselor)
 - 5) If one of your colleges requires a recommendation, see you counselor for how to get these.
 - 6) Start Applying for Scholarships and Fill out the FAFSA

I've Been Accepted into a College! ... Now what?

- ✓ **Tell your counselor!** Remember to inform your counselor every time you receive an admission decision from a college and any time you are offered scholarship money or financial aid!
 - If your admission is deferred, talk to your counselor ASAP about submitting a Mid-Year Report
- ✓ **Find out how to get the money you need** to finance a college degree - without too many loans!! Talk with your counselor & IKIC advisor to brainstorm financial strategies.
- ✓ **Complete your FAFSA if you haven't already.** Talk with your IKIC advisor or get in touch with an advisor at IKIC: web site (<http://iknowican.org/>).
- ✓ **Apply for the IKIC Grant** if you're eligible see Mrs. Uniacke & IKIC's website for more details.
- ✓ **Consider applying to one or two more colleges or programs** that will give you more merit aid (scholarships) and grants. Most money comes from colleges, not outside scholarships, so adding another college to your application list can be a very smart financial move.
 - **Consider Columbus State Community College.** They have excellent two-year programs that prepare you for in-demand, good paying jobs. Or, start at CSCC and then finish at a four-year college (example: 3 years at CSCC + 1 year at OU = a very affordable degree!).
 - **Consider the CCS Adult and Community Education Center.** They offer practical nursing, truck driver certification, industrial maintenance and more. Federal financial aid and scholarships are available. <http://www.ccsch.us/ace.aspx>
- ✓ **Complete at least two scholarship applications (MINIMUM)!** See the scholarship resources later on in this newsletter there are lots of options! Even if a scholarship is only worth \$250, that money comes in handy when you have lots of college expenses! Remember to **request transcripts and letters of recommendation** well in advance

Paying for College: Overview

Look for *Scholarship Tips*, *How to Write Scholarship Essays* and other handouts in your Naviance documents section. Remember to check Naviance and the Braves Bulletin regularly for new scholarship postings.

Also view the previous edition of the Senior Update for detailed articles! <https://goo.gl/Sfv5Rp>

- **Complete the 2019/2020 FAFSA!!** Families may fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1, 2018 using 2017 tax return/financial information. The sooner you complete the FAFSA and send to your colleges, the more money you may get. IKIC and Mrs. Uniacke will be hosting events throughout the year to assist with the FAFSA. **If you're applying for college, you should be filling out the FAFSA**, even if you don't think you will qualify.
 - **Thinking about skipping the FAFSA?** College Raptor has a great article about why skipping the FAFSA might not be a great idea: <https://goo.gl/awp1bL>
- **Undocumented Students:** If you are an **undocumented student**, you can share this with your school counselor and it will remain confidential! School counselors are bound by confidentiality, even with the announced changes to DACA. Guide to Ohio Colleges for Undocumented Students: <https://goo.gl/dZbtyx> Financial Aid Guide: <https://goo.gl/g5pCpo> There are also resources for undocumented students in the Documents section on Naviance.
- **Scholarships offered by Colleges:** Carefully check the **websites of your colleges** for any scholarships for which you may qualify. Work with your School Counselor, your college's admissions counselors and your IKIC advisor to understand how to apply for college's scholarships and various programs. **This is by far the BIGGEST source of scholarship (and grant) aid for students, so applying to the right colleges for you is key!**
- **Local, regional (and some national) scholarships** – Local and regional scholarships are often less competitive than national scholarships, and students should apply for these if they meet the application criteria! Even a scholarship of \$250 can provide books for the semester for cash-strapped students- every bit of money helps enormously! And multiple smaller scholarship dollars can really add up. Many local/regional scholarships are updated on your **Naviance Family Connection** site under the “colleges” tab, then “scholarships and money,” then “scholarship list.” Please check regularly as new scholarships will arrive throughout the year. It is your job to read the information, determine if you fit the criteria for the various scholarships and MEET DEADLINES.

Please see your counselor if you have questions or for any copies of paper applications. Make sure to give your counselor two weeks of notice to send transcripts!

- **Clearing House Scholarships** - Register on **Cappex** and **Fastweb** (or use other scholarship sites listed in the Helpful Sites Section on page 13 & 14) for scholarships offered to students across the nation and world. These are very competitive- but our CCS students have won them every year! You can also complete the scholarship search in Naviance under the colleges tab (bottom of that page).
 - Want to **use your phone** to find scholarships? Try apps like Schoold (Free download- <http://www.schoold.co/>) or Scholly (\$2.99 download- <https://myscholly.com/#scholly>). These are convenient and provide lots of tips to help you succeed.
- **Unpublicized scholarships** - Check with your church, parents' workplaces, your internship site, your parents' banks/ credit unions, your current/past clubs organizations (scouting, cotillions...), Veteran's Affairs (if your parent qualifies), and any other connections you might have through your family and friends!

Featured Scholarship & Grant Applications

- **UNCF** manages various scholarship programs and each program has its own eligibility criteria, open/close dates and required documentation. Many of the UNCF scholarships require completing the FAFSA first. Apply online: <https://scholarships.uncf.org/> **Deadline: Varies**
- **The Columbus Foundation:** The Columbus Foundation provides dozens of scholarships that CCS students can compete for ranging from \$250- \$10,000 or more. These are all local scholarships that the foundation manages. Go to www.columbusfoundation.org and select students from the menu. From there, enter your search criteria. **Deadline: March 1**
- **I Know I Can Founder's Scholarship** GPA, attendance, and other requirements. Up to \$10,000 scholarship. Learn more here: <https://iknowican.org/fund-it/founders-scholarship/> **Deadline: March 1**
- **The Clintonville Rotary/Dr. Brian H. and Carrie L. Kvitko Scholarship** This scholarship is for Clintonville high school seniors who are intending to pursue education beyond high school. Award amount is \$4,000. <http://www.clintonvillerotary.org/index.php?p=stories&storyid=65026> **Deadline: March 31**
- **Columbus State Community College Scholarships** Requirements vary, one application for dozens of scholarship opportunities at Columbus State. Website: <http://www.csc.edu/> **Deadline: April 1**
- **Pacesetters Unlimited, Inc. HBCU Scholarship** Three \$500 scholarships available for students planning to attend a HBCU this fall. More info and application are available here: <https://goo.gl/7az8u7> **Deadline: April 21**
- **I Know I Can Grant** based on FAFSA/income eligibility (must be Pell eligible) and 2.25 minimum GPA. Award: \$1200 Website: <https://iknowican.org/fund-it/i-know-i-can-grant/> **Deadline: April 27**

Upcoming Scholarships from Naviance List

This list is constantly updated, check it weekly for new additions!

Go to Connection.Naviance.com/Whetstone. Under the Colleges tab, select “Scholarships & Money” and then select “Scholarship List.” More Details on Each Scholarship are available in Naviance, including more Links, Descriptions, and even downloadable applications!

Scholarship	Deadline	Amount	Link
AAA Annual Safety Patrol Scholarship	22-Feb	\$ 1,000	Link
Builders Exchange Scholarship Program	22-Feb	TBA	
NCBW Central Ohio Trailblazer Scholarship	22-Feb	\$ 2,000	
Education First Credit Union Scholarship	23-Feb	\$ 1,000	Link
ASMC Buckeye Chapter Scholarship	28-Feb	\$ 4,000	Link
OAPSE/AFSCME Memorial Scholarship Foundation Program	1-Mar	\$ 2,500	Link
Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship	1-Mar		
Ohio PTA Scholarships (3 different options)	1-Mar	\$ 500	Link
I Know I Can Founders' Scholarship	1-Mar	\$ 10,000	Link
Tzu Chi Scholars	1-Mar	\$ 1,000	Link
Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Foundation Scholarship	1-Mar	\$ 1,000	Link
Annual Talent Hunt Scholarship Program (Music/Dance/Speech/Art)	2-Mar	Varies	
Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship	2-Mar	Varies	
Lockheed Martin STEM Scholarship	12-Mar	\$ 10,000	Link
COMTO Columbus Scholarship	15-Mar	\$ 1,000	Link
Ohio Gas Association Scholarship	15-Mar	\$ 1,000	Link
AAGF OSU Reads Scholarship	17-Mar	\$ 1,000	
OSU Reads Scholarship	17-Mar	\$ 1,000	
Lee J Brockway Scholarship	22-Mar	\$ 1,000	Link
Barbara A. Yarborough Scholarship	29-Mar	\$ 1,000	
Columbus Administrators Association	29-Mar	\$ 1,000	
Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship	29-Mar	\$ 1,000	
First Service Foundation Scholarship	29-Mar	\$ 2,000	Link

Need to Retake the WorkKeys? Prep Resources and More

For those students who did need the WorkKeys for graduations and did not get required points on the January test you can sign up for self-paid exams - so PREPARE using the resources below! We will let you know if Columbus City Schools will offer it again.

- **Full Length Practice tests:** <https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/Assessments/Home.aspx> or www.jobtestprep.com/workkeys-assessments
- **CCS Test Practice:** <http://ple.platoweb.com>, Check with Mr. Rohrer in the Counseling Office for more information
- **Applied Math Prep:**
 - Video of one Applied Math explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRcAstXKi-0>
 - More Info: <https://nphs-math.wikispaces.com/file/view/Work+Keys+Practice+Math+Test.pdf>

Other Post-Secondary Options

Military Service: Information and recruiter contacts are available from Mr. Wood. Make sure you talk with your family and your School Counselor about your plans.

- **Sign Up for the ASVAB:** The ASVAB is the required test for the Military, it is not a commitment to enlist. Talk to Mr. Wood about options for taking the test, if you did not take it with Whetstone on November 10
 - Ohio Means Jobs K12: <https://goo.gl/A4grxA>
- **ROTC Programs:** Reserve Officer Training Corps. is a college program offered at more than 1,000 colleges and universities across the United States that prepares young adults to become officers in the U.S. Military. Each arm of the military offers these programs at various colleges. Website: www.todaysmilitary.com/before-serving-in-the-military/rotc-programs and or/ask each of your college admissions counselors for their school's ROTC representative. Deadlines vary.

Apprenticeships: Many trades (plumbing, electrical, welding, etc.) offer apprenticeship programs. These may offer great alternatives to traditional college training and provide excellent career options. For more information, visit your counselor and go online to: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/apprenticeship/index.stm> .

- **For a full list of apprenticeships** in Ohio, go to: <http://omj.ohio.gov/program/index.stm>

Gap Year:

- For **gap year** (taking a year between high school and college) opportunities, check out sites such as www.gap-year.com or www.usagapyearfairs.org
- Programs like **City Year** and Americorps give high school graduates the opportunity to serve their community and earn money for college. Learn more at: <https://www.cityyear.org/joincorps> .

Helpful Web Sites

General College Application/ College Information Sites:

Remember to visit all of your colleges' websites **often** for the latest information. Check all deadlines, especially those for scholarships and honors programs!

- www.CTLC.com is a great site about the highlighted colleges in the book, Colleges that Change Lives. See what makes these lesser known colleges so highly rated!
- www.review.com and www.weapply.com are both Princeton Review sites that feature excellent college search programs and are both great online application sources.
- www.collegeboard.com is a comprehensive site where students may explore every aspect of the college admissions process.
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> is part of the College Board site and offers guidance on everything from the college search to paying for college- great user-friendly site with lots of student testimonials.
- www.InLikeMe.com is a great resource for everything from application tips to essays to scholarships.
- www.collegedge.com features a college and scholarship search.
- www.commonapp.org Find out if your colleges use the Common Application, a service that saves you a lot of time! This site also links you to colleges' supplemental forms.
- www.collegeview.com This website is sponsored by Hobsons. It offers a guide to degrees in health, medicine, nursing, engineering and technology. You can also register to win a \$1,000 scholarship.
- www.EducationPlanner.org gives students information related to all aspects of the college admission process.
- www.OhioMentor.org is a wonderful site full of information where students can fill out financial aid and admission applications online.
- <http://www.collegeconfidential.com/> provides a great forum for "insider" college perspectives.
- www.edupass.org is a great source of info. for international students.
- www.aicuo.edu provides information on all of Ohio's private colleges, including financial aid options for those who plan to attend one of these schools. Also, this site includes the Estimated Family Contribution Calculator that you can use to predict your family's financial contribution before your FAFSA info. is available. You can tailor searches on this site to match your profile!
- www.collegeplanning.nelnet.net Nelnet is a comprehensive college planning course that offers a \$1,000 scholarship per week sweepstakes. There are college planning tools, information, resources, school and scholarship searches, interactive school comparison tools, calculators, and FAFSA information.
- www.campuspride.org Campus Pride offers great information about LGBTQ-friendly campuses and universities as well as scholarship information for LGBTQ students.

Information about College Costs:

- <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> The US Department of Education launched this site to provide families with college cost comparisons. You can also do a basic college search on the site.
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/paying-for-college> Khan Academy takes on the challenge of paying for college!
- <http://www.thecollegesolution.com/> features excellent information on how to cut college costs, including free webinars and reliable resources from Lynn O'Shaughnessy, college expert and higher-ed journalist.
- <http://costoflearning.com/> uses Net Price Calculators to help you compare the cost of attending several of your top choice colleges.
- <http://www.collegedata.com/> provides such tools as net price calculators, Estimated Family Contribution calculators, financial aid award comparisons and scholarship information.
- <http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/> is a site maintained by the US Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency Center.
- <https://collegeabacus.org/> College Abacus is a one-stop, secure search site that helps students and families compare the net price estimates of 5,000+ colleges before students apply and before any financial aid determination is made.

Scholarship Search Sites:

- Connection.naviance.com/whetstone Your Naviance Family Connection site!
- www.fastweb.com tailors scholarship searches based on students' profiles. Every student should register for this free service.
- <http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/> Here you can uncover millions of dollars in scholarships from colleges, universities, private companies, foundations -- and more -- to help pay for school.
- www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarlink/index.aspx is the link to the Columbus Foundation's list of scholarships. Type in your information, and they match you with possible scholarships!
- www.free-4u.com/minority.htm is an excellent site that lists scholarships for each ethnicity
- <https://scholarships.uncf.org/> provides information about UNCF (and affiliated) scholarships, including one for Central Ohio students. This site is updated on an ongoing basis.
- www.blackexcel.org/link4htm is a great site for minority students.
- www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org is a great site for students of Hispanic descent.
- www.freshinfo.com allows you to conduct personalized searches for scholarships much like Fastweb.
- www.brokescholar.com is a general scholarship site that searches based on your profile.
- www.jockscholarships.com For students interested in pursuing collegiate athletics, most helpful for students interested in non-revenue producing sports.
- www.wiredscholar.com is another good general scholarship search site.
- www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.phtml , www.thepointfoundation.org, www.pflag.org and www.safeschoolscoalition.org/rg-scholarships.html are all excellent sources of financial aid for GLBT students, students with GLBT parents and/or students involved in social activism.

Financial Aid Informational Sites:

- www.fafsa.ed.gov is the site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You can file your FAFSA after January 1st.
- <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> is the first stop for students and parents who plan to complete the FAFSA online. See Mrs. Uniacke for assistance
- www.OhioMentor.org is a wonderful site full of information where students can fill out financial aid and admission applications online.
- www.ed.gov/OSFAP/Students deals with federal programs.
- www.finaid.org covers both federal and private loan options.
- www.studentaid.ed.gov provides many answers to financial aid questions.
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/paying-for-college> provides guidance on completing the FAFSA and CSS Profile.
- www.nasfa.org is a site sponsored by the National Assoc. of Student Financial Aid.
- www.collegeboard.com is the home page for the CSS Financial Aid Profile, a form required by many selective colleges. Click on CSS/PROFILE
- www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps Register to win a \$1500 scholarship at this site. Info on college planning, & financial aid.

Sites for College Entrance Tests and Test Preparation:

- www.actstudent.org register for the ACT, sign up for ACT Question of the Day, Individualized prep for students who register with fee waivers and practice tests area all available: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>
- www.number2.com/ is a free site for test prep. It includes word of the day vocabulary builder and more. Teachers, parents or other mentors can sign up as coaches to monitor student progress.
- www.collegeboard.com is the site used for SAT registration and students may also do some test prep here
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep> Khan Academy is the site to use for SAT and PSAT prep!
- <https://jobseeker.k-12.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/Assessments/Home.aspx> from OhioMeansJobs offers prep for a variety of tests, including ACT, SAT and COMPASS mainly in the form of practice tests. The site also offers basic test taking strategies.
- <http://www.erikthered.com/tutor/> offers a great overview of SAT and ACT math formulas & strategies.
- www.march2success.com is a site sponsored by the US Army that provides free test prep for ACT, SAT & ASVAB
- www.ets.org provides information on the SAT and the TOEFL (see below) as well as practice questions.
- www.review.com provides some test prep resources and information about free practice tests and courses for fees
- www.testprepreview.com has online ACT/SAT practice tests for no charge!
- www.kaplink12.com is the test prep site to which all CPS high school students have access for complete online test prep. Students must get their password from the office and complete a diagnostic test.
- www.toefl.org provides all information for all ESL and non-native English speakers on the Test of English as a Foreign Language. If you are in this category, TAKE THIS TEST!
- www.infohio.org ; click 9-12, click **Learning Express Library** Make a free account (that will hold each test so that you can return to finish). Select the appropriate tab across the top, click triangle to expand options School or home use. username: learn password: infohio