

Weston High School



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Dear Juniors,

The School Counseling Department hopes you're all doing well and making the most of your time at home these days. We know this has been an unexpected weird time, and we're reaching out with some information and tips to help keep you organized and hopefully reduce any stress you might be experiencing around the college admissions process.

So, Yea, What's Going On? - In response to the demand for reliable information about changes in admission programming responding to the coronavirus emergency, The National Association for College Admission Counseling is developing an online tool. It will provide links to relevant college and university web pages as well as specific information about campus and office closures, reply date deadlines, status of scheduled events, and other admission-related activities. They plan to begin promoting this resource on their website March 18. Visit <https://www.nacacnet.org/college-admission-status-coronavirus> for more information and check back regularly for updates.

College Visits - Most WHS students planned to visit a majority of the colleges they're exploring in upcoming weeks; however, many colleges across the country have canceled all on-campus visit opportunities for the remainder of the spring. I know this is disappointing for many of you who have been anxiously awaiting this opportunity, and I'm sorry you may not be able to experience on-campus tours and information sessions this spring. Quite frankly, it's a bummer! But all is not lost. A lot of colleges are beginning to plan alternative virtual visit opportunities and webinars, and I encourage students to refer to the college websites you're interested in to see what options might be available to you. In this rapidly changing climate, you should check their websites frequently for the most up-to-date information. Some families have asked how these closures might impact a student's ability to demonstrate interest in colleges that track it. Please trust that admissions professionals are dealing with the same uncertainty and "day-to-dayness" that you are. They too are working from home and doing their best to prioritize the health and wellbeing of their students, faculty and families. Colleges will not use this as an opportunity to punish students for something that was not within their control. Since most students will not have had the opportunity to get to campus this spring, colleges understand that they might not be able to use demonstrated interest as a tool in the admissions process the way they have in the past. Worrying about demonstrated interest is not worth your stress right now, I promise!

College Research - Good news!! There's a lot of great information online to help students get an in-depth understanding of colleges across the country. Please visit the Counseling ELO page <https://sites.google.com/westonps.org/weston-high-school-elo> for some trusted websites and tools including virtual campus tours, student review websites and data resources.

Standardized Testing- Please refer to Mrs. Wolak's email for additional standardized testing information.

Weston Public Schools

Empowering Each Student to Achieve Success and Contribute to Our Global Society

Some of you were unable to take the March 14 SAT due to COVID-19 related closures, and today, the CollegeBoard canceled the May 2 SAT. Families who registered for the May SAT will receive a full refund. Students should register for the June SAT as quickly as possible, as we anticipate a high volume of students and test sites reaching capacity sooner than usual. Registration for the fall testing dates will open in July. For the students who need to take Subject Tests (this will not apply to many of you), we are recommending to prioritize the June test date for the SAT and to plan on taking Subject Tests in the fall. If students have already taken the SAT and feel good about their scores, they can use the June test date as their opportunity to take Subject Tests. Refer to the CollegeBoard website for the most up-to-date information on scheduling changes <https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters>.

The ACT has canceled the April ACT nationwide. Students who registered for April will receive an email about being able to reschedule for an upcoming test for free – either for June or a future test date. For now, I encourage students to check collegeboard.org and actstudent.org from time to time for the most up-to-date information. Students across the country and world are all facing the same testing uncertainty, and I am confident we will have more insight in upcoming weeks.

For now, what a great time to play around on <https://www.khanacademy.org/> and get a little more free test prep in! :-)

Junior Questionnaire and Parent Brag Sheets - Getting bored of staring at each other? All Netflixed out? You've come to the right place! We encourage juniors and parents to take this opportunity to work on your Junior Questionnaire and Parent Brag Sheet in Naviance.

To access the Junior Questionnaire or Parent Brag Sheet, you should log into your Naviance account (parents must be logged into their parent account, not their student's account) and click on About Me on the upper right side of the page, then click My Surveys > Surveys Not Started>Junior Questionnaire or Junior Parent Brag Sheet. As a reminder, these are tools counselors use to write your college letter of recommendation. Submitting yours early will give your counselor an opportunity to get a jumpstart on your letter and have it ready to go at the start of next school year. Win-win!

Camp College - The plan is to hold Camp College August 11-13. I intended to send out registration information later this month, but I am going to hold off for now in an effort to prioritize. Juniors and their parents will receive a separate email with registration information later this spring.

I know things feel strange right now, and sometimes the uncertainty around how these changes might impact college admissions can be overwhelming, but students, counselors, testing agencies and colleges are all in this together and it will be OK. We've got this!

The Counseling Department really misses seeing your faces (seriously!) and we look forward to coming together again. More information will be sent out later this week to families on counselor availability for the remaining time out of school.

Sincerely,

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Weston High School

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