

# **Grade 8**

- House Bill 487 updated Ohio's graduation requirements beginning with the Class of 2018.
- Visit [www.woostercityschools.org/hs](http://www.woostercityschools.org/hs) for the latest information.
- Know what is needed to graduate from WHS, as well as the state requirements. Some credits taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will earn you high school credit. These will count into your high school credits and GPA.
- Grades earned in eighth grade are used to determine ninth grade placement. Make certain you do your best.
- If you are considering College Credit Plus (CCP), talk with your counselor to see if you qualify. CCP is available for grades 7-12 in the state of Ohio. You must take the ACT & be accepted into a college.
- Develop good study habits that will carry you throughout your high school career. Don't be afraid to ask your teachers for help.
- Speak with friends/family about careers and possible school choices. Ask counselors which courses to take in high school that might help you in your career aspirations.
- Join a club. Most clubs are available to all students & some are just for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

# ***Freshman***

- Know how many credits you need in order to graduate from WHS.
- Get Organized. Build a schedule allowing for study time, extracurriculars, & other interests. Consider developing a 4-year plan of classes in order to make certain you increase your chances for success.
- Get involved. Join extracurricular activities in which you have a genuine interest, but don't overload on activities/clubs. Your goal should be to begin your high school journey with good grades because they will impact your GPA and class rank.
- Consider activities outside of school as well: volunteering, community involvement, scouting, & church activities. These might be considered for the summer months as to not interfere with studying. Many of these are important if considering college.
- Continue to speak with parents/counselors about your interests and how that might work into a career.
- If you will be participating in College Credit Plus, you must take an ACT & apply to a college.
- Stay focused on your grades & ask for help immediately when necessary.
- Be mindful of social networking. Don't post something that you wouldn't want a college admissions officer to see. Admission officers do check these sites.

# **Sophomores**

- Strive to keep good grades. Classes may be more difficult & you may need to allow yourself more study time. Continue to participate in those activities/extracurriculars that are important to you & your career/college path. Consider a leadership role in a club. All you do here is training ground for your future career!
- Begin to research colleges of interest and the college admission process itself. Don't be afraid to visit campus or contact colleges. Attend college fairs. (WHS has one each fall).
- Speak with your counselor regarding how the Naviance system may help you narrow college choices and begin your preparation for this journey toward college or college.
- If you will be participating in College Credit Plus (CCP) program, you must take an ACT & apply to a college. This is an excellent way to possibly earn high school & college credit at the same time.
- Check out NCAA requirements if pursuing athletics in college. Know what will count for eligibility and schedule classes accordingly.
- Sign up for the PSAT-a practice test for the SAT, usually given in October. It is also a great indicator of strengths for AP classes. Consider taking the SAT later in the school year.
- If you are considering the Wayne County Schools Career Center for next year, make certain you pay attention to all dates. The WCSCC delivers a presentation in October & we visit the school in November. An open house is held in December for interested student/parents. Priority deadline is usually in late January. Not sure, talk with your counselor
- Remember to watch your social media outlets.

# ***Juniors***

- Double-check with your counselor to make certain you have the necessary classes & credits for graduation, if unsure.
- Sign up to take the PSAT – a test that could qualify you to become a National Merit scholar and receive money for college. Also, it is a good practice test for the SAT & a good indicator for AP classes.
- Register and take the ACT or SAT sometime this school year. College Credit Plus (CCP) requires that you take the ACT and be accepted into a college.
- Begin to evaluate what you want to do in the future: pursue full time employment, further your education, or military.
- If considering college, begin to make a list of what is important to you: school size, location, cost, major. Familiarize yourself with admission requirements of the colleges you are interested in, schedule campus visits. (keep mindful of WHS policy for college visitation), see admissions representatives that visit WHS, & attend College Fairs. All of these will help you narrow your choice. Naviance can aid you with many of the items listed above. Learn how to use it.
- Register with NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, if planning to play college sports.
- Begin to think about scholarships & other ways to finance college.
- Continue to choose a challenging curriculum of classes for your senior year. NCAA athletes, make certain classes you have chosen meet necessary criteria.
- Stay involved with the extracurriculars. Assume leadership roles.
- If possible during the summer, try to obtain employment in something that might help you in your chosen field. If not, colleges like to see that you are taking an interest in working toward a goal---attending college!
- Colleges do look at your social media outlets. Be mindful of what is there.

# Seniors

- Continue to monitor your grades. You may gain acceptance into college of your choice early in your senior year, but final transcripts will still be reviewed. Keep working hard on your grades.
- Make an appointment to meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your future plans early in the school year – especially if you have senior privilege first or last period.
- Be aware of college admission deadlines and APPLY EARLY! The Naviance system will help you maintain good records of: enrollment deadlines, tuition fees, room & board, financial aid, & other expenses.
- Take or retake the ACT or SAT college entrance tests early in the year to improve your score.
- Arrange college tours & speak with admission representatives that visit WHS.
- If not college, search out other information/options:
  - Military, trade schools, technical training, internships.
- Apply for financial aid in October. Complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), after October 1. (This is a NEW date to apply. It is earlier this year.)
- Complete the Naviance Resume of community/school involvement and honors/awards should you need recommendation letters from counselor/teachers. Allow approximately one month for completion. Don't wait until the last minute to ask.
- Check bulletin boards in the guidance office for information about college visits and scholarships.
- Social media sites should represent the best of you. Please pay attention to what you are posting.
- At the end of the year, you will be requested to complete a SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE. This is very important as it is used for scholarship information, the commencement program, & informs us of your final decision on your chosen college. No final transcript is sent without this form.

- End your high school experience on a high note, representing your school in the best possible character.