



School Counseling Newsletter

December 2023

Important Dates

12/19/24 - ASVAB

1/8/24 - Post-Secondary Planning
Night (Gr. 11)
6:00 p.m. - WHS Library

2/8/24 - Resume Writing Workshop

2/15/24 - FAFSA Priority Deadline

2/15/24 - Electric Boat Application Day

3/20/24 - SAT School Day (Gr. 11)

4/4/24 - Mercy / Xavier College Fair
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Xavier High School

5/1/24 - National College
Decision Day

School Counseling Office

Contact Information
(860) 399-6214

Mrs. Britton - School Counselor
Last Names: A - K
jbritton@westbrookctschoools.org
Ext. 3722

Ms. Kurek - School Counselor
Last Names: L - A
rkurek@westbrookctschoools.org
Ext. 3724

Ms. Carson
Career/College Readiness Coordinator
lcarson@westbrookctschoools.org
Ext. 3741

Mrs. Anderson
Administrative Assistant
landerson@westbrookctschoools.org
Ext. 3727

COLLEGEBOARD TESTING OPPORTUNITIES

S.A.T. EXAM

satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration</u>
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024
June 1, 2024	May 16, 2024

A.C.T. EXAM

actstudent.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration</u>
February 10, 2024	February 23, 2024
April 13, 2024	April 19, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 16, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024

DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE

Mrs. Britton and Ms. Kurek visited classrooms and advisories for students in grades 9 - 12 to facilitate developmental guidance lessons in Naviance relating to Self Discovery, College, and Career.

WHS JOB BOARD

Looking for a job? A good number of local employers are looking to hire Westbrook students for seasonal and / or year round jobs. Check out the job board on the Career Connections webpage.

WORKING PAPERS

See Mrs. Vincent in the Main Office for more information regarding working papers. You will need a promise of employment letter from your employer, and a copy of your birth certificate or your passport.

ASVAB TEST

Tuesday, December 19th

The ASVAB, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, is an aptitude test that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. Students participating in the ASVAB can learn valuable information about career options and their aptitudes for success in those careers. This assessment is great compliment to the Naviance assessments students complete in grades 9 - 11. While the military uses this assessment to place candidates for the armed services, military recruiters will not gain access to Westbrook student information or scores as part of Westbrook's participation in the ASVAB. Students who are not interested in joining the military after high school can be assured their participation in the ASVAB is solely for their personal use in career exploration. Sign up in the School Counseling Office with Ms. Carson.

PSAT SCORES

In October the PSAT 8/9 was administered to students in grade 9 and the PSAT/NMSQT to students in grades 10 and 11. Scores for these exams have been released and are accessible through your student's CollegeBoard account. Mrs. Britton and Ms. Kurek are working with these students to creat their CollegeBoard accounts. Paper score reports will be mailed home this week. Mrs. Britton and Ms. Kurek are also working with students to create Khan Academy accounts and linking them with their CollegeBoard accounts. This collaboration will provide students with lessons targeted to support their individual PSAT areas of weakness.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



COLLEGE & POST-SECONDARY RESOURCES

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid Opens: December 31st, 2023

The FAFSA needs to be completed in order to be considered for federal grants, loans, work study, and select scholarships for colleges and many post-secondary programs. Each institution uses their own formula to determine your federal aid eligibility based on the Student Aid Index generated by the FAFSA. Many states and colleges use the FAFSA to determine their own institutional aid. The priority deadline for Connecticut schools is February 15th, 2024. Be sure to check the deadline for all colleges to which you have applied / will apply, in and out of state.

The FAFSA for the 2024 - 2025 school year has undergone major changes, the biggest change in FAFSA history. Due to this change, the FAFSA is opening December 31st, 2023. This change may cause a delay in schools receiving the information needed to calculate financial aid packages and releasing them to students. As a reminder, the tax information used to complete the FAFSA will be your 2022 tax return.

CSS PROFILE

College Scholarship Service Profile, the CSS Profile, is an online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid. Not all colleges require the CSS Profile. Be sure to check your colleges financial aid pages. If they do, make sure to check the deadline for that college(s).

COLLEGE FAIRS

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is hosting virtual and in-person college fairs during the spring of 2024. We will be taking the juniors to an in-person NACAC college fair on Thursday, March 21, 2024, during the school day. Local spring college fair are starting to be announced. More information to come.

TUITION BREAK

New England Board of Higher Education

The NEBHE tuition break program provides significant tuition savings to residents of the six New England states when they enroll in out-of-state public colleges and universities within New England, and pursue approved programs. Eligibility varies by state and institution.

PACT

Pledge to Advance Connecticut

Qualified Connecticut residents can pursue a degree or certification tuition and fee-free through PACT. Funding covers the gap between federal and state grants received and community college tuition and mandatory fees. To receive PACT funding, apply to CT State Community College and complete the FAFSA. Entry into the PACT program will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors - The School Counseling Office is beginning to receive local and regional scholarships. These opportunities are being updated in Naviance as we are notified, and will continue to be throughout the spring. Naviance also has several reputable National scholarship search engines. Check Naviance on a regular basis for updates on scholarships. Please visit the School Counseling Office with any questions or support need.

The Westbrook Foundation and Local Scholarship packet will be available sometime in February. More information to come.

SCHOOL COUNSELING GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Each class has a Google Classroom run by the School Counseling Department. Important information relevant to our office is posted in these classrooms on a regular basis. All students have been invited to their respective classroom.