

COUNSELING UPDATE FOR PTA  
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

The College Planning Center will work with families to actually fill in the FAFSA, the required form for federal financial aid. Parents can schedule half hour appointments and will have their FAFSA ready to submit or mail at the end of their appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 877-272-4692. The College Planning Center ([www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov)) has an office at 1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, (located in the new Kirkwood Regional Center). Students can drop in for college planning as well.

Thanksgiving is a great target date for submission of college applications. We have processed 114 applications to 26 different states and for 40 different students to date. We will announce that we would hope any requests for counselor involvement for applications with December 1<sup>st</sup> deadlines would be turned in by Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. It may seem far in advance but Thanksgiving break will limit our availability for working on those applications.

The PSAT was successfully completed at the KTOS Center on October 11<sup>th</sup>. 133 students took the test. The juniors, 60 in number, will be considered for the National Merit competition. To have any chance of moving forward in that competition a student's selection index (combination score on all three sub-tests) will need to be at a national rank in the top one or two percent. We would expect those test scores to arrive and be distributed in December.

The counselors just completed their Warriors Road to College, Oct. 23 – Oct. 27. It was a week where we promoted juniors to begin thinking about the colleges and for seniors to begin the application process.

The counselors also completed their annual college tour at the beginning of November. The visited Grinnell College, Iowa Western Community College, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Briar Cliff College, Morningside College, Buena Vista University, and Iowa Central Community College. Counselors will give an overview of their visits to interested students in December and to the PTA at a later date.

Please check out the counseling page, accessed through our school web site ([www.crwash.org](http://www.crwash.org)). It is up-to-date and a great resource for any counseling related information. Please note that there is the occasional scholarship for juniors, so watch for those. The vast majority of scholarships are for seniors.

The ACT is offered in Cedar Rapids on December 9<sup>th</sup> but not at WHS. It is the most realistic remaining date for seniors to take the ACT for fall, 2018 application consideration. Late registration can continue through November 17<sup>th</sup> by paying an additional \$29.50. Register on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

We are currently in the process of balancing classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Students should check their second semester schedules on PowerSchool and request any changes that they would like as soon as possible.