

# THE GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

February 2019

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Early Feb.** - Transcripts will be available for juniors with Mrs. Wadsworth in Guidance
- **Fri. 2/8** - Registration deadline for 3/9 SAT
- **Sat. 2/9** - ACT Exam (not given at WHS)
- **2/18-2/22** - February Break
- **Wed. 2/27** - Late registration deadline for 3/9 SAT
- **Sat. 3/9** - SAT Exam (not at WHS)

## Practice ACT (sophomores):

A practice ACT will be administered at WHS on Saturday 3/16. The fee for this test is \$20 until Monday 3/11, after which there will be an additional \$5 late fee (\$25 total). The preferred method of registration and payment is through the "Online Payment Center" for Weston Public Schools. If you have enrolled students in programs at Weston Recreation, you may already have an account. If you don't have an account, it will take a day or two to set you up with a PIN. Any questions can be directed to Ben Wilkins at Case House: 781-786-5236. Checks made payable to "Town of Weston" will also be accepted in the Guidance office.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

### SENIORS:

It's too early to be developing senioritis! Did you know slacking off can jeopardize your future plans? Many colleges reserve the right to deny admission to an accepted applicant if the student's senior year grades drop. Colleges expect students to maintain previous levels of academic achievement - so stay focused!

**Reminder for senior parents:** aim to complete financial aid forms as soon as possible - financial deadlines are not flexible. You do not need to wait to file taxes before filing for financial aid; you can use an estimate of your Expected Family Contribution. Also, it is important to note that everyone should complete the FAFSA .

### FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, AND JUNIORS:

#### Scheduling:

- Scheduling for the 2019-20 school year will start in March. All students must see their school counselor during the appropriate dates:
  - **Juniors:** 2/26 - 2/28
  - **Sophomores:** 3/1 - 3/5
  - **Freshmen:** 3/6 - 3/11 (no school on 3/8)



# VISITING COLLEGES OVER FEB. BREAK?

## Tips to keep in mind!

- Schedule an admissions interview while you're there. The Guidance Department offers mock interviews to practice - see Ms. Gower or Mr. Thuot to schedule an appointment!
- Sit in on a class and get a feel for the teaching style.
- Eat in the dining hall. Is the food any good?!
- Visit the dorms. Check out more than one dorm since they're not all the same.
- Do an overnight! This can be both fun and informative
- Talk to students on campus to get a sense of their authentic college experience.

## February is Financial Aid Month!

With the cost of college rising each year, it is important for students and their families to utilize all financial aid resources available to them:

- Fastweb provides great information on federal aid, scholarships, and more:

<http://www.fastweb.com/financial-aid>

- Explore Scholar Snapp through CommonApp for help applying to scholarships: <http://www.scholarsnapp.org>

- If you're applying for the METCO Scholarship, you must submit a Weston High School Application for Scholarship Aid form in the Guidance Office in order to be considered

- Scholarships are added daily to the Scholarship Binder in the Guidance Office and the Scholarship Tab on Naviance. Ask Ms. Gower or Mr. Thuot for help accessing this valuable resource!

# Alternative Post Graduate Plans

If you feel like college may not be for you, or if you need a breather before starting, you are not alone! Fortunately, there are various options for students considering something other than college. Make an appointment with your school counselor to navigate what pathway may be best for you.

**Post-Graduate (PG) Year:** An additional year of academic study at private or boarding school. The Guidance Office has a list of New England Schools that offer a PG year.

**Gap Year:** Programs that are offered in between high school and college that provide students various opportunities for learning, internships, volunteer work, and travel experiences.

**Armed Forces:** Students who aspire to serve in our military can pursue Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and US Coast Guard careers.

