Guidance Newsletter December 2020

Volume 10

Weston High School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Freshmen

- Make sure you are registered for Naviance
- Schedule a meeting with your counselor so you can get to know them and they can get to know you (feel free to reach out to our interns, Ms. He and Ms. Kelley for assistance)!

Sophomores

- Continue reaching out to teachers and classmates to stay connected.
- Ask questions if there is anything you are interested in!
- Take the opportunity to try something new while at home!

Juniors

- College Board will be releasing PSAT scores on December 8th. Make sure to check your email for details! View page 3 for information about understanding your scores.
- Get ready for Guidance Seminar to prepare for your post-grad planning process

Seniors

- Continue to update your prospective colleges list and make sure to meet with your counselor before any upcoming deadlines
- Make sure to update your counselor as you continue to hear back from colleges.
- Continue to check Naviance (and other scholarship sites) for scholarships available to you!

Important Dates

Sat 12/5 - SAT (Subject) Testing Date
Tues 12/8 - PSAT Scores Available
Wed 12/9 - Quarter 2 Midterm
Thurs 12/24 - Winter Recess Begins
Mon 1/4 - Return from Winter Recess
Tues 1/5 - Return of the Graduates!
Thurs 1/7 - Gap Year Info Session (pg 2)

Gap Year Resources

Go Overseas

Curious about what a gap year is? Unsure how to plan for a gap year? Concerned about taking a gap year in these unprecedented times? Through Gap Year Fairs, hosted by Go Overseas, students and parents can learn all about gap years through webinars and programs hosted by experts in the field. Go Overseas also helps connect families with gap year program providers from all over the world. Visit their website at https://www.gooverseas.com/gap-year/usa-fairs for a complete list of all upcoming webinars, classes, Q&A sessions, and program presentations for more information.

3-W Gap Year Virtual Information Night

January 7th, 2021 6:45PM

Mark your calendars! Weston, Wellesley and Wayland High School are putting together a program for parents and students interested in seeking additional information about gap years. Featured speaker, Jason Sarouhan, from J2Guides will be sharing their knowledge on the subject and all the benefits that come with gap years. We will be sending an invitation link out to families closer to the event date.

Juniors, Did You Know?

Khan Academy offers free SAT prep for students who link their College Board accounts to their Khan Academy account. Visit https://www.khanacademy.org/ to access free practice SAT tests, test-taking tips and strategies, and instant feedback uniquely tailored to your needs.

Understanding PSAT Scores!

You finally got your PSAT scores back! But what does that mean for your achievement level? It's difficult to understand what all of the various numbers and scores included in your official report are telling you. *College Board*, the *Princeton Review*, and many more resources can give you detailed outlines of how to read and compare your scores to the national percentiles, as well as understand your performance on certain sets of questions. Let's go over some of the basic score types and how you can compare them to the national percentiles.

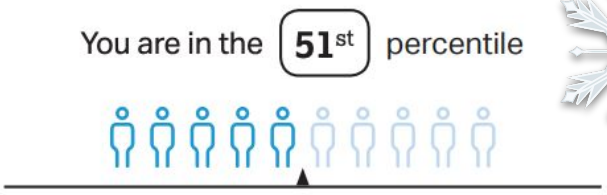
Total score: This is the sum of the two section scores you received. Total scores range anywhere from 320-1520.

Raw Score vs Section Scores: The raw score is simply the number of questions answered correctly in each section. These scores are then converted to the standard section scores that can range anywhere from 160-760.

Reading & Writing Score: This section score shows the combined score of both the Reading Test and the Writing & Language Test sections. Like other section scores, it ranges anywhere from 160-760.

Math Score: This section score shows your performance on the Math Test. Like other section scores it ranges from 160-760.

National Percentiles: Percentiles are usually shown with your Total Score and signify, based on the scores of everyone who has taken this exam, where you fall on the achievement scale. For example, if your percentile rank was 51%, that would mean that you scored the same or higher than 51% of others who have taken this exam.



These are just a few of the various scores you can receive from the PSAT. There are also Benchmark scores, Selection Index Scores, and individual section Test Scores that can also help identify skill level and readiness for college. For more info on any of these scores or how to access your score reports, you can explore these resources from *College Board* and *The Princeton Review*.

CollegeBoard PSAT/NMSQT: Understanding Scores 2020-2021.pdf

CollegeBoard website: Understanding Scores

The Princeton Review: Guide to PSAT Scores

College Guidance Network

The College Guidance Network (CGN) consists of parents, who are also CEOs, educators, and entrepreneurs, whose goal it is to provide tools and information to students and families so that they can better navigate the college process through virtual technology that can be accessed in the comfort of the home. Explore their website for information regarding:

- Admissions in the time of COVID
- Crafting Great College Essays
- College Affordability and Financial Aid 101
- And more!

For a full list of upcoming CGN events, visit www.collegeguidancenetwork.com/programming

MEFA Financial Webinars

The Massachusetts Educational Financial Authority (MEFA) is a not-for-profit state authority established in 1982 dedicated to helping families plan, save, and pay for college. Explore their website for webinars and resources for:

- Breaking down the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- College financing
- Researching colleges
- Covid-19 impacts on the college process
- And more!

For a full list of upcoming MEFA events, visit www.mefa.org/events

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

-Theodore Roosevelt

College Spotlight!

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

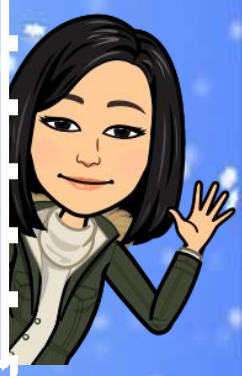
Location: Amherst, MA
Type: Public, 4-Year
Website: https://www.umass.edu/

Fun Facts:

- Over 100 undergraduate programs to choose from
- The DuBois Library in the center of campus is the 2nd largest library in the world with 28 floors and typically open 24/7 (Pre-Covid)
- Ranked #1 Best Campus Food by Princeton Review

Have questions regarding college essays? Preparing for a college interview? Struggling with classes? Want to chat about ways to destress? Want to practice playing an instrument in front of a small audience? We are here!

Send us an email, or you can schedule an appointment with us online using these links:

Schedule online with Miss He:
https://www.picktime.com/he

Schedule online with Miss Kelley:
https://www.picktime.com/kelley