

Grade 8

- Review Graduation requirements, both at the high school level and the state level. Knowledge IS power. Know what you need. You will need to satisfy course requirements, demonstrate competency level & readiness. Some credits taken in 8th grade will earn you high school credit. These will count into your high school credits and GPA. Your counselor is a great resource for information.
- 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. They are college level courses & you must pass course to have WCS district cover the costs.
- 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 8th grade.
- It's never too early to consider opening a college savings account. Begin to discover how others finance college, so you are prepared.

Freshman

- Know how many credits/number of subjects 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 as you begin to think about your future.
- It's not too early to discuss your future with your counselor. (ie. College plans, employment interest, military options, etc.)
- 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. Utilize the SchoolLink system assessments to help you narrow your search.
- Talk with counselors/teachers regarding the College Credit Plus program & what you need to do to be eligible.
- Stay focused on your grades & ask for help immediately when necessary. Keep your mind sharp by reading books to continue to develop reading skills.
- 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.
- Begin to research how to obtain financial aid.
- Speak with your counselor regarding how the SchoolLinks system may help you narrow college choices and begin your preparation for this journey toward college or career.
- The College Credit Plus (CCP) program is an excellent way to possibly earn high school & college credit at the same time. Check with teachers/counselor to see if it's a good fit for you.
- 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

- Schedule an appointment with your counselor to make certain you have the necessary classes & credits for graduation, if unsure. Map out the next two years.
- 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. All juniors will take a state-mandated ACT for work & college readiness for free. Check requirements of interested colleges to see if they are test optional.
- Thoughts should definitely be on 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. Familiarize yourself with SchoolLinks. It will give you many tools to help narrow your searches for colleges & employment descriptions.
- 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.
- Build that college list early & be ready to begin checking deadlines. Submit your application early if you know where you wish to go! SchooLinks is a management system that will help you maintain good records of: enrollment deadlines, tuition fees, room & board, financial aid, & other expenses.
- Apply to colleges directly to the college or via common app. Then, tell us this on SchooLinks. Ask for transcripts & recommendation letters directly on SchooLinks. We cannot send a transcript if you haven't applied. Please ask your counselor for assistance, if you do not understand the process.
- Attend FAFSA meetings held at WHS to help you understand the process. FAFSA is filled out online at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid. Enrollment dates may differ each year.
- Take/retake the ACT or SAT college entrance tests early in the year to improve your score, should you desire based on school & past scores.
- Arrange college tours & speak with admission representatives that visit WHS.
- If not college, search out other information/options:
 - Military, trade schools, technical training, internships.
- Request teacher recommendations on SchooLinks. Please ask the recommender ahead of time in person before sending an email online. Give the teacher 3-4 weeks for completion. Don't wait until the last minute to ask.

- Check bulletin board in the main hallway for scholarships & job opportunities. Most scholarships will be administered through the Wayne County Community Foundation's website. Submit one application, and the system will match you to relevant scholarships.
- Social media sites should represent the best of you. Please pay attention to what you are posting.
- SchoolLinks will have a Senior End of Year Activity that needs completed. This gives WHS needed information regarding your desire to participate in commencement, your future plans, college choices, & gives you an avenue to request information as an alumnus.
- PLEASE NOTE that if you do NOT inform us via SchoolLinks of your final college choice, your final transcript cannot be sent.
- End your high school experience on a high note, representing your school in the best possible character.