



NORWICH FREE ACADEMY

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
News & Information for NFA Students and their
Parents/Guardians – September-October 2018

Welcome back! NFA's School Counseling Department Newsletter makes you aware of various guidance activities and available resources. Staying informed is key to high school success.

We encourage parents to check the Parents Page (MyNFA>Parents) and students to check their Portal Dashboard and G-mail (MyNFA>Students) regularly to stay informed.

THE NFA WEBSITE

MyNFA>STUDENTS at www.nfaschool.org

As more and more communications and school operations are conducted electronically, students must sign in daily to check their Portal Dashboard and Gmail for schoolwide announcements, updates, and information. From the dashboard, students access many other useful tools and links.

Students can access group spaces for each class in their schedule. Teachers post the course description, grading policy, major assignments and assessment dates as well as content and links to useful resources and tools.

From the dashboard, students can also access group spaces for many of their clubs and activities. Check the special group space for all Guidance related information.

MyNFA>PARENTS at www.nfaschool.org

Parents can access the information and tools they need to know and use as Wildcat parents including the daily schedule and school calendar, medical center, campus safety and food service information, and links to resources and forms. Some of those include:

PowerSchool, a web-based tool to access real-time information including student attendance and grades. Find the PowerSchool button on the right-hand side once you have selected MyNFA>Parents.

Parents receive a unique PowerSchool Access ID and Password to set up a PowerSchool account. Follow the step-by-step directions to set up an account. If you have questions or need assistance, contact your child's house secretary.

MySchoolBucks, an online feature enabling parents to pay for school meals for their children. Find the MySchoolBucks button on the right once you have selected MyNFA>Parents. By following a few simple directions, you can set up and begin to manage your account by depositing money using Visa, Mastercard, Discover or electronic check. You will need to enter each child's name, birthdate, and NFA student ID. Once the account is established, your child uses his/her NFA ID as a debit card to purchase food against his/her account balance.

Also, find NFA's charging policy about school lunches at the Chartwells's Food Service link on the left-hand banner menu.

NAVIANCE/FAMILY CONNECTION, an online site offering students extensive information about colleges, scholarships and career exploration. Students access their account from MyNFA>Students. Students will be assigned grade level tasks throughout the year and guided through classroom lessons to complete career and personality interest inventories and a resume. For assistance, contact the Career Resource Specialist or your child's school counselor.

THE CAREER RESOURCE CENTER (located in Latham Building- first floor) provides information about career and college planning, the military, scholarships, and employment. Students who need **working papers** should bring their paperwork to the Career Center to obtain the required signatures.

COLLEGE VISITS take place on Wednesdays and Fridays in the fall. College representatives visit NFA to meet with students and share information about their schools and programs. The schedule is posted on Naviance and is updated as appointments are made, so be sure to check frequently. Students interested in attending any session should obtain a pass from their counselor or the Career Resource Specialist.

STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN (SSP) MEETINGS take place throughout the year to give students and parents or guardians an opportunity to meet with their school counselor to discuss credits, transcripts, course selections, scheduling and post-secondary plans. You will be mailed an invitation with more information. 12th and 10th grade SSPs are individual meetings with the school counselor. 11th and 9th grade SSPs meet in small groups.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Danieluk at 860-425-5601 or your counselor. If you require special accommodations, please call Mrs. Danieluk in advance.

COLLEGE TESTING FOR SENIORS

TEST	TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SAT	October 6	September 7
SAT	November 3	October 5
SAT	December 1	November 2
ACT	October 27	September 28
ACT	December 8	November 2

Register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org

Register for the ACT at www.act.org

Seniors should plan to take the SAT or ACT this fall. If you take multiple tests, colleges will accept your highest scores.

When you register for the test, request that your scores be sent to the colleges to which you plan to apply; otherwise, you will need to pay an additional fee.

Seniors applying for early decision need to make sure they have their testing requirements (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT) completed before December.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES

Students taking ECSU classes must complete the ECSU registration form to receive credit. The form is available from any Guidance Office. Submit the form to Mrs. Danieluk in the Allis House Guidance Office with a check for the fee by the registration deadline, Friday, September 7. Contact your counselor or Mrs. Elliott with questions.

OPEN HOUSE/PARENTS NIGHT: Counselors will be available in their offices, 6-8:30 p.m., September 13, during Open House. If you would like an appointment with your school counselor that evening, please contact your counselor or Mrs. Danieluk at 860-425-5601.

DEPARTMENT CHANGES: We welcome Christina Burdzy Herrick upon her return from leave and a new Career Resource Center Specialist in Latham. AnneMarie Larkin will remain in the Tirrell House to work with our International students. Ron Noyes will return from retirement to fill in for Lyndsie Sumner who is on leave until October. Mr. Noyes can be reached by email at noyes@nfaschool.org.

GUIDANCE and SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT	
Jeanne Elliott, Director	860-425-5600
Jessica St. George, HOD, 9 th Alpha Unit	860-425-5622
Cranston House 9th Grade Counselors	
Jeremiah Berard, Delta & Gamma Units	860-425-5626
Kathleen Machnik, Beta & Zeta Units	860-425-5609
10th Grade Counselors	
Robert Briones, Tirrell	860-425-5619
Christina Burdzy Herrick, Tirrell	860-425-5616
Anne Zinn, Tirrell	860-425-5623
11th Grade Counselors	
Margaret Daley, Shattuck	860-425-5610
Kelsey Klaeson, Shattuck	860-425-5613
Rosalie Nogiec, Shattuck	860-425-5614
12th Grade Counselors	
Mallarie Seidel, Bradlaw	860-425-5615
Lyndsie Sumner/Ron Noyes, Bradlaw	860-425-5621
Joseph Tella, Bradlaw	860-425-5617
International Students	
AnneMarie Larkin, Tirrell	860-425-5611
Sachem Program	
December Heffernan	860-425-5767
Staff	
Michelle Danieluk, Guidance Assistant	860-425-5601
Melody Pishka, Registrar	860-425-5605
Jennifer Jarrett, Assistant Registrar	860-425-5606
Career Resource Center	860-425-5620

The **PSAT** (an SAT practice test) will be given to all uppers and lowers during the school day, **Wednesday, October 10** at no cost to students. NFA assumes the cost. Teachers provide practice materials to students in class. The PSAT is an excellent opportunity for students to become familiar with and prepare for the SAT. Along with their results, students gain access to a free, personalized SAT study program.

For **11th-graders**, the PSAT is the qualifying exam for the scholarship competitions administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The **PSAT 8/9** is the first in the College Board series of assessments closely aligned with the PSAT and SAT. It measures the skills students need to be on track for success in college and careers. **Ninth-grade students** will take this test during the school day, **October 10** at the same time that upper-class students take the PSAT. NFA covers the cost of the test.

The **ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is the entrance test for the military, but there is no obligation for test-takers to join the military. The test will be given 7:30 a.m., Thursday, **October 4**, in the Ensemble Room. It is free and open to all students. Contact the Career Resource Specialist or your school counselor before the registration deadline, Friday, September 28.

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

NFA offers several opportunities for students to earn college credit while in high school. Students interested in receiving college credit must register for the appropriate program (see below). Credits earned from UConn and ECSU are usually transferable to other colleges. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

UConn EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE COURSES

Students should have registered for UConn credit by the end of last June. Those who have not registered can do so during UConn's Add/Drop registration period, August 15 - September 14. Students must **apply** online with an uploaded consent form by the **September 14 deadline**. Once the application has been processed by UConn, the student must **enroll** in the class(s) by **September 28**. Forms are available in the Guidance Office or follow the ECE link on your MyNFA>Student Portal Dashboard. No fee is required with the registration. UConn will email bills to students in October.

For a student who previously applied online and whose application was processed, **September 28** is the add/drop deadline. Log in to your UConn Student Administration account to make any enrollment changes. **If you drop a class at NFA for which you have already registered with UConn, you must ALSO complete the UConn online drop process by September 28, or you will be billed the entire course fee.**

Step by step instructions are available by following the ECE link on MyNFA>Student Portal Dashboard. If you have additional questions, contact your school counselor or Mrs. Elliott in Allis House, 860-425-5600, elliottj@nfaschool.org.

Seniors- Remember to use the Career and Academic Workbook – MyNFA>Student Portal Dashboard, Guidance Groupspace

