



WESTLAKE
HIGH SCHOOL

March 30, 2020

Greetings Westlake students,

We hope you and your loved ones are well. We understand that everyone's life has changed drastically over the last several weeks, and the Westlake Counseling Department would like to take a moment to let you know that we are here to help you navigate through this weird time. Please don't hesitate to reach out through email with questions and concerns, and if you want face-to-face conversation, we are happy to use Zoom.

Of primary importance is your well-being, and we encourage you to **engage in self-care strategies** (such as limiting exposure to news alerts, getting exercise, keeping in touch with friends and extended family, and setting boundaries between school time and other activities at home). We invite you to find resources for self-care [here](#).

In the next week or so, we ask that you login to Skyward to view your Career Plan and **review the courses you selected for the 2020-21 school year** -- if you would like to make changes, let your counselor know. If courses are missing, your counselor will be emailing you to help you complete your requests. It is important for us to know what classes you want since administrators are starting the process of planning next year's master schedule.

For those of you working on **outside credits through Texas Tech or UT high school programs**: keep working steadily on your courses!

- Texas Tech offers online exam proctoring from home using Proctorio (for courses started **after** September 1, 2019), so when you are done with your course you will seamlessly move to the exam. If you started your course prior to September 1, they are still working on a plan for the exam. *Please contact them for a free extension if your course expires soon.*
- UT is working rapidly to make Proctorio (which allows you to take the final at home) available for its online course exams as well. *For anyone currently enrolled in courses or exams, they will be extending the deadline through 5/31/20.*

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SENIORS

- We know that your semester has been irreparably disrupted and that many experiences you have been looking forward to have been cancelled (or face the possibility of being cancelled in the coming weeks). A recent cancellation is Senior Service Day, which is especially painful as it is a Westlake tradition Mr. Ramsey especially hoped to keep.
- Additionally, making your decision about college may be more difficult. Generally speaking, individual college websites remain the best source of up-to-date information. However, there are some resources that compile information that you may find helpful:
 - Some colleges have extended their **deposit deadline**, giving you more time to make a decision. You can find a running list [here](#) (note the highlighted date in the title showing you when it was last updated).
 - [This site](#) is tracking various **college admissions office changes** (such as event cancellations, whether or not admissions offices are open, and deadlines).
 - [YouVisit](#) and [CampusReel](#) offer **virtual college tours** narrated by students (many college websites are now doing the same, and admissions officers are working from home and able to answer questions).
- The **local scholarship application** is still open and the **deadline has been extended to Monday, April 13**; find links and information [here](#). We will send out an email through Naviance with links to other, non-local scholarships that it's not too late to apply for.
- Keep working on your outside credits; you can expect your counselor to check in on your progress toward completion :)
- You may be seeing requests for your **final transcript** in your admissions portal once you've selected a college to attend -- this will be sent **after** graduation when your credits are complete. Counselors will communicate with you near the end of the school year about where you want your final transcript sent.

JUNIORS

- We know you and your parents have a lot of questions about the college admissions process. We planned a parent/student information session for tonight, and were scheduled to meet with you in English in a few weeks. Instead, we will be sending out information in a series of emails, so stay tuned!



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- [YouVisit](#) and [CampusReel](#) offer virtual college tours narrated by students (many college websites do the same, and admissions officers are working from home and able to answer questions).
- Information about [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) dates will continue to be updated by those organizations. We will post information on our counseling website as it becomes available.

Many of you, regardless of grade level, share some level of concern about college admissions and the impact of COVID-19. Counselors are receiving multiple emails daily from colleges across the country reassuring all prospective students that their applications will not be negatively impacted by the altered instructional realities (and potential limit of enrichment opportunities) school districts across the country are dealing with. Everyone in admissions understands that spring semester 2020 will look different for current/future applicants since this pandemic is impacting people around the world.

Again, we invite you to reach out with questions and concerns; we are happy to help.

Westlake Counseling Department

<http://westlakecounseling.weebly.com/>

<http://healthychaps.weebly.com/>

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