

# SENIOR YEAR & BEYOND!



# WELCOME

## Admin Team:

Dhillon  
Koning (A-K)  
Chryst (L-Z)



## Counseling Team:

Jones (A-D)  
Duchesne (E-K)  
Zofkie (L-Q)  
Hills (R-Z)  
Tanis (College & Career)



# GOALS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

## ➤ Senior Year Planning

- Senior Graduation Coordinator
- Timeline for this year
- HSBP/SchoolLinks
- Jobs/Resumes
- Apprenticeships
- Military Programs
- College Admissions (2- and 4-year)
- Financial Aid (FAFSA/WASFA)

## ➤ Check out the Career Center

## ➤ Check out Counselor's Corner on Canvas



# SENIOR YEAR & GRADUATION COORDINATOR

Graduation: Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
Ferndale High School Stadium



- Brandi Tilton
  - Jostens Week: OCTOBER 30 – November 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Senior Photos: DUE OCTOBER 24
  - Diploma Information: Name Form Linked here & on Canvas **[DIPLOMA NAME SURVEY](#)**
  - Recognition Night: May 27



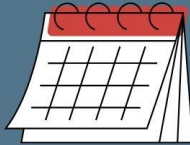
# SENIOR PORTRAIT

YEARBOOK SUBMISSION  
Class of 2026



## The Requirements

- Professional quality, high resolution, vertical photos (300dpi) that are at least 600 x 800 pixels.
- The student's pose should be a basic head-and-shoulder shot, preferably full front or slightly to the side. Avoid extreme angles and hands in photo. Senior should be centered, facing the camera, and pictured from the waist-up. Full-body shots result in a published photo of your senior's face being tiny when it should be the focal point. Therefore, full-body shots will be cropped.
- All clothing and accessories must be school-appropriate.
  - See handbook for specific details. No props--such as cars, pets, or hats--are allowed.
- The background should not be distracting, and should contrast with student's clothing color (medium-toned, neutral-color backgrounds preferred). The student's head and face should stand out from background, and have sufficient contrast.



## Submit by the Deadline!

Portraits for the Class of 2026 need to be submitted **NO LATER THAN Friday, October 17th** via the Walsworth Yearbook Snap (school code: Ferndale2026). The site opens on **August 1st, 2025**.

*Failure to do so will result in either the traditional O'Connors's school picture being transferred in or, if no picture is available, your senior's name being listed under the "No picture available" section on the last page. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE NOT CLICKED "DO NOT PUBLISH" on Skyward to ensure your photo will be in the book.*



## Communicate with your Photographer

Be very clear about deadlines, photo requirements, and upload instructions. Also keep in mind that it may take your photographer several weeks to edit your senior's pictures, so book the photo shoot weeks before October 17th.

The Yearbook program will have a free senior photoshoot in September or October and will communicate dates as it gets closer.



## Ready to Upload?

- Visit [YearbookForever.com](http://YearbookForever.com) or download the mobile app-Yearbook SNAP- in the App store of your choice! Search for Ferndale High School, WA.
- Enter the code: Ferndale2026 (case sensitive).
- Click "this photo is a portrait".
- Enter the name of the student in the photo
- Describe the photo in the notes--i.e, senior portrait, brunette in front of tree.
- Enter your contact info and you're done! Thank you for submitting!



## IMPORTANT!!!!

Emails of photos will not be accepted and will quickly clog my inbox and keep me from getting emails. The system will NOT give you a "senior photo was approved message" as I have to go through and manually download and approve. A file with student ID numbers will be sent in September for confirmation, but note that it may take 2-3 business days for the file to be updated. For questions, you can email: [victoria.caputo@ferndalesd.org](mailto:victoria.caputo@ferndalesd.org).

OCT 24!

# Jostens Senior Week Savings

Oct. 30th to Nov. 9th

- Free shipping on all products
- Receive a \$20 savings on your cap and gown
- Receive \$40 off when ordering your ring. Promo Code RING40
- Be guaranteed the official graduation announcement
- Link will be available on Counselor Corner Canvas

# TIMELINE OF SENIOR YEAR: WHAT TO EXPECT & WHEN

## ➤ September

- Meet with your counselor to discuss credits and post-grad plans

## ➤ October


- Start 4-year College Applications (Common App)
- Financial Aid application opens (FAFSA)
- Update School Links (new platform for HSBP)

## ➤ November

- Early Action Apps Due!
- Financial Completion Event NOV 12th @5:30
- Update academic resume for scholarships

## ➤ December

- Complete College Applications by specific deadlines
- Begin to search and apply for scholarships



*Be sure to check out specific college admission websites for more details and timeline for your specific pathway!*

# TIMELINE CONTINUED...

- **January**
  - Check Career Center for Scholarships!
  - Pass classes for end of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester!
- **Feb - March**
  - Continue searching and applying for scholarships!
  - Apply to Community or Tech Schools
  - Meet with Recruiters and connect with Employers
- **April**
  - SBA Math & ELA Tests (or Grad Pathway Check)
- **May**
  - Acceptance letters! Final decisions!
  - Recognition Night!
  - Request Final Transcripts through Parchment!
  - Notify counselor of post-high school plans (senior survey)!
- **June → GRADUATE!!! 😊**

# HSBP (SCHOOLINKS)

- WA State Graduation Requirement due by May!
- Helps your counselors connect you with resources and opportunities that align with your goals
- CAREER INTERESTS
- PLANS AFTER GRADUATION
- PREFERRED COLLEGES & AREAS OF STUDY



High School  
& Beyond Plan

**MAJOR SENIOR RESOURCE!**

**Career  
Center  
Room 123**



# FHS Career Center

## Who uses the Career Center?

**ALL FHS STUDENTS!** 😊

- Check it out if you need more information on:
  - Volunteer, Apprenticeship, & Internship Opportunities
  - Jobs for students
  - Career Research (with and without college path)
  - Resume Building Help (Cover Letters, Interview Tips, etc.)
  - College Applications & Essays
    - [Application guide for first-year students \(commonapp.org\)](#)
    - [Results of Your College Search - BigFuture | College Board](#)
  - Financial Aid
- Campus Visits & Field Trips
- Military Interest

# WORK FORCE PATHWAY

- What you can do right now...
  - Take classes that support your workforce goals
  - Create/Update resume
  - Sign up for any career path related events that will expose you to different types of jobs available after you graduate
  - Apply to as many places as possible
    - Applications can be found online OR In person
  - Talk to loved ones and local professionals about their experiences
  - Don't get discouraged! Keep going! Ask for help!  
[Michaela.tanis@ferndalesd.org](mailto:Michaela.tanis@ferndalesd.org)

# Apprenticeship & Internship Programs

## Apprenticeships

- 1-2 years, learn specific trade skills, compensated, earn a certificate/license in the field, high chance of immediate employment
- Careers: Building, Construction, Manufacturing, Machine, IT, Healthcare, Service, Body Art, and Support
- Typically, 18+ with HS Degree/GED
- [WA L&I Apprenticeships](#)

## Internships

- Temporary or seasonal (3-6 months), help you learn more about a general industry role or company, typically not compensated
- Careers: Marketing/Sales, Finance, Communications, HR, Social Work, Sports Med
- Typically 16+

# Military

- US Air Force
- US Navy
- US Army
- US Marines Corps
- US Coast Guard
- National Guard
  - Representatives will be visiting throughout the year
  - We offer the ASVAB 3x/school year – Nov 5, Feb 11, April 15 - [ASVAB SIGN-UPS](#)

Contact local recruiters to learn more!

See Michaela for complete contact list

# Community & Tech College

## ➤ WHY?

- Financially more accessible
- Specific training / certification
- 2-year programs
- Some 4-year programs are available
- Smaller class sizes
- Local options
- OPEN ACCESS & ROLLING ENROLLMENT



# Community & Tech College

- **One application to apply to all!**

**<https://apply.ctc.edu/user>**

- Some have application fees
- If you are enrolled in Running Start, you will need to re-apply as a college student

\*All seniors will complete applications for CC or Tech during Eagle Time

# 4-Year University

## WHY?

- More advanced degree options
- Campus Life

## Things to Consider:

- Apply to 3-5 colleges (reach, target, safety)
- Location/size (Urban? Rural? Community Demographics?)
- Educational Programs (do they offer your major/interest?)
- Athletics
- Private vs Public
- Religious Affiliations
- Academic Fit (GPA/test scores)
- Cost!
- **College Search Tool:**

**College Search CollegeBoard**

**Princeton Review College Search**

**Higher Ed Book**

# Reach

- Academically challenging – you may not quite fit the college's academic profile
- Selective admissions
- Potentially high cost of attendance

# Target

- Likely to be admitted
- You would be happy attending that college
- Would not be financially overwhelming to attend

# Safety

- You are almost certain to be admitted
- You would be happy and get a good education there
- Affordable with reasonable effort

# College Admissions 2026

College Admissions Counselors will use a holistic review of your high school career, including GPA, course rigor, extra curricular activities, and community engagement! (It's not all about grades!)

# WA STATE MINIMUM COLLEGE ADMISSIONS (CADR)

**ENGLISH**

4.0 CREDITS

**MATH**

Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2  
Senior Year Math-Based Quantitative Course

3.0 CREDITS

**SCIENCE**

Some require Chemistry or Physics (WWU)

2.0 (LAB)

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

3.0 CREDITS

**WORLD LANGUAGE**

(consecutive & same)

2.0 CREDITS

**FINE ARTS**

1.0 CREDIT

# GUARANTEED ADMISSION WAGAP

## WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

3.0 GPA AND CADRs

- ✓ Central Washington University
- ✓ Eastern Washington University
- ✓ The Evergreen State College
- ✓ University of Washington Tacoma
- ✓ Washington State University
- ✓ Western Washington University

\*These Colleges will each send letters to eligible students

\*Western Washington University has WEGAP – 2.75 GPA

# 4 Year College Applications



- College Website
  - Create user account
- **Common Application**
  - Open an account at: <https://commonapp.org>
  - Add your counselor as a recommender right away
  - Check for specific supplements
- If you need admissions fee waiver, ask your counselor
- **CHECK DEADLINES!**

# College Application Essay

- Varies by college, so be sure to check their website
- Write to the prompt: Be honest, be yourself, share your unique story. You are special! 😊
- **Draft, Draft, Redraft**
- Have outside sources proofread for you (teacher, counselor, parent/guardian, mentor, etc.)



# Letters of Recommendation

- Varies by college! Check website or Common App
- Complete a '*Request for Letter of Recommendation Form*'
  - Available on Counselor's Corner Canvas Page
- Think about who can best write about your academic journey, activities, and abilities. Give form to each recommender.
  - Provide a **minimum of 3 weeks** to write the letter!
- **For the Common App:**
  - Invite two teachers to write letters.
  - Invite counselor to complete student recommendation
  - Ask before you send them an email invitation!

# College Entrance Exams

- All Washington State Public Colleges (and most Independent colleges) are **test-optional or test-blind**
  - **SAT**  
Reasoning Assessment (Critical Reading, Math & Writing)
  - **ACT**  
Curriculum Based (English, Math, Reading & Science)
- Scores:** Must be sent directly from the ACT/SAT websites at time of registration.
- Fee waivers available. Ask your counselor!

# Transcripts

- Request official and unofficial transcripts through Parchment  
<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/25078/account>
- Reach out to our Registrar in the Counseling Office if you have any questions:  
  
Mrs. Ruud –  
[Stephanie.Ruud@ferndalesd.org](mailto:Stephanie.Ruud@ferndalesd.org)
- Allow 3+ days for processing
- All fines must be paid



## TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS



All transcripts must be electronically requested through **Parchment.Com**.

Please reach out to **Mrs. Ruud** in the counseling office if you have any questions!

# What is Financial Aid?

Money to help pay for college costs...



Grants



Scholarships



Work Study



Loans



Other Financial  
Assistance

# Financial Aid: FAFSA/WASFA

○ Which one?

○ WASFA Questionnaire | WSAC

○ Why?

- To qualify for Grants and Scholarships!
- To get low-interest, forgivable federal loans
- Schools can put together a personalized FA package for you

# FAFSA/WASFA

**FAFSA Step 1:** Create an account - ([Create Account | Federal Student Aid](#))

**WASFA Step 1:** Create an account - ([WASFA \(Washington Application for State Financial Aid\) | WSAC](#))

## Financial Aid Completion Event!

For all Seniors wanting to start/complete their FA applications (FAFSA or WASFA). Please bring your school or personal device, a charger, parents/guardians, a SSN (if you have one), and a personal email address. There will be many FA specialist in attendance to help everyone complete their applications. Students can drop-in or attend virtually.

- When: Nov 12th
- Time: 5:30-7:30 PM
- Where: FHS Commons & Room 123
- Register Virtually Here: [Financial Aid Virtual Drop-In Registration](#)

# Scholarships



- **Merit Based vs. Income Based**
- **Local, State, & National Scholarships**
- **College/University Scholarships – Automatic OR Application Based**
- **Places of work – ASK!**
- Check the FHS Master Scholarship REGULARLY for updates!
  - One-Stop Shop for Scholarships (Local, State, & National):  
[Senior Scholarship Document](#)



**USE YOUR  
RESOURCES!  
WE ARE HERE  
FOR YOU!!!! 😊**

- [FHS Counselor's Corner](#)
- [PowerPoint](#)

# Dates to Remember!!!

- ✓ Oct 30<sup>th</sup>-Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Jostens Week
- ✓ Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Pictures Due
- ✓ Nov 12<sup>th</sup> FASFA Completion Event
- ✓ May 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Recognition Night
- ✓ Graduation: June 5<sup>th</sup>!!





Enjoy the journey  
**ONE STEP AT A TIME**