Class of 2027
Senior Year and Beyond

ACADEMICS PERSEVERANCE PARTNERSHIP
OPTIONS
HIGH SCHOOL

OHS Counselor & Support Staff

Bethany Barrett – Principal

Denise Brock - Registrar

Nicole Chang – School Counselor

Nick Hayes – Assistant Principal

Lauren Kackley – College and Career Coordinator

Karina Rosas – Administrative Assistant

Carmen Vassar – Administrative Assistant

Joe Wooding – Senior Success

Goals for Tonight

- Senior Year Planning
  - Graduation Requirements
  - 26-27 Senior Events
- Post High School Opportunities
  1. Work
  2. Apprenticeship
  3. Military
  4. College Admissions (2 and 4 year)
  5. Financial Aid Overview

Senior Year

- ✓ Senior check-in with Ms. Chang
  - ✓ Are you on track for graduation?
  - ✓ Have you met SBA testing OR completed CTE Pathway

This year - seek out opportunities!

- ❑ Work and/or Volunteer
- ❑ Explore college campuses (virtually and/or in-person)
- ❑ Talk to people in the field
- ❑ Community Based Learning

Graduation Requirements

Senior Year Career & College Experiences

**Sign up through SchoolLinks*

- **BP Student Day** – September 24th
- **College 101 Presentation** – September 28th
- **ASVAB** – October 2nd (Bellingham High School)
- **University of Washington Campus Visit** – October 6th (Bothell)
- **University of Washington Rep Visit** – October 6th
- **Eastern Washington University Rep Visit** – October 7th
- **College Fair** – October 8th (Sehome High School)
- **Bellingham Technical College Campus Tour** – October 20th
- **WAVE Tour** – October 21st
- **Central Washington University Rep Visit** – October 22nd
- **Bellingham Technical College Rep Visit** – October 27th
- **Whatcom Community College Campus Tour** – October 28th
- **Senior Preview Day** – October 30th (Western Washington University)

Senior Year Important Dates & Deadlines

- **Check for Scholarships in SchoolLinks** – Throughout the year
- **Senior Meeting Ms. Chang** – Fall
- **College Application –** Fall (Check college website for deadline)
- **FAFSA/WASFA Opens** – October 1st
- **FAFSA/WASFA Family Completion Event** – November 19th 6-8pm
- **Graduation Cap & Gown Ordered** – October 31st
- **Request staff recommendations for college application** - December
- Senior Portraits - Due January 21st
- **College acceptance letters and financial aid arrive** – March/April
- **High School and Beyond Plans Due** – April 1
- **Teen Job Fair –** April 22nd BHS 3-5pm
- **College Decision Day** – May 1st
- **Cap Decorating –** May 26th
- **Senior Trip Zodiac Schooner** – June 2nd
- **Graduation Rehearsal** - June 4th
- **Class of 2027 Graduation** – Tentative June 4th at Civic Field

1. Work Opportunities

- Create/Finalize Resume (SchoolLinks)
- Apply to several businesses (most applications are online)
- Hot Jobs (*OHS website* and SchoolLinks)
- Attend Teen Job Fair *(spring)* April 22; 3:00- 5:00 in BHS Gym

Can't find a job; consider volunteering (track your hours). Examples: Work parties with Bellingham Parks and Rec., Food Bank, Local Youth Group, Whatcom Humane Society, *(spring volunteer fair at OHS)*

Needs | The Volunteer Center of Whatcom County

Work-site Learning Opportunities – Turn your work hours into credits! Earn CTE or Elective Credits.

180 hours= .5 credits **360 hours= 1.0 credits**

2. Apprenticeship Programs

Career training opportunities combining classroom instruction with on-the-job training.

- ✓ "Earn while they learn"
- ✓ Deadlines vary by apprenticeship
- ✓ Some programs require Algebra 2
- ✓ Over 200 Registered apprenticeships in WA State
- ✓ Listed on Labor & Industries Website
- ✓ Earn Journey-level certifications

Career pathways include

- ➢ Building and Construction
- ➢ Manufacturing and Machine
- ➢ Service and Support
- ➢ Maritime

NORTHWEST MARITIME APPRENTICESHIP

- four-year, state-registered apprenticeship training Marine Service Technicians (MSTs)
- MSTs build, maintain, and repair recreational and commercial vessels
- classes run one evening/week and one Saturday/month from September-April
- partnered with over 16 companies across Whatcom & Skagit County

Buoyant Beginning Pre-apprenticeship

- a state-recognized pre-apprenticeship for Maritime Careers
- 6-week paid summer program for 18-29
- learn employability skills, professional development, and technical skills
- partnership with Lummi Nation

3. Military

- Air Force
- Navy
- Army
- Marines Corps
- Coast Guard
- Space Force

Representatives will table during lunchtime in November

- Local recruiter offices located off Telegraph Road

ASVAB Test Dates:

- October 2nd, 11:00AM - Bellingham High School
- November 5th, 1:15PM - Sehome High School
- March 8th, 8:45AM – Squalicum High School

**Register for tabling events and ASVAB test in SchoolLinks*

Benefits of Service

- Steady Pay
- Training
- Education
- Medical
- Retirement
- Travel and Adventure

Coast Guard

- **LT William Trumper**
- **Enlisted:** 2011 after college
- **Boatswains Mate:** SAR & Law Enforcement on small boats
- **Officer Candidate School:** Commissioned in 2019
- **CG Station Bellingham:** Current Commanding Officer
- **Stationed In**: Maine, Massachusetts, California, Washington

4. Community and Technical College

What is a Technical College?

- ✓ Focuses on career-specific skills and hands-on training
- ✓ Common programs include welding, automotive technology, healthcare, IT, and cosmetology
- ✓ Often leads to a certificate or associates degree
- ✓ Typically prepares students to enter the workforce quickly
- ✓ Courses emphasize practical experience and industry certifications

What is a Community College?

- ✓ Offers broader academic courses and career programs
- ✓ Common programs include liberal arts, business, science, education, and technical programs
- ✓ Often leads to an associate degree that can transfer to a four-year college
- ✓ Can prepare students for employment or continued study toward a bachelor's degree
- ✓ Courses may emphasize general education and academic transfer requirements

4. Community and Technical Colleges

- ✓ One application to apply to all
- ✓ Automatic Entry
- ✓ Most Applications are **FREE**
- ✓ Don't need the SAT/ACT
- ✓ Financial Aid and Scholarships available

4-year Colleges and Universities

What you NEED to know…..

- ✓ Application Process
- ✓ Common App
- ✓ Guaranteed Admissions Program
- ✓ College Application Essay
- ✓ SAT/ACT (test optional)
- ✓ Application Deadlines
- ✓ Letters of Recommendation
- ✓ Official OHS Transcript

Financial Aid

- What is Financial Aid
- Types of Financial Aid
- When You Should Apply for Financial Aid
- How to Apply for Financial Aid
- Scholarships
- Help and Resources

Types of Financial Aid

Grants	**Income based, federal, state, and college** **Example-Pell Grant**
Scholarships	Merit and income-based from public, private, and Non-profit sources Example – Whatcom Community Foundation
Loans	**Income-based federal and private** **Example: Unsubsidized and Subsidized**
Work Study	Income based federal, state, and college Example: tour guide at the college

Sources of Financial Aid

Federal	State	College	Organizations
Typically can be used at institutions in most states	Typically for residents to attend college in that state	Offered by a college to attend that college	Offered by non-profits, businesses, churches, etc.

FAFSA or WASFA

FAFSA	**Free Application for Federal Student Aid** **FAFSA.gov**
WASFA	Washington Application for State Student Aid wasac.wa.gov/WASFA

Both applications open October 1st

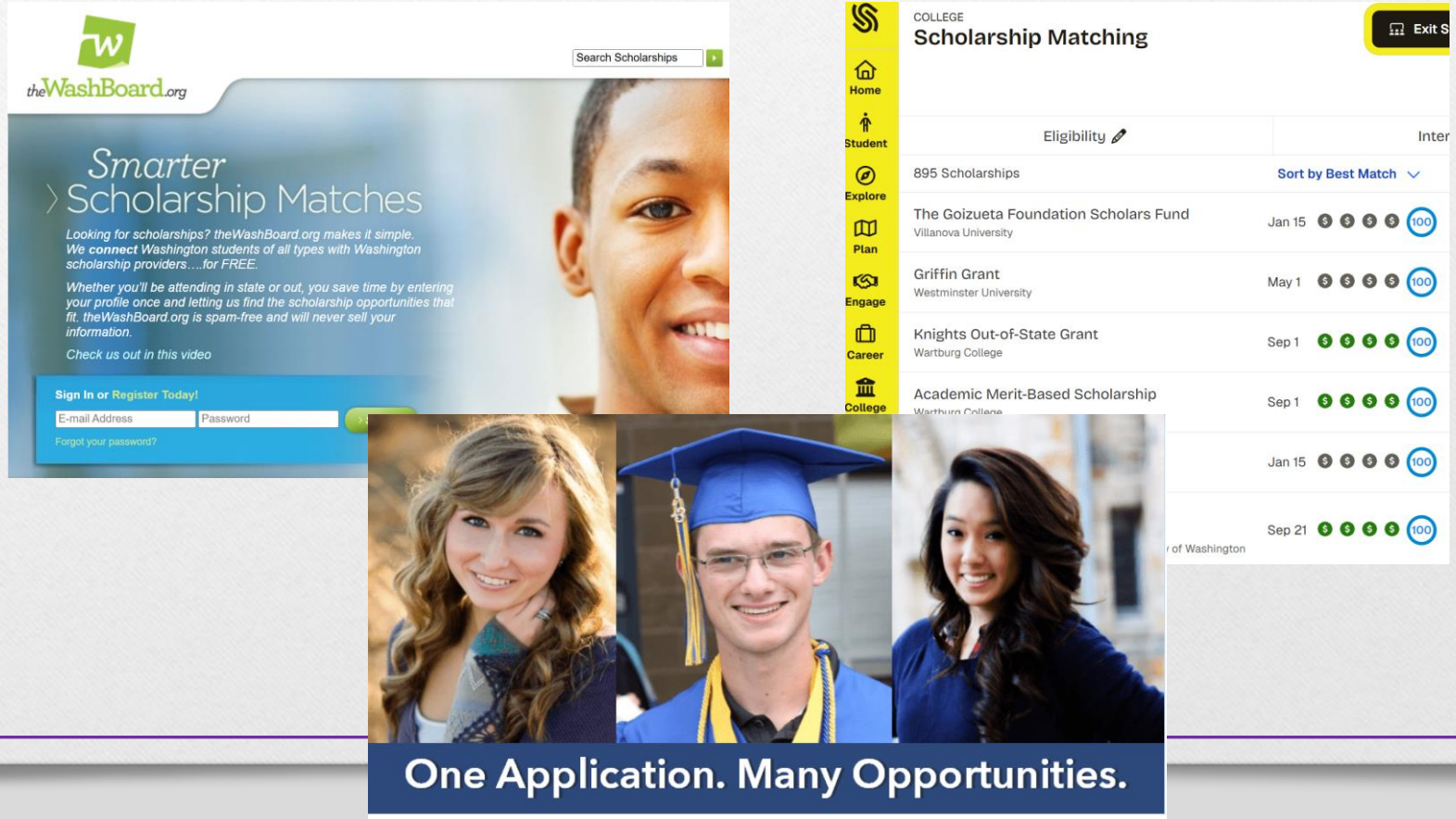
How to Apply

- FAFSA site is offered in English and Spanish
- Available Oct 1, 2026
- Parent and student must create account

What Do I Need to Apply?

- Your Drivers License or State ID (if you have one)
- Social Security Card or Green Card for students AND parents (if you have one)
- 2025 Federal Income Tax form for students AND Parents (if applicable)
- Additional Financial Information such as: Child Support Statements, bank statements, or other assets

Scholarships



Resources

- FuturesNW
  - One-on-One Support
  - College Fair – October 8th, 6:00PM – 8:00PM
  - Financial Aid Night – November 19th, 6:00PM – 8:00PM
  - FuturesBot

How to Stay in the Know?

Information will be communicated through ParentSquare
OHS Webpage
SchoolLinks – to register for events

Finish senior year strong and enjoy the journey!

Questions/Thoughts/Concerns?

Thank You!

NORTHWEST MARITIME APPRENTICESHIP

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
1790

Futures
NW

WWU

Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE