WSHS NEWSLETTER

PANTHER PRIDE GUIDE: OCTOBER 2026

WSHS COUNSELING OFFICE

WSHS Counseling Office
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Secretaries
Mrs. Donna Brouard
Mrs. Andrea Marvulli

Counseling Intern
Ms. Claire Cerniglia

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- **October 12** - Schools Closed
- **October 17** - PSAT 7am-11:30am
- **October 20 - November 2** - FREE SUNY Application period **QR Code is located on the last page of the Newsletter!**
- **October 30** - Teacher Planning Day/K-12 Early Release
- **November 13** - First Quarter Ends
- **November 17, 18 & 19** - Instant Admissions 9am-2pm
- **November 19** - College Planning Process + Financial Aid Night 6pm-8pm



CLASS OF 2027

Instant Admissions

Wallkill Senior High School will host its Annual Instant Admissions Event this November! Instant Admissions is an event where students have the opportunity to apply, meet with different college admissions representatives and receive an immediate decision regarding admission.

Applications must be submitted prior to the admission event!

This event will take place on November 17, 18, and 19. Be sure to sign up in the School Counseling Office!

Key Tips

- Dress for success!
- Be prompt!
- Be yourself!
- HAVE FUN!



College Planning Process & Financial Aid Night

College Planning Process + Financial Aid Night is coming up!

On November 19, 2026, from 6pm-8pm in the High School Auditorium, information will be given to students and their families to guide them through the college process, along with details about how to apply for financial aid!

IMPORTANT

Prior to filling out your FAFSA Application, students and their parent/guardian MUST create an FSA ID account.

What's an FSA ID & Why Do You Need One NOW?

- Both you (student) and one parent/guardian need to create separate FSA IDs.
- It's your legal signature - FSA ID lets you sign the FAFSA electronically
- Go to studentaid.gov and click "Create Account." You'll need an email, SSN, and date of birth.
- Verification can take 1-3 days, so do this BEFORE the FAFSA opens (October 1)

CLASS OF 2027 - COLLEGES OFFERING FREE APPLICATIONS FOR NYS COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH

This October, nearly 130 New York colleges and universities are waiving application fees for NYS College Application Month! With fees typically ranging from $50 to $90, this is your chance to save money and apply to college without the financial strain.

All SUNY Campuses:

- October 19 to November 2 - Apply to up to 5 SUNY schools with **no application fee**

CUNY Campuses:

- October 15 to November 16 - Applications to any CUNY schools are FREE during this window. Apply directly through cuny.edu

CLASS OF 2027

NYS STEM INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Applications for the 27-28 NYS STEM Incentive Program open on **October 1.**

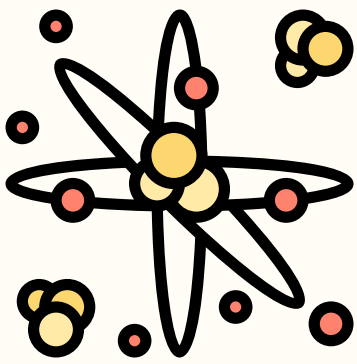
Eligible students must rank in the top 10% of their New York State high school graduating class and **must apply during their senior year of high school.**

The program provides a full-tuition scholarship for eligible students pursuing an approved STEM degree at a SUNY or CUNY college. Students may not receive both the NYS STEM Incentive Program award and the Excelsior Scholarship, as both provide full-tuition benefits.

To remain eligible for an award, students must complete the FAFSA and TAP applications each year.

Application deadline: August 15, 2027

For complete eligibility requirements and additional information, visit hesc.ny.gov/stem



CLASS OF 2027

CAI: COLLEGE ADMISSIONS INITIATIVE

CAI is part of the American Application Companion nationwide effort to bridge the gap between high school graduation and postsecondary education.

To see the full list of 2026 NYS colleges that are waiving application fees, visit hesc.ny.gov

Some CAI schools offering Free Applications:



Institution	Dates	Info
Baruch College	September 15 - November 16	baruch.cuny.edu
Mercy University	October 1 - November 1	mercy.edu
Marist University	October and November	marist.edu
Rochester Insititute of Technology	October 1 - October 31	rit.edu
Pace University	**NYC Campus:** October 1 - October 31 **Westchester Campus:** Year Round	pace.edu

CLASS OF 2028



THE PSAT IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17!

Students taking the exam should **arrive at the high school by 7am!**

Students need a College Board Account, and should be ready to sign in with their e-mail and password to their account.

The exam is administered virtually using an app called **Bluebook**. To sign into Bluebook, students should sign out of all apps and tabs on their Chromebook, then select the bottom left hand box on their homepage to select the Bluebook application.

The Counseling Department hosted Digital Readiness support to help students create accounts through Bluebook on **September 29 and 30** during lunch **periods 4-8**.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Next, students should prepare for the SAT!

Students who are sitting for the PSAT will receive their test results 3 weeks after the exam.

UPCOMING SAT DATES

The SAT is being administered on November 7 and December 5, 2026.

Registration Deadlines for these exams are October 23 and November 20, 2026. Click here to register!

CLASS OF 2029 & 2030

CLASS OF 2029

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO START LOOKING AT THESE THREE COMPONENTS:
TRANSCRIPTS, GPA, AND RESUMES

They are important for:

- Improving your chances of getting into a college of your choice.
- Getting into AP (Advanced Placement) classes, ADV, and College level classes that can further boost your GPA.
- Getting a job after high school.
- Receiving scholarships.

Helpful Tip: get involved in clubs, sports, community service, and other opportunities to start growing your resume!

CLASS OF 2030

The Counseling Department is using the month of October to meet with the Freshman class.

These meetings consist of counselor introductions, going over graduation requirements, and club/extracurricular information.

This is a great opportunity for you to ask questions and gather information as you settle into the school year at Wallkill High School!



AP PAYMENTS- DUE NOVEMBER 12, 2026

Each AP Exam costs $99. Payments are **non-refundable!**

Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch (must be approved and on file in District Office), pay $53 instead of $99.

Checks are made payable to Wallkill Senior High School (please include student name and the name of exam on check)

If a student is taking more than one AP Exam, please make one payment with one check for the total amount.

Checks should be given directly to Mrs. Marvulli in the School Counseling Office.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH FORM

Wallkill CSD provides breakfast and lunch at no cost to the families. As such, in order to determine if your family/student qualifies for free or reduced fee for Advanced Placement exams, SAT exam, NCAA application fee waiver, EOP programs, college courses taught in the high school, college applications, and other programs that allow a fee reduction or application waiver, you will need to complete the Free/Reduced Lunch form found on the district website, and return it to the Health Office.

COLLEGE VISITS

The Counseling Dept. has booked over 60 colleges/universities to meet with students in the high school from September through December. Juniors and Seniors are highly encouraged to join these College Visits. Check Naviance daily for updates on the dates and times of these visits!

DIRECTIONS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Log into your Chromebook and 365
- On the top left hand corner, click the little folder and drop down to NAVIANCE
- Use CLEVER as single sign-on and no password is needed
- Once on the Naviance Homepage, click “Colleges” and select “College Visits”
- Register to meet with a college that interests you
- Save the date in your calendar!

If you have a class at the same time as your visit with the college, please be sure to let your teacher know!



COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

With the WSHS School Counseling Department:

Is the Common App confusing you?

Not sure which extracurriculars will look best on your application?

Want an extra set of eyes to look over your materials?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, then **our workshops are for YOU!**

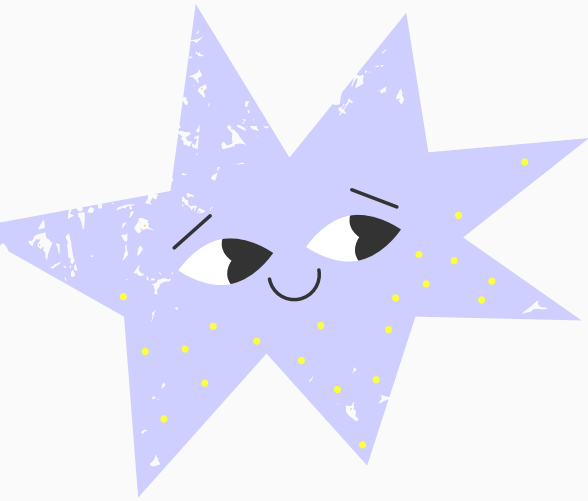
Join us on these **four Wednesdays** to get your application materials ready for submission!

Workshops will be held 2:30pm-4:00pm on:

October 14 (X-Lab)
October 21 (Rm 102)
October 28 (Rm 102)
November 4 (Rm 102)







CURIOUS ABOUT THE FAFSA PROCESS?

Here's what you need to know!

FAFSA OPENS

Oct 1st

STUDENTAID.GOV

FOLLOW EACH STEP:

Go to studentaid.gov and create an FSA ID for the student and one for the parent (both parents, if married & filed taxes separately)

Start the 2027–28 form!

Consent to the IRS transfer of your 2025 tax information.

Add every school on the list (up to 20)

Sign and submit.

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE

about 15 minutes for most families



SUNY

APPLY TO SUNY FOR FREE

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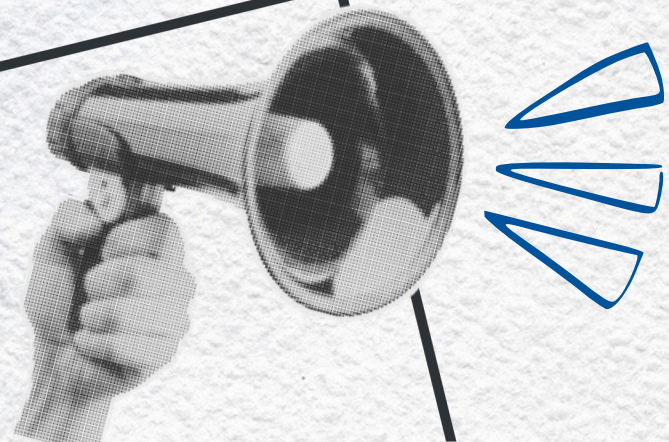
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SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 19 - NOV. 2

Apply to up to **5 SUNY campuses** with no application fee

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suny.edu/apply