

# FHS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

## Fall Newsletter

### 2026–2027 School Year

Welcome back, FHS families!

The Counseling Department is excited to begin another school year. This newsletter highlights important information, upcoming opportunities, deadlines, and resources for students and families.

Please reach out to us with any questions. We are always happy to help!

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## STAY CONNECTED

### Skyward

Please make sure your **current email address is listed in Skyward**. We use Skyward and email to communicate important events, deadlines, reminders, and opportunities throughout the school year.

If you are having trouble accessing Skyward, please contact the FHS IT Department.

Kathy Tennant [ktennant@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:ktennant@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

### Daily Announcements

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/about/announcements.cfm>

Announcements are posted daily and are a great way for students to stay informed about meetings, events, deadlines, and other opportunities.

**Students and parents: check announcements regularly!**

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## Voices of Democracy

**All students** (9-12) are eligible to compete in the Voices of Democracy scholarship program!

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Before submitting your essay, download the 2026-2027 entry form below:

### [Voices of Democracy Entry Information and Form Link](#)

Please turn in your 3-5 minute audio-essay (can be on a flash drive) to the front office and we will return to our local VFW post by **Thursday, October 22nd**. We have had many students participate and have success and earn monetary prizes. Please don't pass this opportunity up!

## **Career Exploration:**

**Inspire WI** connects students with local businesses and career professionals through job shadows, company tours, career events, virtual career chats, and other hands-on experiences.

We will share monthly Inspire WI calendars and upcoming opportunities. Be sure to check them out and take advantage of opportunities that match your interests!

### [INSPIRE WEBSITE](#)

## **Construction Career Night**

**CR Meyer Career Exploration Event:** One example of an event that Inspire WI promotes is the CR Meyer Career Exploration Event. Students are invited to a hands-on evening at the Leadership Center in Kaukauna to learn more about careers in the building trades. Students will have the opportunity to work with skilled craftsmen and explore careers in carpentry, ironworking, millwrights, pipe fitting, and electrical work.

Parents are encouraged to attend as well to learn more about the opportunities available to students in the trades. Registration link below.

### [CR Meyer Career Night Registration Link](#)

## **Cost of Education**

It is *essential* that our underclassmen and their families look at the cost of schooling to formulate a plan.

**Below is the tuition chart for the UW System:**

<https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/pay-for-college/annual-tuition/>

**Below is a link from UW Oshkosh that also includes estimated costs for room and board:**

<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/resources/cost/>

## **Wisconsin Education Fairs**

Any student (9-12) who is considering going to college should plan on attending a college fair. Wisconsin Education Fairs (WEF's) are a great way to learn more about prospective universities in person and all in one place. There is no cost and you can register at the link below. Two local upcoming fairs will be:

St. Norbert College  
Wednesday, September 30 9:00-11:00 a.m.

UW Oshkosh  
Thursday, October 1st 9:00-11:00 a.m.

[WEF Registration Link](#)



# COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

## CAPP – UW-Oshkosh

Freedom High School offers several courses through the Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP), allowing students to earn college credit while taking their high school course.

### Current CAPP offerings:

- Biology 105 – 4 UW-Oshkosh credits
- English 214 – 3 UW-Oshkosh credits
- Spanish 204 – 5 UW-Oshkosh credits
- Writing 101 – 3 UW-Oshkosh credits

**Cost:** \$115 per credit

**Free/Reduced Lunch:** \$57.50 per credit

| Course      | Cost  |
|-------------|-------|
| Writing 101 | \$345 |
| English 214 | \$345 |
| Biology 105 | \$460 |
| Spanish 204 | \$575 |

### Payment deadlines:

- Terms 1 & 2: October 2
- Terms 3 & 4: February 4

**Important:** College coursework becomes part of a student's undergraduate college GPA. Students should make sure they have the time and commitment necessary to be successful.

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/capp.cfm>

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## CCIHS – UW-Green Bay

Freedom also offers College Credit in High School (CCIHS) courses through UW-Green Bay.

**Current offerings:**

- Precalculus – Math 104: 4 UWGB credits
- Calculus – Math 202: 4 UWGB credits
- Personal Finance – FIN 182: 3 UWGB credits

**Cost:** \$115 per credit

- Math 104: \$460
- Math 202: \$460
- Personal Finance: \$345
  - Personal Finance does have scholarship opportunities generously offered by Capital Credit Union. Students MUST be applied to UWGB as a CCIHS student by Wednesday, September 16th. Students have been notified of this via email.

**Payment deadlines:**

- Terms 1 & 2: October 2
- Terms 3 & 4: February 4

**Will my college credits transfer?**

Students and families are responsible for confirming whether CAPP or CCIHS credits will transfer to the college they plan to attend.

**Tip:** Use Transferology and check directly with your college or university before making decisions about college credit.

<https://www.transferology.com/index.htm>

## **Advanced Placement Courses Information**

Students enrolled in AP courses must join their AP course through the College Board website. Joining the course automatically registers students for the AP Exam.

AP Exams will be administered in May 2027, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and earn potential college credit. The cost is \$99 per exam.

AP Exam payment is due Thursday, October 22, 2026. Checks should be made payable to FHS Testing.

Students who decide not to take an AP Exam after the October 22 deadline for Term 1 and 2 courses or March 4, 2027 for Term 3 and 4 courses will be charged a \$40 late-drop fee.

[AP Courses and Exam Info @ FHS](#)

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# CLASS OF 2027 – SENIORS



## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Seniors asking for a letter of recommendation should provide the person writing the letter with a completed

[Recommendation Request Form.](#)

This helps the writer create a more complete and meaningful letter. Please review the tips on how to acquire a letter of recommendation linked below:

[Letter of Recommendation Tips from a Teacher](#)

## DIRECT ADMIT UW SYSTEM

**Seniors:** If you received a Direct Admit Wisconsin offer, you must complete the Direct Admit Form by May 1, 2027. The form lets you indicate which UW campuses you are interested in connecting with and choose a major or program you are interested in exploring. Completing the form does not commit you to attending a university. You do not need to complete the traditional UW application or Common App for a university where you accept a Direct Admit offer.

[Direct Admit Website](#)

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

Seniors can begin to check scholarship websites regularly! New scholarship opportunities are added throughout the year, and deadlines can sneak up quickly. Take a few minutes to review the available scholarships and see which ones you may qualify for. Even small awards can add up and help with the cost of college! Be sure to search for scholarships on the resources and search engines provided. Continue to look at additional places to search for scholarships as well.

[Freedom Scholarship Link](#)

## FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aid

[FAFSA: Create Your StudentAid.gov Account](#)

Seniors and parents, now is a good time to make sure you have your StudentAid.gov account set up before completing the FAFSA. There is no longer a separate “FAFSA PIN.” Students and parents each need their own StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID) to access and complete the FAFSA.

Creating your account ahead of time can help make the FAFSA process smoother when the application opens. Use the official Federal Student Aid website to create your account and keep your username and password in a safe place.

# MIDWEST SCHOLASTIC MEETING FOR SENIORS

Annual meeting for graduation ordering packets October 8th in Lecture Hall during Irish Hour. Seniors will receive information on ordering caps, gowns and all things related to graduation. Reps will return on October 15th to collect orders in the high school lobby during the first lunch. Students who can not attend the meeting should pop into guidance to pick up materials.



## CLASS OF 2028 – JUNIORS

### Junior Conferencing

Junior SPEC meetings will take place during the school day throughout the fall and winter.

SPEC meetings include the **student, parent/guardian, and school counselor** and provide an opportunity to discuss:

- Student strengths and accomplishments
- Coursework, GPA, and class rank
- Activities, work, and volunteer experience
- College and career options
- Vocational and educational goals
- UW Direct Admit
- Wisconsin Guarantee
- College application planning

Registration information will be sent to families shortly.

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### UW Direct Admit

Juniors will learn more about the UW Direct Admit program during their SPEC meetings. Families will have the opportunity to decide whether they would like their student to participate. Very quick and easy way to apply to most schools in the UW System.

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/undergraduate-admission-resources/admission-pathways-for-wisconsin-high-school-students/direct-admit-wisconsin/>

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### Wisconsin Guarantee

Students who finish junior year in the **top 10% of their graduating class** may qualify for the Wisconsin Guarantee.

Students in the top 5% may also qualify for guaranteed admission to UW-Madison if they meet the program requirements and apply by the Early Action deadline.



## ACT INFORMATION

All FHS juniors will take the ACT as part of the statewide testing program.

Even though some colleges have become test-optional, ACT scores can still be useful for:

- College admission
- Scholarships
- Program admission
- College placement
- Technical college placement
- Apprenticeship programs

A strong ACT score can potentially save students from additional placement testing or coursework after graduation. Exact ACT dates will be determined and correspondence will be sent from our testing coordinator.

## ACT Prep

Freedom will offer an ACT Prep class following winter vacation. Registration information will be shared with students and families when available.

## ACT MYTHS

Students often make the mistake of approaching that ACT with the attitude that, “they won’t need this score for college anyway.” However, the admissions counselor of the UW System made it clear at the last UW System workshop that schools will often look at ACT scores for admission in a positive manner for admission *and* for scholarship as well as admission into a program.

Both Technical and Four-Year colleges may use it in place of placement tests in Math and English. We have had multiple students state that they wish they would have either submitted their scores to qualify for a scholarship OR tried harder to obtain a point or two to prevent them from having to take another course on their respective campuses. Some technical colleges (especially those offering associate’s degrees) require placement scores to be sure students are ready for college-level reading, writing, and math. Instead of using their own placement test (like Accuplacer), some will accept ACT scores to meet that requirement.

Even if you’re planning to enter the trades in Wisconsin, taking the ACT seriously can give you an advantage. Many apprenticeship programs, like carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC, accept ACT scores in place of placement exams such as the Accuplacer. Strong ACT scores can save you time, simplify the application process, and sometimes open the door to scholarships or competitive programs. In short, a solid ACT score keeps more pathways open as you begin your career in the trades.

Juniors, please keep this in mind as we begin to prepare for the ACT. A solid score can bolster your admission chances, qualify you for scholarships, and prevent you from having to take additional placement tests and/or courses in the future! It's imperative that you try your best.

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## PSAT:

Juniors who are academically strong and solid test takers may consider taking the PSAT at FHS on **Wednesday, October 14th**. The test is approximately three hours long and contains the following components.

1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing  
Reading Test                      Writing and Language Test
2. Math

The PSAT is a precursor to the SAT. It is not an entrance exam. However, students must take the PSAT to be considered for a competitive National Merit Scholarship. Sophomores can take this test as well but the National Merit Scholarships will only consider scores from your junior year.

For more information regarding the PSAT, please refer to the link below:

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>

Juniors who are interested can sign up for the PSAT in guidance. Cost is \$18 and checks can be made payable to FHS Testing. Students need to sign up and pay by Tuesday, September 22nd.

Once students are signed up, they will receive an email regarding further instruction and practice test access.



## Campus Tours JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Students should begin researching colleges, technical colleges, careers, and other options after high school.

Visit campuses when possible. Virtual tours are also a great way to learn more about schools and programs.

### Technical College Open Houses

#### Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Thursday, September 24

3:00–6:00 p.m.

Application fee waived for students who attend and apply that evening.

<https://www.nwtc.edu/events/2026/09/NWTC-Open-House>

#### Fox Valley Technical College

Tuesday, October 6

3:00–7:00 p.m.

\$30 application fee waived for students who apply on site.

<https://www.fvtc.edu/open-house>

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# CLASS OF 2029 – SOPHOMORES

Sophomore year is a great time to begin exploring career interests and post-secondary options.

Students can:

- Research careers
- Explore colleges and technical colleges
- Attend campus visits
- Take virtual tours
- Learn about different programs and career pathways

Counseling staff will continue to provide opportunities through College and Career Planning activities.

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## FOCUS PROGRAM

### Focus on Teen Driving

Sophomores will participate in the FOCUS program on October 14th.

FOCUS stands for:

- F** – Focus on driving
- O** – Others are affected
- C** – Clear distractions
- U** – Understand that substances impair judgment
- S** – Safely reach your destination

The program uses a realistic trauma experience to help students understand the consequences of distracted and impaired driving.

A parent component, “**Parents are Key**,” is also available. The annual FOCUS teen driver safety event is back. Parents are invited to participate and learn how they can support their young drivers. The program, hosted by the Trauma Center at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, is being held in partnership with the Regional Safe Routes to School, with funding from the ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah and community support. Registration linked below and parents may register up until October 13<sup>th</sup>.

[Parents Are Key Program Registration Link](#)

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# CLASS OF 2030 – FRESHMEN

The key to a successful high school experience is getting involved!

Students are encouraged to:

- Participate in activities
- Attend school events
- Explore clubs and organizations
- Watch daily announcements for opportunities
- Check your school email regularly for important information and opportunities

Freshmen, start building good habits right away! Get comfortable communicating and advocating for yourself with your teachers. If you have a question, are confused about an assignment, or need help, speak up and ask. Learning to communicate with your teachers and take responsibility for your own success is an important part of high school.

Homecoming is a great opportunity to get involved, meet other students, and be part of the school community!



## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a great way for students to explore interests, gain experience, give back to the community, and strengthen future college and employment applications. FHS does not have a volunteer requirement for graduation but it is still a great way to give back and feel great about doing it!

Students can explore opportunities through organizations such as:

- [Volunteer Fox Cities](#)
- [Feeding America](#)
- [Pillars](#)



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## COLLEGE & MILITARY VISITS

College and military representatives regularly visit FHS.

**All students in grades 9–12 are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.**

Students can meet representatives, ask questions, and learn more about potential pathways after high school.

Watch the daily announcements for upcoming visits.

### College Visit:

September 16, UW-La Crosse

September 23, UW-Madison

September 29, Ripon College

September 30, UW-Stevens Point

October 6, Lakeland University

October 7, Bellin College  
October 20, St. Norbert College  
October 21, UW-Milwaukee  
November 12, UW- Platteville

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## LOOKING AHEAD

### Important Dates

#### September 29–October 3

Homecoming Week

#### October 8

Midwest Reps here for Graduation Materials Order

#### October 14

Sophomore FOCUS Field Trip

#### October 14

PSAT Juniors

#### November 5th

End of Term 1

#### May 19th

Academic Award Ceremony

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## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

College and career planning can feel overwhelming, but students and families do not have to navigate it alone. Please reach out to the FHS Counseling Department with questions about academics, college, careers, scholarships, testing, or post-secondary planning.

#### FHS Office:

**Brenda Green** 920-788-7940 ext. 1302

[bgreen@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:bgreen@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

**Dawn Peters:** 920-788-7940 ext. 1306

[dpeters@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:dpeters@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

*A big congratulations to our counselor, Dawn Peters, who is currently out on maternity leave! We are so excited for her and her growing family and wish her all the best as she enjoys this special time with her new little one.*

**Jen Vander Loop:** 920-788-7940 ext. 1305

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**FHS Counseling Department\**