

FHS COUNSELING UPDATES

Fall Newsletter Enclosed is a newsletter from the FHS Counseling Department containing pertinent information for this month of our school year. As you read through this newsletter, please note and share any questions that may arise as we are happy to help!

Skyward

Please be sure we have your current email address listed in Skyward. We communicate events, important dates, and reminders to you via your Skyward account and through the email address that is listed there. We also provide updated information on our link off of the school district's website. Here is the link and if you are having issues logging on, please email our IT department at ktennant@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

<https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsedufreedomwi/seplog01.w>

Announcements

Attention Parents and Students, announcements are posted daily. Checking announcements will help keep you in the loop of upcoming meetings, events, deadlines and reminders. Below is the link where they will be posted daily.

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

AP (Advanced Placement) Course Registration with College Board

All students who are taking or plan on taking Advanced Placement classes this year will need to enroll on-line on the College Board website. Registration occurs annually and students who took an AP course last year, will have to register again this year. See link below for details:

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/ap-exams-and-courses.cfm>

AP Payment:

Students planning on taking AP this year should look for announcements regarding *registering* on-line with the College Board. This will take place once the school year has started.

In the meantime, future AP students should familiarize themselves with the AP testing schedule in May and plan accordingly.

Payment for AP Testing is due our FHS Counseling Office by **Thursday, November 9th** and checks can be made payable to FHS testing. Cost is \$97 per test. See link below for details.

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/ap-exams-and-courses.cfm>

CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) Courses

CAPP Payment Information

If you or your students has registered for a class at Freedom High School that is eligible for CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) credit through UW-Oshkosh please read the information below. Freedom High School currently offers four CAPP courses this year:

CAPP Biology 105	4 UW Oshkosh Credits
CAPP English 214	3 UW Oshkosh Credits
CAPP Spanish 204	5 UW Oshkosh Credits
CAPP Writing 101	3 UW Oshkosh Credits

The cost for a CAPP credit CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) is \$105 dollars per credit. Students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch cost will be \$52.50 per credit. CAPP Writing 101 and English 214 would be \$315, CAPP Biology is \$420 and CAPP Spanish will be \$525. Cost per credit at UW Oshkosh is \$324.82 for a Wisconsin resident.

Payment is due October 1st for: **students taking a CAPP Course in Terms 1 and 2**

Payment is due February 1st for: **students taking a CAPP Course in Terms 3 and 4**

Payment should be brought to the FHS Counseling office and checks can be made payable to "FHS".

*If you *want* to pay for a CAPP course in terms 3 and 4 now, families are more than welcome to.

CAPP courses are a unique and awesome opportunity the FHS offers. Our staff has worked hard to collaborate with UW Oshkosh to become eligible to provide these courses. Please note that your undergraduate GPA begins when you start these courses so be sure you are allowing yourself the time to dedicate and focus on the curriculum being taught.

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

Do CAPP Credits Transfer?

It is our student's responsibility to confirm whether or not the credits from UW Oshkosh will be accepted at the college of their interest. To help determine whether or not you would like to take the course for credit from UW Oshkosh, please use the resources listed below:

Transfer Wizard

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/wizards/>

CAPP Website

<https://uwosh.edu/capp/students/transferring-credits/>

Class of 2024

Seniors can begin applying to UW schools on August 1st. This is one month earlier than it has been in the past. Although we do not want you sending in a rushed application, if you feel prepared and want to move forward with applying, it may be nice to get this off of your "to-do" list. Private colleges typically have a rolling application and you will want to check specifically with your school of interest to determine specific dates for application.

UW System application date opens

August 1, 2022

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/>

<https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/>

When you apply, you may be asked to send your ACT scores and a high school transcript. Below are the websites to do so. It is important to note that many colleges are *not requiring* the ACT this year for application. Please check the admission requirements of the colleges that you are applying to see if this a required component.

Transcript www.parchment.com

ACT Scores <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores.html>

University and Technical College Applications Senior Meetings

Ideally, seniors should have their college applications to their desired university(s) and technical colleges of their choice *by Halloween*. Many universities have moved up their priority deadline dates due to greater competition and enrollment caps. Many universities have early application deadlines of November 1st so stay diligent with your applications. Below is a link from our website containing the informational power point shared at the College Application and Technical College Application Meetings. We held our first four year college application on meeting on Friday, September 15th.

We will be conducting additional Senior Application Meetings for the Technical and Four Year Colleges on the following dates:

Tuesday, September 26 th	Irish Hour	4 Year College Application Meeting
Friday, September 29 th	Irish Hour	2 Year Technical College Application Meeting

Visiting Campuses

FHS students can take virtual campus tours of potential colleges to help explore the options that are available. Upper classmen should be exploring and narrowing down their campuses choices. If you are able to establish an in-person campus tour, that is ideal. This helps immensely with the decision making process. College websites contain the information needed to set up a visit and it is typically listed under their admission's link.

NWTC Open House

Below are upcoming events at NWTC that might interest our students:

Open House Sept. 27, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

<https://www.nwtc.edu/events/2023/09/NWTC-Open-House>

Utility Preview Day Experience Oct 3, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

<https://www.nwtc.edu/events/2023/10/utility-preview-day>

Campus Preview Day Oct. 20, 10:00-11:30

<https://www.nwtc.edu/events/2023/10/Campus-Preview-Day>

FVTC Open House

Below is the link with details about FVTC's upcoming open house

Open House October 3, 3:00-7:00

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

Campus Rep and Military Rep Visits

Many universities, technical colleges, and branches of service will send reps to FHS to answer any questions our students may have about their respective schools and opportunities. Check the announcements for details. Below are upcoming visits scheduled for September and October:

College Reps will be available for informational meetings during RTI in the guidance office. Please sign up in Irish Hour. Upcoming visits include:

September 19 - UW-Oshkosh

September 26 - St. Norbert College

September 28 - UW-Stevens Point

Wisconsin Education Fairs

Wisconsin Education Fairs (WEF's) are a great way to attain information about numerous colleges. Wisconsin Education Fairs are virtual this year and will open up on August 1st. Please see link below for details.

<https://www.wefs.org/>

Letters of Recommendation

Seniors, as you are preparing to ask someone to write a letter of recommendation, please provide them with a completed Recommendation Request Form located on the link below (this will help the author of your letter write a more complete letter) You can also pick up a hard copy of this form in the high school counseling office:

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/letter-of-recommendation.cfm>

Scholarships

Seniors looking to apply for scholarships can begin researching which scholarships they are eligible for. Any scholarships that we become aware of we will post electronically. Please refer to the link below for more information. You will note that there are not many available this time of year. However, this will change as the school year progresses. Please check our page regularly for updates!

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

Students should also be checking the schools they are planning on attending for scholarships that they offer as well as parents' places of employment, credit unions and any associations or clubs your family may belong to for additional scholarship opportunities. Local scholarships offered to Freedom seniors only will become available in the spring and we will communicate specifics in upcoming correspondence.

Volunteering

We often receive questions about ways to volunteer. One way to explore opportunities is through the website listed below. Students can review the website to search for ways to volunteer throughout the Fox Cities. This a great way to branch out, try something new and become more well-rounded. Volunteerism is something that both employers and schools seek in applicants!

Volunteer Fox Cities

<https://www.volunteerfoxcities.org/>

Feeding America

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/volunteer>

Pillars Homeless Shelter

<https://pillarsinc.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Financial Aid (Completing the FAFSA)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) applications for the college year of 2024-2025 begin processing in December (later than in past years). Seniors can apply for grants and loans (all based on tax information) at the link below:

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>

College Goal Wisconsin

College Goal Wisconsin is affiliated with a national event that provides free information and assistance to families who need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) the federally required form for students seeking financial aid, such as grants and loans. Completing the FAFSA is the first and most important step in qualifying for aid.

Check back in October in the link below for dates and locations (events occurring later this year than in the past years.)

<https://collegegoalwi.org/>

Class of 2025

Juniors will have the opportunity during October-December to have a **SPEC (Student Parent Educational Conference.)** This is will also take a more in depth look at opportunities for our students after they graduate from FHS. The SPECs are conducted with the school counselor, parent(s) and student during the school day and will last 30-40 minutes. Parents will be able to register electronically. Sign up information will be sent out shortly.

Mrs. Vander Loop and Mr. Harke will divide the meetings and cover similar talking points including:

- Student's Strengths, Accomplishments, Co-Curricular Involvement, Volunteer and Work Experience
- High School Coursework/GPA/Class Rank
- Post Secondary Options
- Vocational/Educational Goals

SPECs serve as an excellent opportunity to gather individual information and resources for post-secondary planning.

ACT

All of the juniors will take the ACT in March. This test will be digital and we will be providing specifics on the testing window and process shortly. FHS will handle registration and proctoring of this exam. There is no cost to juniors and all juniors are required to take it. Many more details will be forthcoming as the date nears. However, some students opt to take the ACT prior to the state wide test date. If you decide to take the act early, you must go to www.actstudent.org to create an account and register and pay to take the test. The website will allow you to select where you will be testing.

ACT Prep Class

Freedom is offering an ACT Prep class after winter vacation. We will be providing registration dates and information for this course very shortly. The class we run has proven beneficial and increases confidence for our juniors. All are encouraged to sign up.

Additional ACT Prep Resources

UW Oshkosh

<https://uwosh.edu/oce/personal-and-professional-development-programs/youth-programs/act-test-prep-course/>

ACT Prep Course from ACT Website

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>

Fox Valley ACT Prep Course

<https://www.act-testprep.com/>

PSAT

FHS will be administering the PSAT on Wednesday, October 18th to those juniors that have signed up. Mrs. Vander Loop will electronically reach out to all who signed up. The test will be digital this year and we will be providing details shortly. For more information regarding the PSAT and what it entails, practice testing, etc., please refer to the link below:

[The PSAT/NMSQT – SAT Suite | College Board](#)

Citizenship Grade

This is our second year offering the Responsibility Pass/ Citizenship program. Attached you will see the details of the program as well as a parent permission form. If your student is eligible for the program, but does not have permission from you as parents, they will not be able to have open campus privileges. Open campus privileges are available for only the 30-minute lunch to Juniors and Seniors whom have a 3.0 or better with their citizenship grade (not academic grade). The responsibility pass program is not for leaving campus during Irish Hour at the end of the school day.

****Academic & Career Planning grades will impact Citizenship Program and Responsibility Passes.***

Class of 2026 (Sophomores)

Please note that you can also begin the process of researching career paths and potential schools and taking tours (both Technical and University Campuses) either virtually or in-person (depending on availability.) This is an excellent way to begin to form opinions and interests as to what your choices look like for life after high school. We will continue to explore opportunities during ACP (Academic and Career Planning.)

FOCUS Field Trip

FOCUS Program for Teen Drivers (Sophomores)

On Wednesday, October 11th

The FOCUS program stands for:

Focus on driving

Others are affected

Clear distractions

Understand that substances impair judgement

Safely reach your destination

Each year, students from dozens of school districts join together to watch the program at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, showing students the process of a trauma situation, what it is like to be airlifted and to need emergency surgery. The core of the program will always remain the same – we

are here to educate, engage and save lives. There will be a parent component as well and information is forthcoming.

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/>

Please note that Technical Colleges are an excellent option and can also be a stepping stone to a bachelor's degree as well as an associate's degree. Below is a link that includes the estimated costs of a full time Technical College student:

<https://www.wtcsystem.edu/technical-college-benefits/affordable/>

Class of 2026 (Freshmen)

Remember the key to success is joining in and getting involved. Sign up for opportunities and groups as they present themselves in announcements. Homecoming week is a great way to get started! See announcements for details!

Looking Ahead

September 18-22 nd	Homecoming Week
September 22 nd	Early Release
October 11 th	Sophomore FOCUS Field Trip
October 18 th	PSAT
October 26 th	Early Release
October 27 th	No School

Counseling Office

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach via phone or email.

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