



2012 Senior Information Night

Welcome	Carol Boyden
Graduation Requirements	Owen Sanford
State Testing	Owen Sanford
Options after High School	Owen Sanford
High School & Beyond Plan	Marsha Spencer
Important Dates	Rhea Bohlin
Senior Activities	Maddie Down
Senior Grad Night	Julie Down
Yearbook	Rachel Fouts-Carrico
Jostens	David Schnieder
Senior Project	Debbie Buchanan
Wrap-up	Owen Sanford

Class of 2012 Counselor
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Washougal High School

Counselor/Teacher Letter of Recommendation & Transcript Request Process

Colleges and scholarships often ask for a letter of recommendation. The quality and depth of the letter depends on the information you provide.

NOTE TO STUDENTS:

- Please **allow 2 weeks** for your reference to complete your letter.
- You are responsible for mailing your part of the college or scholarship application.

Steps to securing a recommendation letter:

1. Provide the completed *Senior Information Sheet* two weeks prior to when the recommendation is due. **Be sure that you do your part on the forms prior to giving those to your reference.**
2. If applications or recommendations need to go out of the counseling office through mail, we will need pre-addressed, pre-stamped envelopes for each item being sent.
3. If you are applying through Common Application (www.commonapp.org), be sure to let your reference know ahead of time so that he or she will be prepared to do your recommendation when asked. *Of course you will need to submit the Senior Information Sheet prior to that.*

TRANSCRIPTS ... ordering and sending (The Counseling Center does not order or send your official transcripts)

1. Official transcripts are to be ordered through the Counseling Center.
2. There is a form to fill out in the Counseling Center.
3. You will need three days to one week for them to be picked up.
4. Remember, it is your responsibility to order the correct number of official transcripts, and to send them to each college/university.

Washougal High School

Requesting Letters of Recommendation—Advice from the Counseling Center

Think very carefully about which teachers or staff would be able to write the strongest, most detailed letters of recommendation for you. The teacher/staff should be one you have had in your junior or senior year. Be sure to ask if they feel comfortable writing a good letter of recommendation. It's important to be sure they are willing to give a recommendation that meets your expectations and theirs.

Typically, you will need two recommenders. One should *know your writing well* and the other should *know your work in some other ACADEMIC area* such as math, foreign language or science.

Be aware of how well that individual teacher or staff member expresses himself or herself on paper. A letter from a coach or employer is in addition to, not instead of, a letter from a teacher who teaches you in an academic course. Once you have decided whom to ask, remember that you have to ASK, not just expect that the teacher will do the letters. **Give the teacher/staff several weeks notice prior to the due date.** This will allow for a well thought out recommendation. Letters of recommendation are extremely time-consuming.

Be appreciative.

If you want TEACHERS/STAFF/COUNSELORS to write College Recommendations for you, please do the following:

1. Ask early. THREE WEEKS ahead is not too early. TWO weeks is the minimum time requested. Teachers/counselors have a heavy load and may not be able to handle all requests, particularly those that come in at the last minute. Furthermore, a well-written letter of recommendation takes careful thought, so they need *time* to do them.
2. Take the Teacher Recommendation form from each college, and do the following:
 - a. **Fill out the necessary information on each form** or note that there is no form.
 - b. Write your name, the name of the college and the due date on a piece of paper and attach it to the form that needs to be filled out by the recommender.
 - c. Give them a copy of all the questions from the **WHS—Senior Information Sheet**.
 - d. Check back with the recommender to gather your recommendation and mail it off to the school, **OR** provide an addressed-stamped envelope to where it needs to go.
3. Say thank you. Write thank you notes to those who have written letters of recommendation for you.
4. We appreciate your help in making this job go smoothly. Remember also that a smile and polite manners open a lot of doors. Good luck, and be sure to let your recommenders know the outcome of your applications.

Washougal High School
Senior Information Sheet

PLEASE TYPE THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

Name _____

1. What major or field of study are you considering?
2. Explain briefly why you have chosen this major and/or career.
3. What are your academic strengths?
4. What is an area in your life that could use improvement and why?
5. What is the educational background of your parents and siblings? (Did they go to college and do they have a Bachelor or Associate degree?)
6. Discuss in detail those activities you have been most proud of being involved in. Be specific about what you did or accomplished. Also note awards and accomplishments/recognitions.
Make a resume listing your activities, awards and/or recognitions that you have been involved with and/or received. Be sure to include dates, hours of your activities.
7. Describe your most positive personality/behavior characteristics.
8. Describe any special talents you have. What things make you unique? How would you distinguish yourself from other students in the senior class?
9. If you had a low grade in a particular class or in a year because of an extenuating circumstance, please explain the situation.
10. Describe any volunteer or paid work experience that you have done. How has this impacted your life?

Additional Information:

Please use additional space to write anything about yourself that may be interesting or explain a bit more about who you are. Perhaps you could recall some significant experience that has affected you or discuss a person who has had a significant influence on you and describe the ways the person has influenced you. If you have overcome any obstacles in this information could be helpful to convey a complete picture of YOU.

Thank you and best of luck!

CHOOSING THE COLLEGE FOR YOU-- IT'S ALL ABOUT FIT

Know Yourself

- Why do you want to go to college? What are your reasons?
- What are your interests? Academic, social, spiritual
- Are there new activities that you want to try or get involved with in college?
- What types of surroundings/environments are important to you? (urban, rural, small, large, private, public, religious?)

Know Your School

When considering the kind of college you are interested in attending for four or more years of your life, consider the following factors:

- Academic Programs
 - o What do you want to study?
 - o Do you have multiple interests and can the school you're considering meet those?
 - o Do you want to major, double major, minor etc?
- Type:
 - o Two year vs. Four year, public or private, religious affiliation, coed or not
- Size
 - o Large school (15,000+), medium school (5,000-15,000) or small (few hundred to few thousand).
 - Class size
 - Campus size
 - Student to teacher ratio
- Location
 - o Urban setting, or rural setting
 - o Distance from home
 - o Same state vs. out-of-state
 - o Weather!!
- Activities and Student Life
 - o Opportunities for involvement (student government, clubs, etc.)
 - o Opportunities to continue with current interests/hobbies(music, art, theatre, clubs, religion)
 - o Athletic environment: exercise, school sponsored sports, etc.
 - o Residential: On campus living vs. off, coed vs. same sex residence halls, meal plans
- Cost
 - o What is your financial situation?
 - o What type of scholarship/financial aid programs does the school offer?
 - o Do you need to work while in school? Job opportunities?

VISIT AT LEAST TWO SCHOOLS!

RESEARCHING COLLEGES

There are thousands of colleges/universities to choose from so how does one narrow down the search?

First of all, know what you're looking for from your school! Secondly do your research!

The internet: The quickest way to learn about colleges and universities, degree programs, admissions processes and much more. If you know the name a few schools that you're interested in, go directly to their website. If you're researching new colleges/universities, the following links can be very useful:

- www.collegeanswer.com
- www.collegeboard.com
- <http://www.knowhow2go.org/>
- www.collegeispossible.org
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.mappingyourfuture.org
- www.myroad.com
- www.nacacnet.org or www.pnacac.org
- www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/search.asp
- www.petersons.com
- www.students.gov
- www.ous.edu and www.ous.edu/aca/acadprog.html

College Guidebooks:

- *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*, by Edward B. Fiske
- *The College Handbook*, by the College Board
- *The Insider's Guide to Colleges*, by the Yale Bailey News
- *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*

College Fairs:

- Take pre-printed address labels/stickers with you to these fairs. Makes filling out information cards much easier to do!

College Visits:

- WHS and to the college or university itself
 - o Visits to your high school by a college or university gives you the opportunity to learn more about the school, ask questions, and get a feel for the school without attending!
 - o Visiting a college gives you the "first-hand" experience to see if a college/university is a good "fit" for you and your needs! It will truly make or break your decision. (Arrange individual visits, Preview Days, Open House, visit a friend, go with a friend!)
- ASK QUESTIONS! And HAVE FUN!!!

YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND/OR CAREER COUNSELOR AND TEACHERS!!!!

- These individuals have a wealth of information to share with you and they are all here at your disposal.

2010-2011
WHS Important Dates for Seniors

(Dates are subject to change)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where/Who</u>
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>			
9/6	Senior Class Meeting	Panther Time	WHS Auditorium
9/19-10/28	SR Project & Mentor Identification begins		
9/28	Senior Student & Parent Night	6:30 p.m.	WHS Auditorium
<u>OCTOBER</u>			
10/4-6	Approval of SR Project & Research	By appointment	Career Center
10/5	Senior Project & Topic Research Proposals		
10/7	Registration Deadline for Nov. 5 th SAT		
10/11	JAS Interviews Begin		
10/17	Letter of Intent Due (Senior Project)		Teachers
10/20	*College Fair* (Gaiser Hall Student Center)	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Clark College
10/24	College 101 (Navigation through College Application Process)	6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Library
10/29	Senior Questionnaire Due		Career Center
10/31	Mentor Letter #1 Due		Teachers
<u>NOVEMBER</u>			
10/31-11/4	Individual Counselor/Student Credit Check Meetings (every Senior)	All Week (11:30-3pm)	Counseling & Career Center
11/1	Mentor Letter #1 Due		Teachers
11/1	Senior Pictures Due to Yearbook	by 3:00 p.m.	Mrs. Carrico
11/4	Registration Deadline for Dec. 10 th ACT		
11/5	Registration Deadline for Dec. 3 rd SAT		
11/10	*Post High School Options Fair*	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Camas H.S.
11/6	*National College Fair*	1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Portland Convention Center
11/7	*National College Fair*	9:00 a.m.-12 noon	
11/14	First Submission of Research Paper Due		Teachers
11/14-12/2	Peer Editing (Senior Paper)		
11/18	Senior PT meeting- Jostens order forms	10:40-11:10 a.m.	WHS Auditorium
11/24-11/26	Thanksgiving Break (Great time to work on Senior Paper and admission applications)		
11/30	JAS Interviews Due	3:00 p.m.	Career Center

DECEMBER

12/5	Senior Research Paper Due (No late papers accepted!)		Teachers
12/6	Financial Aid Information Night	7:00 p.m.	TBA
12/15	Yearbook Advertisement Due	3 p.m.	Mrs. Carrico
12/16	Senior Research Papers Returned		Teachers
12/16	Senior Ads due to yearbook (discount price)		Mrs. Carrico
12/20-1/3	Winter Break (Great time to work on scholarship essays & applications w/later deadlines!) (Work on Senior Paper Corrections)		
12/30	Registration Deadline for Jan. 18 th SAT		

JANUARY

1/1	First day to submit FAFSA Application On-line (Priority is Jan. 1- Feb. 1)		www.fafsa.ed.gov
1/10	Corrected Senior Papers Due		Teachers
1/13	Registration Deadline for Feb. 11 th ACT		

FEBRUARY

2/3	Senior Ads Due to Yearbook (full price)	3 p.m.	Mrs. Carrico
2/10	Registration Deadline for March 10 th SAT		

MARCH

3/9	Registration Deadline for April 14 th ACT		
TBA	HSPE Testing (Writing & Reading)	TBA	Classrooms
3/26 – 4/13	Mentor contacted by staff (Senior Project)		

APRIL

4/6	Registration Deadline for May 5 th SAT		
4/13	Power Point Instruction (Senior Project)		
TBA	HSPE/EOC Testing (Science & Math)	TBA	Classrooms
4/20	Autobiographical Letters Due (Senior Project)		Teachers
TBA	AP Testing	TBA	

MAY & JUNE

5/4	Mentor Verification Letter #2 & Project Summary Due		Teachers
5/4	Summary Due (Senior Project)		
5/4	Registration Deadline for June 9 th ACT		
5/7-25	Practice Panel Presentations in class (Senior Project)		
5/8	Registration Deadline for Jan. 18 th SAT		
5/18	Senior Project Poster Displayed		
5/25	Completed Portfolios Due		
5/30 & 31	Oral Presentations to Community Panels		By Appointment
6/6	Senior Awards Night	TBA	
6/8	Senior Assembly	TBA	WHS Auditorium
6/9	Class of 2012 Graduation	2:00 p.m.	Fishback Stadium