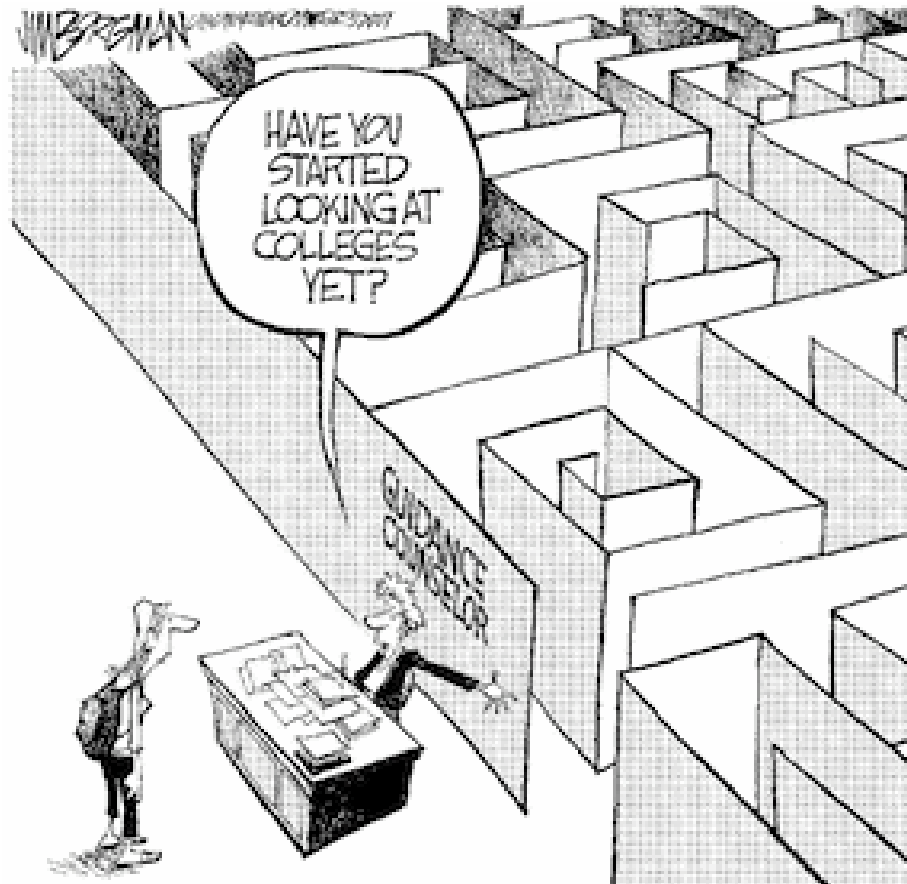


Rising Senior Night



Contact Your Counselor For Help

- Counselors
 - Katie Liebers
 - Stacey Helmbrecht
 - Marna Craig
 - (new counselor)
 - (new counselor)

Assignments of counselors will be announced as soon as possible.

- Rising 12th Grade Administrator
 - Dr. Reggie Mason

Graduation Requirements

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits incl. Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (must take every year)
Science	3 credits (Bio, Chem or Physics, plus one more)
Social Studies	3 credits (a “world” history/geography, US History, and US Gov/Econ)
Fine Art	1 credit (examples: music, theater, visual art)
World Language	2 credits in the same language
Lifetime Wellness	1.5 credits (1 from 9 th , .5 later)
Personal Finance	.5 credits
Elective Focus	3 credits (CTE, JROTC, AP, Humanities & Fine Arts, Math & Science)

minimum of 22 credits

(All students must be enrolled in 6 courses.)

WCS Graduation Policy

- Williamson County Schools Policy
 - *Qualification for and participation in graduation or commencement ceremonies shall be limited to seniors who have satisfactorily completed the requirements for a diploma. Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students completing requirements in the summer may participate in a district-wide summer graduation ceremony.*

WCS Graduation Policy

- Changes to WCS Policy
 - No longer calculating class rank
- Latin Honors System
 - Summa Cum Laude – 4.25+
 - Magna Cum Laude – 4.0 to 4.24
 - Cum Laude – 3.75 to 3.99

WCS Graduation Policy

- Valedictorian / Salutatorian selected by multiple criteria
 - Summa Cum Laude
 - AP Exam scores of 3+
 - Community Service
 - ACT

WCS Graduation Policy

Understanding GPA

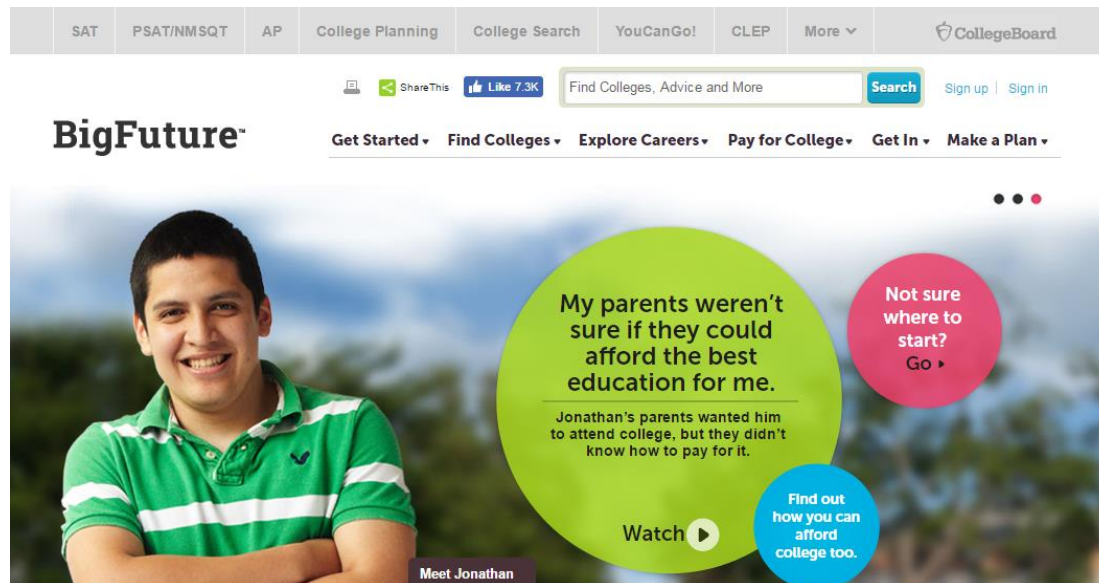
- **Weighted** – This is your GPA. This is what we report to colleges. It is calculated based on the **WCS grading scale**. We do not calculate an unweighted GPA.
A (91-100) B (81-90) C (72-80) D (70-71) F (69 and below)
- **HOPE GPA** – This is only used for the eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship. This not an unweighted GPA, it follows the TN Uniform Grading Policy
A (93-100) B (85-92) C (75-84) D (70-74) F (69 and below)

RHS Counseling Website

- Senior Planning:
- <https://www.wcs.edu/rhs/academics/high-school-planning/>
 - Senior planning:
 - Click on Academics, then High School Planning
- <https://www.wcs.edu/rhs/academics/college-career-planning/>
- College and Career planning:
 - Scholarships
 - Transcript Request
 - ACT
 - Career Planning

Researching Colleges

- Visit their websites
- Narrow your search
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>



The screenshot shows the BigFuture website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, College Planning, College Search, YouCanGo!, CLEP, and More. The CollegeBoard logo is on the right. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text "Find Colleges, Advice and More" and a "Search" button. There are also links for "Sign up" and "Sign in". The main heading "BigFuture" is prominently displayed. Below it is a navigation menu with links for "Get Started", "Find Colleges", "Explore Careers", "Pay for College", "Get In", and "Make a Plan". The main content area features a large image of a young man, Jonathan, with his arms crossed. To the right of the image are three circular callouts: a large green one with the text "My parents weren't sure if they could afford the best education for me. Jonathan's parents wanted him to attend college, but they didn't know how to pay for it. Watch", a pink one with "Not sure where to start? Go", and a blue one with "Find out how you can afford college too."

Researching Colleges

- Talk with college reps during HR & lunch
- College Fair @ Centennial High School
 - Tuesday, April 26th from 5-7
 - Over 40 local and regional schools
- Attend WCS College Fair at WilCo Ag Center—
Sept. 2019 (date TBA)

Researching Colleges

- Create a list of priorities for choosing colleges
 - Example: Cost, degree programs, size, geography
- Visit / tour colleges
- Attend summer programs at school of interest

Researching Majors

- Select a college that will provide you with options if you are not sure about major
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Most colleges offer classes to explore majors

The screenshot shows the 'Majors & Learning Environment' filter interface on the BigFuture website. On the left, a vertical sidebar titled 'SELECT FILTERS' contains buttons for: Test Scores & Selectivity, Type of School, Location, Campus & Housing, Majors & Learning Environment (highlighted in red), Sports & Activities, Academic Credit, Paying, and Support Services. The main content area is titled 'Majors & Learning Environment' and includes a 'CLOSE AND SEE RESULTS' button with an 'x' icon. It features two sections: 'Majors' and 'Study Options'. The 'Majors' section has a dropdown menu for 'Select a family of majors: Select one or more' and a text input for 'Select a specific major: Enter a major or keyword'. The 'Study Options' section lists various options with checkboxes: Accelerated Study, Double Major, Honors Program, Internships, ROTC, Study Abroad, Teacher Certification, Distance Learning, English as a Second Language, Independent Study, Liberal Arts/Career Combination, and Student-Designed Major. A 'TIP' box on the right states: 'TIP: There are two ways to search for majors here. If there's a general subject area you're interested in, use the pull-down menu to select a family of majors. Or, if there's a specific major you want, enter a keyword to find that major.' A pink button at the top right says 'Go to College Search Step-by-Step, an'.

Researching Careers

- Research different careers
 - Interest, personality, and career inventories

www.planningyourdreams.org (free w/code)

See your counselor for code.

www.careeronestop.org

www.onetonline.org

www.youscience.com (cost)

Summer Preparation

- Retake ACT/SAT if needed
 - www.actstudent.org
- Participate in summer programs/internships
- Volunteer
- Work on developing your student resume
- Complete any needed credit recovery

Fall of Senior Year

- Senior appointments with your counselor (August/September)
- Check admission and scholarship deadlines
- Apply to universities
- Apply for scholarships
- Retake ACT/SAT if needed
- Financial aid workshop (TBD)

COLLEGE APPS & STUDENTS

- Students – The college application process belongs to you
 - Good practice for navigating college life & adulthood
- Parents & counselors are support people

Application Process

- Online application
 - College-specific application vs. Common Application
- High school transcript (grades only)
 - www.orderatranscript.com
- Send test scores from ACT website

Application Process

- In addition to GPA and test scores, more competitive universities may require:
 - Recommendations
 - Essays
 - Resume/activities
 - Interview
- Less competitive universities may only require GPA or ACT/SAT

Recommendation Etiquette

- Ask first

- Would you be able to provide a recommendation for me?
- Allow at least two weeks notice.

- Follow up request via email

- Thank you for your willingness...
- You will receive an email from...

- Email reminder if necessary

- Follow up thank you

Financial Aid Preparation

- Fill out FAFSA after October 1st --
 - www.fafsa.gov
 - Needed for Hope lottery scholarship & grants
- Keep applying for scholarships
- Research options at colleges
 - Contact them directly!
- Receive financial aid letter



HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

- Average award of \$4,000 per year (\$16,000 for 4 years)
- <http://www.tn.gov/collegepays/>
- 21 ACT or 3.0 GPA (TN Uniform Grading Scale)
- Extra \$1,500 per year for 3.75 and 29 ACT
- FAFSA form must be submitted

TN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

- Must be a TN high school graduate
- Up to \$4000 per year for two year community college or program
 - www.tnpromise.gov
- Two meetings required - Fall and Spring
- Community Service requirement
- FAFSA form must be filled out

GRADUATION

- \$100 Fee (collected at Red Letter Day)
- Limited tickets for admittance
- Counseling twitter account @wcsrhcounselor
- Herff Jones Visit (Fall)
 - Purchase announcements, etc.

SUMMARY...

- Stay focused on classes and GPA
- Keep an open mind when applying to college
- Apply early!
- Have a back-up plan
- Be happy & balanced

Thank You for Coming!

