

December 2009

School Counseling Office Newsletter

Regents Exam Week: Tuesday, January 26 – Friday, January 29

For all students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12; classes WILL be held on Monday, January 25th. However, Tuesday, January 26th through Friday, January 29th; students will only attend school for their exams. Most students will be scheduled to attend one or more exams.

WCCS HS English, math, science and social studies classes will either have their local exams during January 19th–January 25th (in class) or during the three hour testing blocks of Regents week (January 26–29). Students should talk with their teachers to find out the times of their mid-term exams. All local exams are subject to change.

January 26

8:00 a.m.

Living Environment RE
Math B
Global RCT

January 27

8:00 a.m.

French RE
Spanish RE
Earth Science RE
U.S. History RCT

January 28

8:00 a.m.

U.S. History RE
Reading RCT
Geometry RE

January 29

8:00 a.m.

Global RE
Writing RCT

January 26

12:15 p.m.

English RE–Part 1
Math RCT

January 27

12:15 p.m.

English RE–Part 2
Science RCT

January 28

12:15 p.m.

Algebra RE
Chemistry RE
Physics RE

January 29

12:15 p.m.

NONE

*Students are eligible to retake Regents Exams to improve their grade (even if the grade was passing). Higher Regent Exam grades could allow students to be eligible for scholarships, Regents with Honors, Advanced Regents with Honors or...could improve their overall grade point average after calculating the new Regents exam grade.

RE = Regents Exam

RCT = Regents Competency Test

Prof = Proficiency Exam

Honors Diploma Designation

Students who successfully complete the Regents or the Advanced Regents diploma requirements with an above 90 average on the required Regents examinations may earn honors distinction upon graduation from high school. If you are interested in earning the Honors Diploma, please see your counselor to discuss your Regents grades. You may want to retake some exams in January.

Parent – Teacher Conferences:

High School

Tuesday, March 16th, 2010

3:30–8:00 pm

Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

3:30–8:00 pm

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January: Financial Aid Awareness Month

On **Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**, the Dansville and Wayland-Cohocton School Counseling Departments will be sponsoring a **Financial Aid Night** located in the **Dansville Auditorium**. ALL COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS (freshman through seniors) AND THEIR PARENTS SHOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING!!!

- A representative from "Ultimate Money Skills: College Funding" will cover the various state and federal programs. The presentation will include details on the financial aid application process (FAFSA).
- College bound students will receive a financial aid packet from the SCO and should begin working on it over the holiday break.
- In preparation for this meeting, please review the packet of information in December and begin reviewing and working on the forms. The financial aid night will provide you with the perfect forum for having your questions about the financial aid forms answered and how to complete them.
- FAFSA applications can be done either online or by filling out a paper copy. Students and parents are **highly encouraged to apply online**. The turn around time is 2-4 weeks faster. Remember: you can not complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid) until January 1st. However, you may apply NOW for a pin number (www.pin.ed.gov) if you choose to complete your application online. Parents/students may **estimate their 2009 income** rather than waiting to receive tax information. While **deadlines** for these forms are **usually early February**, the sooner after January 1st they are completed...the better. Keep a **copy** of all the financial aid forms you complete.

Additional information regarding grants and loans will be included in a packet that the students will receive before the holiday vacation.

Scholarships, Grants and Loan Information:

Financial Aid information and Scholarship packets will be handed out to all seniors in their social studies class prior to the holiday break. In regards to the scholarship packets, students should put their name on the packet then review the criteria for each scholarship, highlight the scholarships to which they would like to apply for and return the packet to the SCO.

Karen Oas will gather all the requested scholarship applications and then contact the student to pick their packet up when they are ready.

Students are responsible for meeting the scholarship deadlines. Some of the scholarships will have SCO deadlines as well as official scholarship deadlines. **Students should meet the SCO imposed deadlines.** This will allow the SCO to process the applications, or hold scholarship review committees, and still meet the official scholarship deadlines. If you have any questions, please see Karen Oas.

The scholarship packet will also be available on the SCO website at www.wccsk12.org/sco.

Financial Aid Websites / Scholarship Websites / College & Career Search Websites

www.fafsa.ed.gov (FAFSA online application)

www.pin.ed.gov (PIN for FAFSA online application)

www.finaid.org (financial aid)

www.yahoo.com/Education/Financial-Aid (financial aid)

www.attheu.com/ps (financial aid and scholarships)

www.collegequest.com (aid/scholarships)

www.collegenet.com (scholarships)

www.princetonreview.com (financial aid/college search)

www.fastweb.com (scholarships)

www.collegeboard.org (financial aid/college search)

www.racf.org (Local: Rochester grants/scholarships)

◆ www.nysfaaa.org (financial aid: "Ask the Expert")

◆ www.hesc.org (financial aid/scholarship/college search)

◆ www.studentaid.ed.gov (financial aid)

◆ www.srnexpress.com (scholarship resource network)

◆ www.mycollegeoptions.com (financial aid/college search)

◆ www.mapping-your-future.org (college search)

◆ www.nycareerzone.org (career search)

◆ www.ecampustours.com (college campus virtual tours)

◆ www.collegeanswer.com (financial aid/college search)

◆ www.nextstudent.com (financial aid)

Juniors: SAT/ACT 2010 Spring Test Dates (needed for 4 year college admissions)

<u>SAT Dates</u>	<u>SAT Reg. Deadline</u>	SAT: www.collegeboard.com
January 23, 2010	December 15, 2009	Cost: \$45.00
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010	Time: 3 hours and 45 minutes.
*May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010	Essay writing section: required
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010	
*Offered at WCCS		

<u>ACT Dates</u>	<u>ACT Reg. Deadlines</u>	ACT: www.actstudent.org
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	Cost: \$32.00 (\$46.00 with essay)
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	Time: 2 hours 55 minutes (w/o essay)
		Essay writing section: optional

Registration for SAT/ACT: online or paper copy in SCO

Fee Waivers for SAT/ACT: available to those students who qualify (see your counselor for details)

Testing accommodations for SAT/ACT: paperwork must be completed prior to registration deadline

Test GEAR: SAT Online Prep Course

testGEAR is here. WCCS is pleased to provide our students with *testGEAR*, a free online course designed to help every student achieve higher scores on the SAT exams. Thanks to this program, WCCS high school students can prepare themselves using the *testGEAR* preparation course from a computer at school and/or from home. These online programs are proven to improve student performance on big exams like the SAT as well as Regents Exams (covering math, English language arts, science, and social studies). This program is being provided at no charge to WCCS students and can lead to stronger academic skills, and better college admission test performance. All the students need to do is come to the SCO and sign up for an information session. They can either attend an informational session during a study hall or 13th period.

Help plan your child's high school courses for next year!

The scheduling process for course requests for the 2010-2011 school year will begin January and end in February.

If you are interested in developing your child's schedule for next year, please contact your child's counselor for a conference at 728-2214.

****Please note: students will only be allowed to have 1 & 1/2 study halls per semester****

All course descriptions/credits will be posted on our website at www.WCCSk12.org/sco

JUNIOR PARENTS: Help plan your child's future (college, military or work)

- ◆ Laura Buisch (juniors A-K) and Tim Bolton (juniors L-Z) will be available for appointments anytime during the school day (7:30 a.m.– 4:00p.m.). Please call 728-2214 to make an appointment.
- ◆ Mrs. Buisch and Mr. Bolton will also be offering **two evening nights as well...**Tuesday, March 16th and Wednesday, March 24th from 4:00–8:00 p.m. Please call 728-2214 to make an appointment.

Things that will be reviewed....

- ◆ High School courses, graduation requirements and type of diploma
- ◆ The college application process including...SATs/ACTs, college and career searches, college preparatory courses, financial aid, scholarships, college visits, college interviews, transcripts and filling out the college application
- ◆ Steps to enlisting in the military
- ◆ Steps to applying for work (interview, resume, and application tips)

JUNIORS took the ASVAB

Juniors took the ASVAB in October (which assesses the students verbal, math, science and technical skills). This past November, the students reviewed their results and then completed a interest inventory. The goal is for students to find careers (over 400 occupations listed) that matched their interests and abilities. The website www.asvabprogram.com also offers a step-to-step guideline to post graduation plans (work, college, and military) as well as possible scholarship opportunities.

Miscellaneous: Requesting Transcripts

If you need a transcript , there are forms on the counter in the SCO. Students should fill out the form which includes....name, college and address of the college. The form should be given to Mrs. Elliott (or put it in her mailbox) and she will mail it directly to the college. If Mrs. Elliott has any questions for the student, she will contact the student for clarification. Students do not necessarily need to see their school counselor for transcript requests. The student can also request transcript forms via the WCCS website. Mrs. Elliott will then send the student an email confirming that the transcripts were sent.

College and Career Corner...

www.lemoyne.edu

Le Moyne College: Syracuse, NY

800-333-4733

Le Moyne College offers....	Criminology	Honors Program	Religious Studies
<u>Accounting</u>	Economics	<u>Informational Systems</u>	Sociology
Anthropology	Education	Irish Literature	Spanish
Applied Management Analysis	Engineering	Management and Leadership	Theatre Arts
Biochemistry	English	Marketing	Urban Studies
Biological Sciences	Environmental Studies	Mathematics	Visual Arts
Business	Finance	Multiple Science	Work and Employment Relations
Chemistry	Film	Music	
Communications and Film Studies	Foreign Language	Natural Systems Science	
Computer Science	French	Nursing	
Creative Writing	Gender and Women's Studies	Peace and Global Studies	
	History	Philosophy	
		Physics	
		Political Science	
		Psychology	

Entering Freshman need....

- ◆ A college preparatory course of study

<u>Recommended subject</u>	<u>Credit received</u>
English	4
College Prep Math	3-4*
Foreign Language	3-4**
Social Studies	3-4
Natural Science	3-4

*Students are encouraged to take a minimum of algebra, geometry intermediate algebra/trigonometry and successfully complete at least three Regents' examinations. Students planning to major in biology, chemistry, mathematics or physics are required to complete four years of college preparatory mathematics prior to enrollment.

**Three years of a language is the minimum requirement, however it is recommended that students continue in a language into their senior year if they are enrolling in a language major.

- ◆ SATs/ACTs (for SATs they look at the highest critical reading score and highest math score)

Please keep in mind that students may need a certain grade point average (cumulative or per individual class) and/or Regents exam grade in order to be accepted to the college and/or into a specific program major.

Along with the college application (fee waived if student applies online)....

- ◆ Transcript needs to be sent
- ◆ SAT/ACT scores need to be sent
- ◆ At least one letter of recommendation from counselor or three letters of recommendation from teachers

taken directly from LeMoyne's admissions website...www.lemoyne.edu

*Accountants (in demand)...

Job Description

Analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within an organization.

Interest:

Conventional (ASVAB interest inventory)

- ◆ Following a set of procedures and routines
- ◆ Working with data and details

Tasks (some not all)

- ◆ Prepare, examine or analyze accounting records, financial statements or other financial reports to assess accuracy and completeness
- ◆ Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns.
- ◆ Develop, maintain and analyze budgets including preparing reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs
- ◆ Advise management about issues (tax strategies, budget forecast, etc.)

Education

- ◆ Minimum of a 4 year degree

Wages in NYS

- ◆ \$50,000 for entry-level workers
- ◆ \$92,540 for experienced workers

Job Outlook

- ◆ Very favorable
- ◆ Average increase of 1,880 jobs per year until 2016

*This information is taken directly from

www.nycareerzone.net

*Computer Systems Analyst (in demand)...

Job Description

Analyze science, engineering, business and all other data processing problems for application. Analyze user requirement, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems. Also review computer systems capabilities, workflow and scheduling limitations.

Interest:

Investigative (ASVAB interest inventory)

- ◆ Working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking (solving problems mentally)

Task (some not all)

- ◆ Providing users with assistance in solving computer related problems.
- ◆ Test, maintain, and monitor computer programs and systems.
- ◆ Train staff
- ◆ Expand or modify system to serve new purposes or improve work flow

Education

- ◆ 4 year degree

Wages

- ◆ \$55,330 for entry-level
- ◆ \$102,980 for experienced workers

Job Outlook in NYS

- ◆ Very Favorable
- ◆ 810 new positions annually with an additional 670 job openings per year (present -2016)

*This information is taken directly from

www.nycareerzone.net

Both majors, accounting and informational systems, require college level **statistics** before completing the program. Accounting majors are also required to take college level **calculus** before completing the program.

Scholarship and Award Winners

NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Congratulations to our WCCS nominees for the Scholarship for Academic Excellence. Nominees were selected using the State's guidelines for a weighted average of specific Regents Exams. All students who receive this nomination will have completed a minimum of Course 3/Math B Regents in mathematics and three Regents examinations in science.

Pending the appropriation of State funds during the 2010 NYS Legislature session, our students will be eligible for the following scholarships should they attend a college in NY.

Nicole Traphagen	\$1,500
Steven Conrad	\$500
Kenneth Mark	\$500
Dane St. George	\$500
Wendy White	\$500

Congratulations!!!

Alfred University:

Engineering and Material Science Day

Each year Alfred University hosts its annual Engineering and Materials Science Day. Schools from all over New York State are invited to campus to get a firsthand look at the Engineering and Materials Science program and compete for scholarships. This year, Wayland-Cohocton selected 10 juniors to attend. Of all the students who participated in the engineering exam, Wayland-Cohocton students earned two of the three highest scores making them eligible for the Inamoria School of Engineering Scholarship should they decide to attend Alfred University.

Alex Decker	2nd place	\$2,000 per year for 4 years
Sarah Wolcott	3rd place	\$1,500 per year for 4 years

Congratulations !!!

Daughters of American Revolution Award

Each year one WCCS senior is selected as the winner of the DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) Good Citizen Award. The winner exemplifies dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

The winner is selected by the following process...

1. The faculty members submit 2 senior names.
2. The names are tallied and the three most submitted senior names are placed on a ballot and voted upon by the senior class members.

This year's winner is ... Steven Conrad

Congratulations!!!

Steven has taken the opportunity to participate in the Scholarship Contest.

WCCS HOBY "Ambassador"

The Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership seminar asks schools to select an Ambassador each year. All sophomores are eligible but must demonstrate outstanding written and oral communication skills, critical and creative thinking, creative problem solving, sensitivity to others, charismatic personality, courage to speak out, courage to challenge authority responsibly and also give back to community.

Those who applied were required to stay 13th period for an interview with the scholarship committee.

The winner will then attend a HOBY Leadership seminar at SUNY Geneseo this spring.

This year's winner is Samantha Scott.

The alternate is Vanessa Howard.

Congratulations!!!

New face in the School Counseling Office...Matt Nelson

At the end of last year, Mr. James Sobiesiak retired after working for WCCS for 30 plus years. We miss his knowledge and laughter but wish him well on his new adventure.

Matt Nelson was hired this summer in the SCO. He graduated from Alfred University's counseling program this past May and completed his internship at Livonia Central School. His caseload consists of all the freshman and sophomores. We would also like to add that this past August, Matt and his wife welcomed into their home a healthy baby girl, Addison Elizabeth.

The SCO wishes you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

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Wayland, NY

Wayland-Cohocton Central School
2350 Route 63
Wayland, NY 14572

School Counseling Office
2350 Rt. 63, Wayland, NY 14572
Website: www.wccsk12.org/sco
PHONE: 585-728-2214 FAX: 585-728-3902

* Tim Bolton - Counseling Coordinator and grades 11 & 12 (last name L through Z)
* Tbolton@wccsk12.org
* Laura Buisch - grades 11& 12 (last names A through K)
* Lbuisch@wccsk12.org
* Matt Nelson - grades 9 & 10
* Mnelson@wccsk12.org
* Jean Antkowiak—grades 5,6,7 & 8
* Jantkowiak@wccsk12.org
* Susan Elliott- Secretary, Grade Reporter, Transcripts
* Selllott@wccsk12.org
* Karen Oas- Secretary, Scheduler, Scholarships
* Koas@wccsk12.org
