



Worthington Kilbourne High School

Counseling and Career Center

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www.wkhscounselors.com

The Counselor Connection Newsletter

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We hope you and your family had a fun and relaxing summer vacation. We look forward to a rewarding and successful school year for all students. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact your counselor so that we can try to help. The Counseling Center staff values the partnership of working together to help create a positive and supportive educational experience for your student. Throughout the year we will provide additional information and updates on the counselor website and in the WKHS newsletters.

Worthington Kilbourne High School Counseling Staff

Last Name	Counselor	Voicemail	E-Mail
A – Fl	Brianna Abbott	450-6490	babbott@wscloud.org
Fm – Li	Andrea Gratz	450-6484	agratz@wscloud.org
Lj – Sc	Ariel Schwartz	450-6487	aschwartz@wscloud.org
Sd – Z	Molly Lord	450-6491	mlord@wscloud.org

Counseling Center Support Staff

Karen McDaniel, Registrar
Jennifer Dominach, Secretary
Anne Focht, Secretary

School Psychologist

Sophia Whitehouse

Parent Contact

The Counseling Center's office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:15pm. Every effort is made to return phone calls within 24 hours. We may not always be able to do this during busy times, but we'll do our best. In particular, please be patient during the first 5 days of each semester and during registration weeks. You may also contact us using e-mail. Please remember that each counselor is responsible for approximately 350 students, so setting up appointments prior to stopping into school is helpful.

Counselor Website

We have continued to work on providing a website with a wealth of information for WKHS students and parents related to your academic, college/ career and personal/ social needs. The website is www.wkhscounselors.com and we strongly encourage you to visit the site frequently for updates and timely information. Examples of information available on the WKHS Counselor website include upcoming dates, forms you can download related to college applications, credit flexibility resources, scholarships, and resources of support.

Important Upcoming Dates

With the start of each new school year important dates have a tendency to come faster than anticipated. Knowing that schedules fill up quickly, we encourage you to write these dates on your calendar now so that you will be a step ahead throughout the year.

Wednesday, August 23rd – PTO Meet the Teacher Night – 7:00pm

Tuesday, August 29th – Senior Student/ Parent College Information Night – 7:00pm

Sunday, September 24th – Columbus Suburban College Fair at Otterbein College – 1:00pm

Wednesday, October 4th – Financial Aid Night – 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 11th – PSAT – 7:30am – The PSAT is the practice test for the SAT. All juniors are strongly encouraged to take this test as it is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test.

Monday, October 16th – Parent/ Teacher Conferences 5:00 – 9:00pm

Monday, October 16th – Planning for College Information Night – 7:00pm – This evening is primarily for junior students and parents, but younger students/ parents are also welcome to attend.

Wednesday, October 18th – Parent/ Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 7:30pm

Wednesday, October 18th – College Application Completion Workshop 5:00 – 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 8th – Pre-ACT – 7:30am – The Pre-ACT is the practice test for the ACT. This test is open to interested freshmen, sophomore and junior students.

Friday, November 17th – Field trip to Delaware Area Career Center for interested students

Wednesday, December 13th through Friday, December 15th – Semester Exams

Monday, January 29th – Curriculum Night – 7:00pm

Thursday, February 1st – Academic Options Night – 7:00pm – Information re: College Credit Plus which is taking college classes while in high school and Credit Flexibility. Please note, this presentation will be held at TWHS this year.

Monday, February 5th – Parent/ Teacher Conferences – 5:00 – 9:00pm

Thursday, February 8th – Parent/ Teacher Conferences – 3:30 – 7:30pm

Sunday, May 20th – Graduation for the Class of 2018 – 12:00pm at Battelle Grand

Reminder Text Messages

Students and parents who want to get important announcements and information from the WKHS counselors and administrators can sign up to receive reminders by text message. If you would like to subscribe, send a text to **81010** with the appropriate code below:

- For the Class of 2018, text **@wkhs2018**
- For the Class of 2019, text **@wkhs2019**
- For the Class of 2020, text **@wkhs2020**
- For the Class of 2021, text **@wkhs2021**

Please note, this is NOT an actual phone number. The texts will be sent from a website, not a cell phone, so we cannot receive calls to this number and will not receive text replies that you send to it. It is only used for us to distribute information to you. It is free to sign up for this, but regular text messaging rates apply through your phone company.

Visits to WKHS by College Admissions Representatives

Every year dozens of college admissions representatives visit WKHS in order to meet with students to discuss their school and answer any student questions. Upcoming visits will be listed in the Counseling and Career Center and on the WKHS Counselor Website. Students that would like to attend a visit must sign up in advance and must have teachers sign a permission form before missing class to attend the meeting. Permission forms are available in the Counseling and Career Center or can be downloaded from the WKHS Counselor website. These visits are intended for Juniors and Seniors, although Freshmen and Sophomores are allowed to attend as long as they do not miss any classes.

College Fairs

College Fairs provide an opportunity for students and parents to meet and talk with representatives from a wide variety of colleges and universities in a relatively short period of time. There are many college fairs in Ohio and we encourage students and parents from all grade levels to attend one (or more) as they are helpful in considering and exploring future plans.

Sunday, September 24th – Columbus Suburban College Fair at Otterbein College from 1:00 to 3:30pm – *This is the largest and most comprehensive college fair in the area.*

Monday, September 25th – Columbus Kiwanis College Fair at COSI from 6-8pm

Monday, October 2nd – Performing and Visual Arts College Fair at Xavier University Cintas Center in Cincinnati from 6:30 – 8:30pm

Wednesday, October 4th – Learning Disabilities College Fair at Gahanna Lincoln H.S. from 6:30 to 8pm

Sunday, October 22nd – National College Fair at Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati from 1- 4pm

Sunday, April 21, 2018 – National College Fair at Greater Columbus Convention Center from 1-4pm

Suggestions for Success

A new year provides a fresh opportunity for students and parents to focus on academic success. Suggestions to help make sure students have a successful year include:

- Check Infinite Campus on a regular basis. Parents and students keeping track of current grades in courses help to make sure that goals are being achieved in classes.
- Seek help from teachers by asking questions in class or meeting 1:1 with your teacher for extra assistance when you don't understand material being covered in class.
- Seek support from the Academic Assistants in the Teaching and Learning Center. The Teaching and Learning Center is located in Room 209 and 4 Academic Assistants (one for each core content area) are in the TLC all day to help support students in reviewing material, studying for tests, and assisting with homework questions. This is free of charge and an incredible resource for our students.
- Participate in parent/ teacher conferences. Both students and parents can attend conferences.

Office Workers

Students with an off period in their day (academic prep or options) can apply to be an office worker for the counseling center/ administrative offices. Expectations and criteria of office workers are indicated on the application which will be available in the counseling center during schedule pick-up days. Students selected as office workers will earn volunteer hours for their service.

Lexington – School Therapy Dog

Lexington, better known as **Lexi** to staff and students, is our school's therapy dog who attends WKHS daily. She is typically in the counseling and administrative areas and loves to visit with students, parents and staff. Lexi is a miniature goldendoodle which is a hypoallergenic dog meaning that she should not cause a problem for students with allergies. The next time you are in Kilbourne, stop by to say Hi to Lexi too.

College Admissions Tests

The ACT and SAT are college admissions tests that are required for most four-year colleges. These tests are designed to help colleges predict a student's ability to be successful at their educational institution. The entrance tests are also used for counseling and placing students in appropriate college courses. Some schools will require minimum scores for admission. In addition, scholarships may be based on scores from these college admissions tests.

Each high school has a unique test code that will be needed when registering for the college admissions tests. The code for Worthington Kilbourne High School is **365507**.

You can visit the WKHS Counselor website for upcoming tests dates and deadlines as well as find direct links to the ACT (www.actstudent.org) and SAT (www.collegeboard.org) websites. All students will register to take the college admissions tests directly on the respective testing organization's website.

Student Load/ Co-Curricular Eligibility

The typical student load is 5 to 7 classes per semester. 6 classes are recommended for all underclassmen and at least 5 classes are recommended for seniors, although many seniors take more in at least one semester.

Students who plan to participate in co-curricular activities (such as athletics, theater, music, Mock Trial, etc.) need to plan their course load to insure they are earning sufficient credits each grading period to remain eligible to participate during the next grading period. This means that, among the courses they are taking, they must be passing five courses, each of which carry ½ credit for the semester. All Wellness for Life classes do **not** count toward eligibility. Please see your counselor if you have any questions.

Pass/ Fail Courses

Students may elect to take certain courses on a pass/ fail basis. To select this grading option:

- Check the Course Planning Handbook to see if the course allows for a pass/ fail option
- Obtain the pass/ fail form from the Counseling and Career Center
- Complete the form, including parent's signature
- Return form to Counseling and Career Center prior to the end of the 6th week of the semester

Advanced Course Level Changes

As a reminder, all students who are enrolled in honors, AP or IB classes which require summer work must complete their assigned summer assignments. These assignments are available on the counselor website as a reference. If a student decides that he/ she wants to change their level (out of an AP or Honors class and into a regular class) he/ she is still responsible for the summer assignment as the grade will carry over and be included in their regular course level's class.

Dropping a Course

To drop a course without receiving an "F" on the final transcript, all students must drop the course, through their counselor, within six weeks of the beginning of the semester. After 6 weeks, students that drop a class would have an "F" on their transcript and included in the determination of their grade point average.