



## North Warren Jr. Sr. High School Guidance Office

**August, 2017**

**To: All Seniors and Parents**

**Re: Planning for Senior Year**

Dear Parents and Members of the Senior Class of 2018,  
 Congratulations on achieving senior status! Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, will be the start of your senior year, a time where important decisions and planning for the future will be realized. This senior letter is intended to provide you with information about current graduation requirements and planning for this important year. Listed below, are the graduation requirements for the graduating Class of 2018:

### NWCS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Subject to change based on New York State Board of Regents Approval)  
 Class of 2016 and beyond

<b>REGENTS DIPLOMA</b>		<b>ADVANCED REGENTS</b>	
<i>Required Courses</i>		<i>Required Courses</i>	
	<b>Credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>
English	4	English	4
Social Studies	4	Social Studies	4
Math	3	Math	3
Science	3	Science	3
Foreign Language	1	Foreign Language	3 *
Art/Music	1	Art/Music	1
Health	.5	Health	.5
Physical Education	2	Physical Education	2
Electives	3.5	Electives	1.5
<i>Total Required Credits</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Total Required Credits</i>	<i>22</i>

(\*) Students who earn a 5 unit sequence in Art, Music, Business, Technology, or a Vo-Tec Program may be exempt from this requirement.

<b>Required Regents Exams *</b> <i>(grade of 65 or better required)</i>	<b>Required Regents Exams *</b> <i>(grade of 65 or better required)</i>
ELA ( <i>Common Core</i> ) (grade 11)	ELA ( <i>Common Core</i> ) (grade 11)
Algebra I ( <i>Common Core</i> )	Algebra I ( <i>Common Core</i> ) Geometry ( <i>Common Core</i> ) Algebra II ( <i>Common Core</i> )
Global Studies (grade 10)	Global Studies (grade 10)
U.S. History (grade 11)	U.S. History (grade 11)
Science	2 Science Exams



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(\* ) The **Regents Diploma with Honors** requires an average of a 90 for the 5 exams, while the **Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors** requires an average of 90 for the 8 exams A **Mastery in Science and/or Math** designation requires a score of 85 or greater for each of the 3 exams in each discipline.

All current seniors were encouraged to take the SAT and or the ACT last Spring as a junior. It is recommended to sit for the exam(s) at least twice. This year there is now an additional August SAT test date available on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The full list of SAT and ACT registration deadlines for 2017 – 2018 are the following:

SAT *			
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration**	Fees
8/26/2017	7/28/2017	8/15/2017	\$60.00 SAT w/Essay
10/7/2017	9/8/2017	9/27/2017	
11/4/2017	10/5/2017	10/25/2017	
12/2/2017	11/2/2017	11/21/2017	\$46.00 SAT w/o Essay
3/10/2018	2/9/2018	2/28/2018	
5/5/2018	4/6/2018	4/25/2018	
6/2/2018	5/3/2018	5/23/2018	

\* For SAT II Subject Tests initial \$26.00 fee, plus \$21.00 per subject

\*\* A late or registration change fee of \$29.00 applies after deadline date

ACT			
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration*	Fees
9/9/2017	8/4/2017	8/18/2017	ACT - \$46.00 (w/Writing, \$62.50) *\$29.50 Late Fee applies
10/28/2017	9/22/2017	10/6/2017	
12/9/2017	11/3/2017	11/17/17	
4/14/2018	3/9/2018	3/23/2018	
6/9/2018	5/4/2018	5/18/2018	

To register for the SAT, online registration at <http://sat.collegeboard.org> works the best. If you need help registering, or would like to use a mail-in form, please come to the Guidance Office for assistance. Please be aware that a digital photo must be uploaded as part of the registration process for test security. *(The school code for NWCS is 331365)*

To register for the ACT, online registration at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) works the best. If you need help registering, or would like to use a mail-in form, please come to the Guidance Office for assistance. Please be aware that a digital photo must be uploaded as part of the registration process for test security. *(The school code for NWCS is 331365)*



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In the coming year, there are several events planned in order to provide insight into the transition from high school to college and career planning. A college planning timeline with critical milestones and dates has been included and will be covered with all seniors during Senior Seminar and individual meetings. In addition, there will be college information days, college field trips, and a Financial Aid Night on how to help pay for college. Some web sites for scholarship opportunities include, [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org), and [www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com). We will be providing all seniors with information on how to find scholarships and sources of funding for college. In addition, as part of Senior Seminar, all seniors will be participating in additional interest and skills workshops in order to help them to determine what careers and or colleges may be most suitable for them.

### *Some thoughts for consideration as you plan for your senior year!*

1. **Senior Year Schedule** – It is important to remember that colleges are interested in seeing the level of academic rigor that you've chosen to take this year. Many final college acceptances in June will be contingent on completing every course you are scheduled for during your senior year.
2. **Importance of deadline dates** - Please remember that we need your completed application 2 weeks prior to the college's posted deadline, and not later than December 1<sup>st</sup> (for applications that need to be sent prior to Christmas).
3. **GPA** – Keep in mind that your Grade Point Average is only cumulative for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. It is *this* GPA that a college will consider, along with SAT scores, academic transcripts, activities accomplished, and letters of recommendation. (A final 7-Semester ranking will take place in February)
4. **Letters of recommendation** (required for 4-year colleges)
  - a. Two teachers – Please use recommendation form to be provided, and remember to ask them at least two weeks in advance!
  - b. Counselor – Complete your senior profile and return it to Mr. Therio.
5. **Senior Profile** – Personal reflections, comments and activities that highlight the unique and special person that you are. This form was provided in May and will again be provided to all seniors in September, and will be used by Mr. Therio as input to your final letters of recommendation.
6. **Transcript Addendum** – it is often the extracurricular and community activities, along with community service that differentiate college applicants from their competition. Be sure to review your list and ensure that we have a complete one in Guidance. A current copy will be provided to all seniors for review in September, which must be updated by you, then returned to Mr. Therio. This completed form, along with your academic transcript and counselor / teacher letters of recommendation will be sent to all colleges that you apply to.



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7. **Community Service** - Giving back to our community builds better relationships, higher self-esteem and an improved culture overall. As a job preparation and self-discovery skill, community service opportunities can benefit you greatly. In 2016, the North Warren BOE enacted a Community Service Graduation requirement, which requires a total of 20 service hours over a period of four years. This will result in at least 10 being required for the Class of 2018, which will be tracked in the Senior Seminar class.
8. **Military Academies & ROTC** – Be aware of the deadline dates to submit scholarship applications!
9. **College Visits** – Throughout the year, look for weekly announcements on the colleges that will be visiting North Warren High School. Many will be taking place during Senior Seminar. This is a great opportunity to meet with representatives from schools and learn about programs offered there.
10. **Career Exploration** – Always take the opportunity to learn more about YOU in terms of your skills, abilities and values as they relate to the world of work. Please take the time to use the Choices Career Planner program (included at the end of this letter), and take a look at the <http://www.asvabprogram.com/> website for access to some great resources. The ASVAB will be offered to interested seniors on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, this year.
11. **Financial Aid** – Please plan on attending the financial aid night in the high school library on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The CSS/Financial Aid Profile and the FAFSA forms will be covered in detail, along with a great overall financial aid overview.
12. **SAT** – Some community colleges do not require the SAT. But why limit your options? Even a low SAT or ACT score is regarded more highly than none at all.
13. **How many colleges should you apply to?** It's not a bad idea to consider 8: 2 reach schools (chance of acceptance); 4 target schools (SAT and GPA meet requirements); 2 safe schools (GPA and SAT scores are above the requirements).
14. **Deadlines:** Some colleges use deadlines, while others accept a specific number that once reached will result in no one else being accepted (rolling admission). Whether a Deadline or Rolling Admission, it's a good idea to begin submitting your applications as soon as possible, starting in mid September.
15. **Early Action vs. Early Decision** – If you want an answer as soon as possible regarding your acceptance, these are good options. However, Early Decision is binding, which means you should be absolutely sure you wish to attend the school you are applying to before using this option!



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16. **Scholarships** – There are many scholarships out there. To get them requires work and perseverance, but the rewards can be great. Check out the [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) site to create your own personal profile to receive in information about scholarships related to your interests. ***Most importantly, spend time on our school guidance website for local scholarships:*** <http://northwarren.k12.ny.us/Guidance/Docs/NWScholarships.pdf>  
 Finally, we will work on the **North Warren Community Scholarship Fund** applications in April, which can qualify members of the Class of 2018 for over \$13,000 worth of scholarships provided by our generous North Warren community!
17. **Applications** – College applications can be completed online at the college website, but a better option can be found by using:
- **Common Application** at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) (over 500 private 4-year colleges use this same application. Consider starting your application now!)
  - SUNY Online Application Portal [www.suny.edu/student](http://www.suny.edu/student) (can be used to apply to all New York State 2 and 4 year colleges)

Trying to find ideas for what College you may want to go to?

- [www.MyMajors.Com](http://www.MyMajors.Com) for a free advisement report (use “warren” for your access code)
- [www.MyCollegeOptions.org](http://www.MyCollegeOptions.org) to get your college matches
- <http://collegeresults.org/> to compare and choose colleges best for you!
- [www.campusexplorer.com/](http://www.campusexplorer.com/) to get a list of colleges based on selection of major
- <https://collegecost.ed.gov/> to find out what college will really cost
- [www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com), SITE ID: 0106466, PASSWORD: warren

### ***Seniors – A few key dates to remember for your college preparation!***

<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>October 2017 through June 2018</b>	ACT and/or SAT Testing: Please reference the schedule in this senior letter. Most 4-year schools require the SAT or ACT test to be considered for acceptance. Seniors should take their ACT or SAT no later than December.
<b>Senior Seminar</b>	Senior Year Planning Workshop – The College, Career, and Life Preparation timeline and related activities will be covered during the Senior Seminar Course with all class of 2018 members.
<b>September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Trio Upward Bound Presentation – Learn how first generation college students can gain access to some great college opportunities.
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup></b>	College Information Day at SUNY Adirondack – Over 120 colleges will be represented – 6:30 to 8:30 PM
<b>October 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Senior Class College Visit to SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University and St. Lawrence University – permissions slips will be required. (Return to NWCS by 5:30 PM)
<b>October 19<sup>th</sup></b>	The ASVAB will be offered to North Warren students at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> .



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<b>October 19<sup>th</sup></b>	College Financial Aid Night & Workshop – 6:00 pm in the NWCS High School Library
<b>November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Deadline for ROTC Scholarships
<b>November 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Visit to the College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering campus in Albany
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Deadline for submission of application materials to NWCS guidance for sending to 4-year colleges
<b>Sept '17 to June '18</b>	Every 5 Weeks, please see the latest Guidance Newsletter for additional activities, events and scholarships throughout your senior year.
<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018</b>	Graduation!

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 494-3015 ext. 752, or email me at [mtherio@northwarrencsd.org](mailto:mtherio@northwarrencsd.org). Your senior schedule for 2017-2018 will be mailed home during the last week of August.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and I greatly look forward to working with each one of you during your senior year!

Sincerely,

Michael Therio  
Guidance Director

**Some great career, interest and college exploration resources!**

[www.guidancedirect.com](http://www.guidancedirect.com)

### Student Access

- Go to [www.guidancedirect.com](http://www.guidancedirect.com)
- Click on Career Connections Student Login
- Enter the following information and then click **Login**:  
**School ID: 7953674**      **School Password: N29L9201**
- If you are a New User:
  - Click on **Create New Account**
  - Fill an account information and click **Login**
- If you are an Existing User:
  - Enter your User Name and Password, and click **Login**

[www.careerzone.ny.gov/](http://www.careerzone.ny.gov/)

[www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com)

[www.MyCollegeOptions.org](http://www.MyCollegeOptions.org)