

Senior Parent Information



Meet the Whitewater Counselors and Staff

Christina Rufenacht – Registrar

Anslee Broome– A-D

Shannon Edmondson– E- K

Jessica Maddox– L-Ri

Kelly Hubbard – Ro-Z

Missy Betsill – Records Secretary

Flora O’Hara –Infinite Campus Secretary

Graduation Requirements



Areas of Study:

	<u>Unit Requirements</u>
• English/Language Arts*	4
• Math*	4
• Science*	4
• Social Studies*	3
• CTAE and/or Fine Arts and/or Foreign Lang.	3
• Health and Physical Education*	1
• Electives	4

Total Units (Minimum)

23

- **Required Courses and/or Core Courses**
- **Entering their senior year, students should have 17 units.**
- **If your child has less than 17 units, he or she may have to make up units outside of the regular school day in order to graduate on time. (i.e. 8th period)**
 - **Please call and make an appointment to speak with your child's counselor about his/her options.**

Bridge Bill



In 2010, Georgia's General Assembly passed the BRIDGE law to promote career awareness and the development of individualized plans of studies for all Georgia middle and high school students.

Each year students must complete a grade specific activity and update their plan of study. The senior bridge bill requirement is the senior survey (completed in Qualtrics in April 2024).

Naviance



Naviance is a college and career readiness platform that helps districts and schools align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life.

- College and Career Preparation
- Career Exploration
- Academic Planning
- Self Discovery
- Supplemental forms for the college application process – (transcripts, letters or recommendations, school profile)
- General annual scholarships available

Students sign in through Classlink

www.GAfutures.org

- Career interest inventories
- Dual enrollment information and funding application
- SAT and ACT prep
- Financial Aid information & Scholarship search
- HOPE eligibility
- Apply to colleges in Georgia
- Send transcripts to Georgia colleges/universities for college applications for free

Gafutures example:



HOPE & State Aid Programs

Fed

GAfutures.org / My GAfutures /

- Profile
- Messages
- My Dual Enrollment Profile
- My High School HOPE GPA
- My High School Transcript
- My College HOPE Profile
- My GSFA State Loan (Pathways)
- College Application
- Document Upload
- Saved Colleges
- Saved Scholarships

Messages

- No recent Message

Factors Determining Your Scholarship Eligibility

The following information is based on the most recent transcript record provided by your high school:

HOPE Calculated GPA: 4.000

Academic Rigor Credits earned (4 credits are required by High School Graduation): 4

To qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship, acceptable SAT or ACT scores must have been earned prior to high school graduation and submitted to GSFC. To be eligible you must have at least a 26 composite score on the ACT or have at least a 1200 for Math and Reading on the SAT on one date.

Standardized test score report(s) received:

Date:	Type:	Score:
No test scores currently available.		

The HOPE Scholarship

The HOPE GPA includes only Core Credits (all attempts) and is calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

HOPE Scholarship GPA: 3.0 (academic GPA)
4 rigor courses

Zell Miller Program GPA: 3.7
1200 SAT or 26 ACT(1 sitting)
4 rigor courses

Apply for HOPE/Zell on gafutures.org or by completing the FAFSA

GAFutures (SAT score)



- **To upload your SAT score report using the GAFutures' Document Upload feature, follow these steps:**
- Print your test score report from [College Board's website](#) for the SAT.
- Sign, date and write this statement on the report: "This is a true and exact copy of the original score report."
- Save your document(s) as one file (Acceptable file types: pdf, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, tif, tiff).
- Sign into your GAFutures account and select **Document Upload**, located on the left-hand side of the page.
- Select the Document Type: SAT scores.
- Attach your document file and select the submit button.

GAFutures (ACT score)



- **To request ACT to submit your score report to GSFC electronically, follow these steps:**
- Go to [ACT.org](https://act.org) and sign into your account.
- Select your ACT score report be sent to GSFC by entering the recipient code: 2225
- ACT will then send GSFC an electronic file to update the student's record.

SAT vs ACT



- Evidence based reading and writing
- Math
- 1600 Score
- No Penalty for guessing
- www.collegeboard.org
- Important to include SS#
- 4 multiple choice tests
- Composite score/36
- No penalty for guessing
- Students should answer all questions
- Align w/ high school curriculum
- Writing Test optional
- www.act.org

School Code **WHS 111279**

Both have testing securities:
Upload photo to online ticket
No ticket, No ID, No admission!

College Visits

As a senior you receive 2 official college visitation days per year . In order for the 2 visits to count as an excused field trip you must do the following:

1. Make an appointment with the College Admission Office
2. Obtain a College Visitation form from **Attendance**
3. Have the form signed by your teachers, parent, and college official
4. Return the signed form to the attendance office by the next school day.

College Representatives @WHS– See the board outside the counseling office and check Naviance for the dates and times.
Sign up for visit on the student Naviance account.

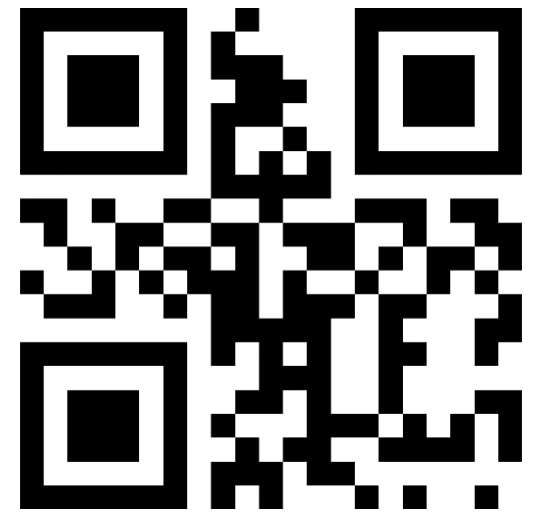
Probe College Tour @ Sandy Creek High School

**October 25, 2023
6:00 – 8:00 pm**



**Meet with college
and university
representatives from
around the world.**

**RegisterProbe.
com**



Senior Meetings

- **Each student will meet with his/her counselor and discuss the following:**
 - **Student transcript**
 - **Future plans**
 - **College application process**
 - **Standardized testing**
 - **Scholarship information (websites)**
 - **Brag Sheet**
 - **Gafutures.org(HOPE GPA)**

What your student will receive:

- Senior Survival Guide**
- Unofficial transcript (with HOPE GPA at bottom)**
- Scholarship opportunities (located on Naviance)**

How to Apply to College

1. **Choose 3-5 schools and visit their websites**
2. **Check admissions requirements and deadlines**
3. **Apply online (using Common Application or directly on the college's website)**
4. **Send official transcripts**
5. **Send SAT/ACT scores directly from testing site.
What about test optional schools?**
6. **Have someone proofread the application before submitting**
7. **Request recommendations if school requires them**
8. **Print copy for your records**

Common Application



- A large application that can be completed once and sent to many different colleges/universities (over 1,000 colleges/universities have a partnership with Common Application)
- Some schools are CA exclusive; some allow you to apply either via CA or on the school's website. If there are 2 methods of application, the choice is up to the student.
- If a student uses CA, they will need to match CA with Naviance.
 - All supplemental materials (transcript, letters of recommendation, school profile) are sent through Naviance.

Requesting a Transcript

- Transcripts can be requested online at www.gafutures.org or through Naviance at NO Cost.

For all other transcripts:

- Complete a “Request for Transcript” form (in Counseling Office)
- Pay \$3.00 fee for each transcript
- Allow 2 days for the requests
- Picking up and mailing of transcript is the student’s responsibility
- ***Opening of the envelope invalidates the transcript***

Transcripts with 1st semester grades will be available after
January 29, 2024

Letters of Recommendation

- Prepare a comprehensive “Brag Sheet” and share with teachers and counselor
- Allow 3 weeks for completion of recommendation (most colleges do not require a counselor recommendation)
- Need a recommendation letter before semester break (remember those January college deadlines)?

December 1, 2023 is the **DEADLINE** to request a recommendation from your counselor and teachers

Brag Sheet

Brag Sheet in the School Counseling course in Schoology. Make a copy in Google drive. Fill it out and share with teachers and counselor. Most students completed the brag sheet in Spring 2023 through English class at WHS. Review before sharing with teachers/counselor.

- ❑ Be Detailed
- ❑ Be Accurate
- ❑ Brag about yourself.

This information is used to write your recommendations for the following:

College Admission

Scholarships

Other awards



FAFSA



- The 2024–25 FAFSA changes include the following: Opens December 2023
- Every contributor—anyone (student, the student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or the parent's spouse) who's required to provide information on the FAFSA form—will need an FSA ID to access and complete their section of the online form.
- All contributors must provide consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly into the student's FAFSA form via direct data exchange with the IRS. If any contributor doesn't provide consent and approval, submission of the FAFSA form will still be allowed. However, a Student Aid Index, which replaces the Expected Family Contribution, will not be calculated and the student won't be eligible for federal student aid.
- Students will be able to list up to 20 colleges to receive Student Aid Index.
- Users can start or access the FAFSA form by visiting StudentAid.gov and logging in, where they'll see the link to the FAFSA form on their Dashboard.

FAFSA continued



- **The purpose of completing the FAFSA is to:**
 - Apply for the HOPE/Zell scholarship
 - Be eligible to receive institutional scholarships
 - Be eligible for federal loans, grants, and work study

- **Whitewater High School is hosting a FAFSA night with a presenter from the Ga Finance Commission on January 9, 2024.**
- 2024-2025 preview FAFSA presentation available [here](#).

Scholarships



- Students are notified about scholarships in various ways (located in Naviance, weekly announcements at WHS, through the senior newsletter, through Infinite Campus email blasts, on the Facebook page, posted outside Counseling office)
- Important to set aside time to apply for scholarships.
- CollegeBoard Opportunity Scholarship

Ordering cap and gown



- Information posted in Cat Chat and Infinite Campus blast
- Important to enter the height and weight of the graduating student for correct gown sizing
- Orders now through 10-31-23: \$135
- Orders placed 11-1-23 through 1-31-24: \$145
- Orders placed 2-1-24 through 4-19-24: \$160
- The fee covers cap and gown, diploma cover, security at graduation, sound system, graduation programs, etc.

Eligibility Center – NCAA, NAIA

To participate in college athletics and receive athletically-based financial aid, you must do the following:

- Register online Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and meet eligibility standards (SS# and fee required)-www.eligibilitycenter.org
play.mynaia.org
- Submit transcript release form to **Mrs. Maddox** along with **\$6**

Thank you!!



Thank you for taking the time to come tonight.

The presentation will be on the website.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Go Cats!