



September/October, 2017

Welcome to the Counseling newsletter! The EHS Counseling department will post a bi-monthly newsletter on the high school website to keep you up to date on many of the important events, deadlines, and other information that will benefit you.

ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF

Ellsworth High School has two school counselors: Ms. Wiskow, who is full time, and Ms. Bruesewitz, who is part-time.

Ms. Bruesewitz -

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*Works at EHS Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Ms. Wiskow

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*Works full-time at EHS

Mrs. Nyquist

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*School Counselor

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*Counseling Secretary

The counselors can be reached during school hours @ 273-3904. Always call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also view the Counseling newsletter on the High School website.

SPRING SEMESTER YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM

The Youth Options Program allows all public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take post-secondary courses at Wisconsin technical and four-year schools. The program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for all students. The student does not pay for the post-secondary course if the school board determines the course may receive high school credit and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the school district.

Juniors and Seniors interested in possibly taking a Youth Options course for the 2018 spring semester must have a parent/guardian sign the interest form (located in the counseling office) and turn it in by September 29, 2017. Students interested in the Fall 2018 semester must hand in a signed interest form by March 1, 2018. For more information, contact the EHS Counseling Office.

GRADE LEVEL MEETINGS

Every fall, the counselors meet with all students to preview the upcoming year. Topics that are covered include credit requirements for graduation and college admissions, post high school options including 1, 2, and 4 year colleges, military and reserve opportunities, employment and apprenticeships. Classes preview upcoming required and voluntary testing, as well as other important class specific information. Students are required to attend all class meetings.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

August 28	Senior Counseling/Class Meeting during Excel in Cafetorium
August 30	Sophomore Counseling/Class Meeting during Excel in Cafetorium
August 31	Picture Day for Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors
September 1	Junior Counseling/Class Meeting during Excel in Cafetorium
September 21	ACT Practice Test – All Juniors
September 22	ACT registration deadline (October 28 th test)

September 25	H.S. Parent Conference 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Senior Parent Meeting in IMC
September 27	National College Fair @ Minneapolis Convention Center for Juniors & Seniors from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
October 6	Picture retakes
October 11	PSAT exam for Juniors at E.H.S.
October 13	Sophomore Respect Retreat – all day
October 26	End of Term 1
October 27	No School
October 28	ACT Test Date
October 30	First day of 2 nd Term
November 3	ACT registration deadline (December 9 th test)

PSAT: The PSAT will be given to interested juniors on Wednesday, October 11th at the Ellsworth High School. The PSAT test will given in the IMC. The PSAT is a pre-test that helps students prepare for and experience taking college admissions tests. By taking the exam one is also eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The test measures verbal reasoning, critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills. The test is strongly recommended for any junior considering attending a four year college. The cost is \$14.00. Students must pre-register with payment by Friday, September 8th. Practice tests are available in the Counseling Office.

NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

National College Fair/ Minneapolis Convention Center
Wednesday, September 27 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 28 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

EHS will be taking interested Juniors and Seniors to the National College Fair in Minneapolis on Wednesday, September 27th. Interested students should watch announcements for sign up information. Cost to the students will be \$10, based on numbers attending. Students will return to school for lunch. Money and permission slips should be turned in by Friday, September 15th.

WISCONSIN EDUCATION FAIR

A Wisconsin Education Fair, at Zorn Arena on the campus of UW-Eau Claire, provides students and parents an opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 110 colleges, technical colleges, universities, trade schools and the armed forces. The fair will be held on Friday, October 13th, from 9 to 11 a.m. More information can be found at www.wefs.org.

SOPHOMORE RESPECT RETREAT

On Friday, October 13th, sophomores from Ellsworth High School will attend a Respect Retreat. This year the retreat will be held at the Zion Covenant Church. The retreat is a program designed to teach students how to incorporate the values of kindness, honesty, courage, integrity and respect into their personal and school lives. Those messages are conveyed through music, humor and group activities. The entire day focuses on the value of respect including respecting oneself and standing up for the value of respect when you observe others being treated disrespectfully. Our goal each year is for the entire sophomore class to attend.

A retreat is not an ordinary day of learning. It is a unique tool for educating and supporting kids in the development of their character, values and relationships. The retreat includes a variety of activities that emphasize the value being taught. During large group activities, music and singing communicate important messages while encouraging student participation. Interactive games are also scattered throughout the day to break down barriers, increase trust and encourage teamwork. Throughout the day, small groups consisting of five to six students and a senior volunteer leader discuss issues surrounding the retreat topic.

The retreat is funded by the Ellsworth Community School District Foundation and a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. There is no cost to students. For more information check out the Youth Frontiers website at www.youthfrontiers.org

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING Career Day will be held on November 7, 2017 at UW-Platteville. This program is designed to provide the participants information about the engineering profession. The cost is \$25.00, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, a gift and all program materials. Registration and fees are due by October 22, 2017. For more information, please see your school counselor.

WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN AWARD – This award honors both male and female high school **Senior** athletes who excel in academics (at least a B average), athletics (at least one school-sponsored sport) and student leadership. The deadline for completed applications is October 2nd, 2017. Any eligible student can register and begin the application process at www.wendysheisman.com. For more information, please see your school counselor.

2017 Kohl Excellence Scholarship Program - Seniors who intend to enroll in 2 yr. or 4 yr. colleges, who are WI. Residents, and who demonstrate probable success in postsecondary education are eligible for consideration. Students will be evaluated on leadership, citizenship, school & community involvement, and academic achievement. Applications will be available in the counseling office.

2018 Profile in Courage Essay Contest: This contest provides students the opportunity to develop research, writing and critical thinking skills as they explore the concept of political courage. Students in grades 9 – 12 are eligible to apply. Seven scholarships will be awarded. For more information on this contest go to: www.jfklibrary.org Deadline is Jan. 4, 2018.

2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards: any student in grades 5- 12 who has been engaged in a volunteer activity can apply. Applications must be submitted to the school principal by November 7, 2017. For more information and an application go to <https://spirit.prudential.com/>

United States Senate Youth Program 2018

Juniors and Seniors now serving in an elected or selected capacity within a student government, civic, or educational organization are eligible. Students spend the week of March 3 –10, 2018, in Washington DC learning about our government and political system. For more information see your school counselor. Deadline for materials into the counseling office is Monday, October 16th, 2017. For more information and an application, go to: <https://dpi.wi.gov/social-studies/senate-youth>.

SENIOR INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

Senior Individual Planning Conferences

Seniors and their parents are invited to participate in a **Grade 12 Individual Planning Conference**. This is not a traditional parent-teacher conference or an appropriate place to discuss discipline issues. It is a specially designed conference for you and your student to focus on your child's current talents and interests, their educational and career development, and information to begin planning for their future. Conferences generally last 30-45 minutes, and take place during various times throughout the school day. Your involvement in this conference is very important!

Topics covered will include transcript and graduation requirements, current year's schedule, career plans, information on post-secondary options, application materials for post-secondary options, assessment results, and more.

Letters with dates and times for appointments have been sent to senior families. Please call as soon as possible to set up an appointment.

Parents of Seniors – Class of 2018

Parents of seniors will meet on Monday, September 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the IMC. A senior year calendar with deadlines and activities will be handed out. All post high school preparation information will be covered. Information on scholarships will also be available. Julie Graber, the Senior class advisor, will review the year-long senior schedule.

College Readiness

Another factor to consider besides ACT test scores is student college readiness. College readiness is defined by a student being "college ready" if they have prepared themselves well enough in high school to be able to attend college and have a 50% chance of earning a "B" in a college course or 75% likely to earn a "C" in a college course. A significant factor in a student being "college ready" is the rigor of the high school coursework they take through their senior year. Students continuing in math through Statistics, Pre-Calculus and Calculus; in science through Anatomy & Physiology, and Physics; and in taking our Advanced Placement courses in English, Science and History tend to be much better prepared for the demands and rigor of post-secondary education. Colleges are interested in high school students being admitted into their schools, however they are **most interested in keeping students in school and having them graduate**. The accomplishment of graduating from college is much more demanding than simply being admitted to the school.

College Applications

Most colleges require students to apply through the on-line application. When you apply on-line, make sure you notify the counseling office with a request for transcript or submit your transfer request in Career Cruising under "My Education". Students can pay the application fee by credit/debit card. We must send transcripts directly from the school to the college. **Be aware of application deadlines for popular majors.**

Important information for Seniors and their parents!

The following article was published in the UW-La Crosse 2005 Fall Edition of “La Crosse Talk”:

YES, WE CAN AND DO RESCIND ADMISSION

In our admission letters to students who are high school seniors we state, “final admission is contingent upon the student successfully completing courses in their senior year, and maintaining their high school class rank”. We are trying to make an effort at UW-La Crosse to let high school counselors know that a student’s admission status is evaluated again when we receive their final high school transcript with senior year grades.

In fact, we receive many phone calls during the academic year from students inquiring about class schedule changes. In most of these situations, it will be our recommendation for the student to stay in the classes they identified on their application for admission. The strength of a student’s senior year coursework is one of the major factors in our admission decision. Many students are told that if they drop specific coursework, we will rescind their admission and the student would most likely be placed on a wait list (with little chance of then being admitted). When we receive a final high school transcript after graduation, there are two possible changes in a student’s status that could occur. One change is to simply rescind their admission; the other is to change their admission status from “good standing” to “probation”. Students entering on probation must attain specific grades to get off probation and to continue enrollment.

We hope that this message will assist you in your efforts in working with the seniors who let their studies drift a bit. You are welcome to have your students call us at any time to discuss their admission to UW-La Crosse and the consequences of class schedule changes or faltering grades.

****This article speaks for all UW schools when it states that schedule changes and grades can and will affect admission. If you have any questions on this topic, please contact the Counseling office at Ellsworth High School.**

Admission Requirement Update

Most UW campuses now state that their admission process is based on a comprehensive review of the applicant’s materials. Below are the UW campuses that still give specific admission guidelines.

UW-Colleges – 2 year campuses - New freshmen likely to be admitted if top 75% of class.

UW-Milwaukee – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class **or** have an ACT score of at least 21.

UW-Parkside – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class **or** have an ACT score of at least 21.

UW-Platteville – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class **or** have a minimum ACT composite score of 22 (1110 SAT equivalent).

UW-River Falls – New Freshmen are likely to be admitted if in top 40% **or** ACT score of 22. Elementary education majors and animal science majors are much more competitive.

UW-Stout – Typically applicants must rank in top 50% of class **OR** an ACT score of 22.

UW-Superior – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class **or** have a minimum ACT score of 21 (SAT equivalent).

UW-Whitewater – Profile of admitted students: Class rank top 22-53% and ACT 20-25

Chippewa Valley Technical College – Associates Degree in Nursing and Dental Hygiene – ACT is now required for admission. Please see your counselor for details.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are used for some college admission and most scholarships. Students should complete the letter of recommendation form found in the counseling office or use academic resume completed on Career Cruising and give to staff in a timely manner. Students should **allow at least two weeks** for the letter to be written!

Financial Aid Information

When completing the FAFSA online application you will come across a question that asks what the name of the high school you attended is. This question is very sensitive to the name of the high school you put in – you should key in Ellsworth Senior High School. Parents have contacted us regarding this concern.

Title IV Institution code list for the FAFSA:

UW Colleges – All campuses	003897	UW-Parkside	005015
UW-Eau Claire	003917	UW-Platteville	003921
UW-Green Bay	003899	UW-River Falls	003923
UW-La Crosse	003919	UW-Stevens Point	003924
UW-Madison	003895	UW-Stout	003915
UW-Milwaukee	003896	UW-Superior	003925
UW-Oshkosh	003920	UW-Whitewater	003926
Chippewa Valley Tech.	005304	WI Indianhead	011824

Financial Aid Application "Priority" Deadlines

<u>Technical Colleges</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
Chippewa Valley Tech	May 5 th
Wisconsin Indianhead	April 15 th

<u>UW System</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>	<u>UW System</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
Eau Claire	April 15	Platteville	February 1
Green Bay	January 15	River Falls	February 1
LaCrosse	February 1	Stevens Point	March 15
Madison	December 1	Stout	February 1
Milwaukee	February 1	Superior	January 15
Oshkosh	December 15	Whitewater	January 1
Parkside	April 15		

Scholarships

We get new scholarship information on a daily basis. All scholarships are filed by the month they are due in the scholarship book located in the Counseling office. The majority of local scholarships are not available until February.

Horatio Alger Scholar	Due: October 25, 2017
Apply online at: www.scholars.horatioalger.org	
Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship	Due: October 31, 2017
Apply online at: www.coca-colascholars.org	

NCAA Initial Eligibility

Any senior who is even considering playing sports at a Division I or II college should see their counselor immediately to complete paperwork for the NCAA Eligibility Center. It is a process you want to begin very early. An application, transcript and \$70 fee are required. **Note: Career Communications, Intro to Theatre, Technical Writing and Media Literacy, do not count toward the English requirement.**

Campus Visits and College Representatives

Representatives from colleges and the military visit EHS throughout the year. The only time they are allowed to schedule a visit is from 10:41 to 11:15 a.m., or during lunch. Please sign up in advance to visit with a representative. Seniors have two days to use as college visit days. You will need a note from home signed by a parent stating you will be attending a college visit. These days **do count towards attendance**. See your counselor if you have a date and college in mind to visit.

Seniors should also periodically check the Campus Visit and Open House Information binder in the Counseling Office. This binder has all the information on when different colleges are having their campus visit days and open houses.

UW-Green Bay – October 6th, 20th, 27th, November 10th

UW-La Crosse – October 20th, 27^h, November 10^h

UW-Stout – October 19th, 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th, November 10th, 11th

UW-Oshkosh – October 6th, 20th, November 3rd, 17th

UW-River Falls – October 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st, November 10th, 11th

UW-Stevens Point – October 20th, 21st, November 3rd, 4th

UW-Superior – October 20th, 21st

UW-Whitewater – September 29th, October 6th, 9th, 20th, 27th, November 10th

Seniors and the ACT

For seniors who need to re-take the ACT, registration information is available in the Counseling Office. It is suggested that you retest in October or December for college admission requirements. (if you want to improve your scores) Seniors must apply online by September 22, 2017 for the October test and November 3, 2017 for the December test. **You will need to have your ACT ID number that is shown on your February 2017 test results in order to apply to re-take the ACT.**

There are no limitations on how often students can retake the ACT, although there are restrictions on how frequently they can test. For example, students may test only once per

national or state test date, and if they test through other non-national testing such as special testing, they must wait a minimum of 60 days between retests.

Students should consider retesting if they encountered any problems during the tests such as misunderstanding directions or not feeling physically well. Students may also wish to consider retesting if they are not satisfied their scores accurately represent their abilities in the areas tested; for example, if there is a discrepancy between their ACT scores and their high school grades or if they have subsequently completed coursework in the areas covered by the ACT Assessment.

Students who decide to retake the Writing Test must also retake the multiple-choice tests of the ACT Assessment. The Writing Test cannot be taken by itself.

Writing Test Addition to the ACT Assessment

UW-Madison, U of M (Twin Cities, Duluth, Rochester and Morris) and Carleton College will require students applying to include the results of the ACT Writing Test. At this time, no other UW campus will require it. This information, with other frequently asked ACT/SAT questions, can be found in UW HELP Online at www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/actsatfaq/.

For more information on the ACT Writing Test, go to www.act.org/aap/writing.html. For more information on the new SAT I, go to www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/newsat/about.html.

Students taking the ACT for the FIRST time: Classes that should be completed prior to taking an ACT

- American Lit
- Algebra 2
- Chemistry

Selective Service Registration

Reminder for male students who are or who will be turning 18 years of age. You must register within 30 days of your 18th birthday for the selective service so as not to jeopardize any problems with future financial aid or federal jobs. You will need your social security number to register. You may register over the Internet at www.sss.gov, at the local post office, or in the Counseling office.