



Dinwiddie High School
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September 19, 2023

Dear Parents,

The Dinwiddie High School Counseling Department hopes that this letter finds your child excited about beginning another successful year at Dinwiddie High School. As you know, a youngster's high school years are important in preparing them for their post-secondary goals. The Counseling Department would like to share a few things students should be doing over the next several months. **This letter will be posted on our website so that individuals can access the links reviewed below.**

Ms. Wall-Green is our new Virginia College Advising Corps (VCAC) college adviser and she can be reached at kwallgreen@dcpsnet.org. She is available and excited to assist with all parts of the college and career planning process, including college searches and applications, SAT/ACT prep and registration, financial aid and scholarships, and other career development. Please send her an email or call the counseling department if you have any questions about your student's post-secondary planning. You can follow Ms. Wall-Green's instagram [@collegeadvising.dhs](https://www.instagram.com/collegeadvising.dhs).

The mental health of our students and families is very important to the overall success of a child's education. We want you to know that members of the Counseling Department are available as a resource to our students. Also, we want parents and students to be aware of the mental health resources located on [Dinwiddie High School's website](#).

Each year students should make sure they are enrolling in challenging course work and maintaining good grades in those courses. Students/parents should use the campus portal, an on-line tool used to access and view class schedules, student grades and other relevant information teachers may post about their class. As well, to receive updates from the Counseling Department, students/parents should read the student memo at least once a week by visiting [Dinwiddie High School's website](#). Listed below are a few additional suggestions for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Freshmen:

1. Consider signing up for the PSAT 8/9 test which will be given at Dinwiddie High School on March 14, 2024. A limited number of slots will be available and information about signups will be posted and emailed to students in early January 2024. For more information see your school counselor or visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9.
2. Begin to think about your goals for after high school and be sure you are preparing yourself for those goals by enrolling in challenging classes, maintaining good grades, and improving upon any past behavior or attendance issues.
3. If you are having trouble formulating future goals, see your school counselor, or Ms. Wall-Green. Other online resources include your child's platform.majorclarity.com/ account as well as accessing VA Wizard at vawizard.org/wizard/home. Virginia Wizard is an online tool students can use for career and college planning.

Sophomores:

1. Set up a free account at collegeboard.org. Through this account you can sign-up to receive free released SAT questions. This account will be used when you register to take the SAT. You can also link your College Board account to a free Khan Academy SAT Prep account (khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat) to prepare for the SAT.
2. Sign-up for the PSAT which will be held at Dinwiddie High School in October 2024. Registration deadlines have already passed for this school year. This assessment is a practice test designed to indicate student strengths and weaknesses and provide information about preparing to take the SAT test. Sign-ups will begin in August 2024 and will be advertised to students through email.
3. Sign-up to take the PreACT on April 17, 2024 at Dinwiddie High. The results of this assessment provide information that will help students better prepare for the American College Test (ACT). For more information about the PreACT, see your school counselor or visit act.org. ACT has created a college and career planning tool from which all students can benefit. Go to my.act.org/account/signin?location=https://my.act.org to create a free account and use all of the available tools to assist in post-secondary planning and ACT prep.
4. If you have taken Algebra II and Geometry or are currently enrolled, consider taking the SAT test this school year. See your counselor or our Ms. Wall-Green for registration information or go to collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register

Juniors:

1. Begin to research possible colleges/universities of interest. Some sites that could assist you include, but are not limited to: bigfuture.collegeboard.org or vawizard.org/wizard/home

2. Consider taking the SAT once you have taken English 11 and/or Algebra II. See your counselor or Ms. Wall-Green for registration information, or go to collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register. Prior to your testing date, use Khan Academy for free online practice. Go to khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat to get started.
3. Consider registering for the ACT. See your counselor or Ms. Wall-Green for registration information, or go to act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html
4. Start visiting colleges/universities of interest. Many colleges/universities hold campus tours, so visit the college's website or call the admissions office before your visit. Virtual opportunities are also often available on the college's website.
5. If interested in the military, meet with a recruiter to gain more information. Sign up to take the ASVAB test, an entrance test required to go into the military. The ASVAB will be offered at Dinwiddie High on November 2, 2023 and March 2024. Sign-up in the Counseling Office.

Seniors:

1. Make sure you research college application deadlines and use those deadlines to set a schedule that will allow you to complete application requirements (i.e. letters of recommendation, essays, transcripts, SAT/ACT scores etc.) before those deadlines.
2. Using the code sent to you from Parchment, set up your personal account at parchment.com. Once set up, you will use this account to request for your official transcript to be sent to colleges. By using Parchment, your official transcript will be sent to institutions electronically. You will also use this account to request official high school transcripts after you graduate from Dinwiddie High. If you have not already, set up your Parchment account today. Contact your counselor if you cannot find the Parchment email.
3. Submit a list of activities to your school counselor. This list should include your activities and honors/awards you have received during grades 9-12. See your counselor if you have questions.
4. If needed, register to take the SAT or ACT test at least one more time. See your counselor or Ms. Wall-Green for registration information.
5. Review the DCHS Scholarship Site weekly for scholarships and apply for scholarships for which you qualify: [DCHS Scholarship Website](#)
6. Register with free online scholarship search engines (i.e. fastweb.com or chegg.com/scholarships) and/or speak with local community/civic groups to identify other possible scholarships available to you.
7. Starting in December 2023, parents should complete the FAFSA form at studentaid.gov using their income tax return. Completing this form begins the process of identifying possible sources of financial aid. All senior students planning to attend trade school, 2-year college, or 4-year college should complete the FAFSA, even if your family does not anticipate qualifying for need-based financial aid. For assistance with FAFSA completion, contact Ms. Wall-Green. In January 2024, DCHS will

sponsor a FAFSA Night for parents and students to complete the FAFSA form. Please be on the lookout for registration information in early January 2024.

8. If interested in the military, sign up to take the ASVAB test. The ASVAB will be offered at Dinwiddie High on November 2, 2023 and March 2024. Sign-up in the Counseling Office.
9. If going into the world of work, students should formulate a resume. See your counselor, Ms. Wall-Green, or visit your <https://platform.majorclarity.com/> account to gain assistance on resume writing.

If you have any questions, always feel free to contact our office at (804) 469-4294 or by email. Email addresses can be found at the [School Counseling portion](#) of Dinwiddie High School's website.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Rapp

Daniel S. Rapp
School Counseling Director

Chad Hall

Chad Hall
School Counselor

Sadie Madu

Sadie Madu
School Counselor

Shaun Winbush

Shaun Winbush
School Counselor

Alyssa Martin

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School Counselor

Kayla Wall-Green

Kayla Wall-Green
VCAC College Adviser