School Counselor Update May/June 2025

Counseling Website

Early College Courses: The University of Maine system has both summer and fall college courses open for registration. Maine public high school students can register for 12 tuition-free college credits per year. Courses may have prerequisites. Information and application instructions can be found here: https://umaine.edu/earlycollege.

The University of Maine system has <u>structured pathways</u> that students can explore to create a plan for completing college courses with purpose. All courses need to be registered for on <u>EC Portal</u>. Additional instructions are posted to the Class Google Classrooms.

Students should remember that if they choose to take a college course, they must seek pre-approval AND then request their transcript be sent to WHS from the college once the final grade is issued. Their grade will be on BOTH their high school and University of Maine system transcript. Earning high school and college credit for a course is a great benefit, but also carries a lot of weight. If the grade is low or failing, it will be reflected on both transcripts and can affect the student's GPA.

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs): Ready to take your learning beyond the classroom and earn credit your way? ELO applications for Summer and Fall are now open!

Ever wish your school experience could have more real-life experiences? ELOs let you earn elective credit while diving into careers or passions outside the classroom—like filmmaking, farming, theater, carpentry, wildlife photography, real estate, journalism, and tons more. Think of it as your chance to:

- Try out a career before committing to it
- Learn through internships, jobs, volunteering, interviews, or hands-on projects
- Build real-world skills and an awesome resume
- Get one-on-one support to design your own learning path

Whether you're into tech, trades, the arts, animals, or something totally unique, you can turn it into credit and future career experience. Below are two possibilities already available:

Possible Paid Summer ELO in Boatbuilding: We have information about a boatbuilding ELO at Sabre Yachts. You must be at least 16 years old and be considering a career in manufacturing or boatbuilding.

Fall Group ELO: "ROOTS TO RIPPLES: SUSTAINABLE LAND AND SEA" Are you passionate about the environment, interested in farming or aquaculture, or just love being outside and learning by doing? Explore agriculture, aquaculture, and environmental sustainability in real-life settings, all while earning elective credit.

Whether you see yourself growing food, protecting ecosystems, or solving real-world challenges, this is the opportunity for you.

Talk to Ms. Glowczak about these ideas or an idea of your own by emailing her at Iglowczak@rsu14.org today!

Summer Academy: WHS will offer a summer school program for eligible students from June 17 to July 3. Students are eligible for Summer Academy if they earn at least a 50% final grade in a core academic course. More information can be found here. Students will be notified about their eligibility for Summer Academy after final grades are issued on June 13.

Advanced Placement Courses: AP exam administration will be held from May 5 to May 16. Students can review their exam registrations at myap.collegeboard.org. They will receive details, including testing rooms, shortly before their exam date. All exams are either digital or digital/paper hybrid. More information can be found on AP Central.

24-25 Student Schedules: Schedules will be available for all students on Infinite Campus by August 1. Students should review their schedules and are required to make all changes for the year by Wednesday, September 9. Counselors will be available for add/drop appointments starting in mid-August. Students should submit their add/drop request here and a counselor will be in contact with them to set up a meeting.

College Tours: We encourage all college-bound students to tour colleges beginning as early as spring of freshman year. Typically, the more students explore campuses, the clearer they are with their college vision and understanding of what is a good fit for them. When a student and family plan a college visit, they should try to register on the college's website for an official campus tour and information session. Colleges will track the visit and your student's level of interest will be noted in their file. Open Houses are also an excellent way to see the most of the campus! The best times to visit are during the fall or spring semester when college students are on campus.

College & Career Fair: 10th and 11th graders took part in our annual College and Career Fair on Thursday, April 10. Students rotated between colleges and universities, as well as local businesses and trade programs, and then a panel of seniors discussed their post-secondary planning process. We hope that they had a positive experience and made connections with the community.

Post-Secondary Planning Field Trips: On Friday, April 11, sophomores attended field trips to local colleges, businesses, and apprenticeship sites. JMG and MELMAC sponsored this event to increase post-secondary conversation and exploration for our students. We thank our tremendous staff who chaperoned six simultaneous field trips for over 200 sophomores!

Junior College Financial Planning: Our partners at the Finance Authority of Maine have some important information they've asked us to share with you. If you haven't already heard of <u>FAME</u>, their role is to help students navigate the financial aid process and develop a plan to pay for education after high school.

FAME has created a <u>downloadable packet</u> of materials specifically for high school juniors. Within the packet, you'll find an introductory letter, links to helpful FAME resources, and three booklets to help you plan and prepare for education after high school and build your financial wellness:

- PAY: Tips to Afford Higher Education
- PLAN: Tools to Help You Pursue Education After High School
- BUILD: Steps to Financial Wellness

If you prefer to download each booklet individually, you can do so using the links above. FAME also invites you to sign up for texts and/or emails so they can share helpful tips and timely reminders to make the financial aid application process easier and help you stay on track throughout your senior year.

To opt-in to receive text messages from FAME, simply text "FAME" to 207-707-5001 and follow the prompts.

To receive email messages from FAME, visit <u>FAMEmaine.com/join</u> and complete the short subscription form.

FAME is available to help you, including over the summer. You can email them at Education@FAMEmaine.com, call them at 1-800-228-3734, visit their website at FAMEmaine.com, or schedule a free virtual financial aid coaching appointment. FAME's resources and assistance are always free!

Junior College Application Process: Counselors will be visiting junior English classrooms during the last two weeks of May to review and answer questions about the college application process. The <u>presentation</u> is available online for any student who misses it. We also provided students with a <u>checklist</u> for their post-secondary planning "homework."

Fall SAT Options: Interested in taking an SAT exam this fall? Testing is not required and many colleges are test-optional, but two testing options are available for incoming seniors.

School Day SAT: We will offer a digital School Day SAT Exam on **Tuesday, October 7** at WHS. This exam will start at 7:30AM and end around 11AM for standard testing.

This will be the only fall test at WHS for seniors. The test is \$60, and you sign up here: https://forms.gle/1HWCQVFWQbdP6F1w7.

Test details can be found here: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat-school-day. The absolute deadline to order is **8AM on Friday, September 12.** This is the College Board ordering deadline and there is no flexibility due to the start of school. We encourage students to register ASAP to secure a spot!

Saturday SAT: You can register for a Saturday test date at a local test center. We will not be hosting Saturday tests at WHS. The next dates are August 23, September 13, October 4, and November 8. You can get more information and register here: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/dates-deadlines. The registration deadlines are 15 days before testing. Please reach out to your counselor if you need a fee waiver.

SAT Prep: There are several free online options for SAT preparation. I encourage students to review the College Board SAT Practice and Preparation site: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/practice-preparation. You can prepare using Bluebook (the test portal that is already on your MacBook) and Khan Academy.

Seniors:

FAFSA Completion: All seniors planning to attend any college or training program should complete the <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u> ASAP. We encourage students and families to review resources provided by the <u>Finance Authority of Maine</u>, as they are an excellent resource. FAME is also available for direct support.

Students should never pay a fee to search or apply for scholarships. Scholarship scams exist and we encourage our students to use reputable sources as they research their options! Please reach out to your school counselor with any questions.

Always Important:

Counselor Appointments: School Counselors are available every day by appointment. We can meet 1:1 with the student in person or virtually. Our email addresses and online appointment calendars are below:

Counselor	Email Address/ Appointment Link	2028	2027	2026	2025
Ms. Glaus	mglaus@rsu14.org Glaus Appointment Link	A-E	A-C	A-D	A-D

Ms.	chaberstroh@rsu14.org	F-H	D-K	E-Le	E-H
Haberstroh	Haberstroh Appointment Link				
Mr. Ginn	sginn@rsu14.org Haberstroh Appointment Link	I-Q	L-R	Li-Q	I-Q
Ms. Fleming	mfleming@rsu14.org Fleming Appointment Link	R-Z	S-Z	R-Z	R-Z

Google Classroom: Each student at WHS is part of their graduating class' Google Classroom. Important announcements and information are frequently updated on this Google Classroom, including information from our office. We post the majority of our grade-specific updates regarding events, scholarships, college and career planning, scheduling, etc. on Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to look at Google Classroom daily for up-to-date information! Students can give their parents or guardians access to their Google Classroom if you would like to view this information.

Infinite Campus: If a student needs a password reset for Infinite Campus, they can contact Mrs. Marston (smarston@rsu14.org) or Mrs. Robbins (lrobbins@rsu14.org) for assistance.

NCAA Eligibility: If you want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at <u>eligibilitycenter.org</u>. You can request transcripts be sent via Naviance or by reaching out to your counselor. When you begin to fill out athletic interest questionnaires and speak with coaches your NCAA profile will provide you with a NCAA ID number. See your counselor or Ms. K for more information or check out the in-depth <u>NCAA information catalog</u>.