



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

**August, 2016**

**To: All Seniors and Parents**

**Re: Planning for Senior Year**

Dear Parents and Members of the Senior Class of 2017,  
 Congratulations on achieving senior status! Wednesday, September 7<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 year. Listed below, are the graduation requirements for the graduating Class of 2017:

### NWCS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Subject to change based on New York State Board of Regents Approval)  
 Class of 2015 and beyond

REGENTS DIPLOMA		ADVANCED REGENTS	
<i>Required Courses</i>		<i>Required Courses</i>	
	Credits		Credits
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.

Required Regents Exams * (grade of 65 or better required)	Required Regents Exams * (grade of 65 or better required)
ELA ( <i>Common Core 2014</i> ) (grade 11)	ELA ( <i>Common Core 2014</i> ) (grade 11)
Integrated Algebra ( <i>Common Core 2014</i> )	Integrated Algebra ( <i>Common Core 2014</i> ) Geometry ( <i>Common Core 2015</i> ) Algebra II/ Trigonometry ( <i>Common Core 2016</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 I and or the ACT last Spring as a junior. It is recommended to sit for the exam(s) at least twice, and the SAT and ACT registration deadlines for 2016 – 2017 are the following:

NEW SAT *			
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration**	Fees
10/1/2016	9/1/2016	9/20/2016	\$57.00 SAT w/Essay
11/6/2016	10/7/2016	10/25/2016	
12/3/2016	11/3/2016	11/22/2016	\$45.00 SAT w/o Essay
1/21/2017	12/21/2016	1/10/2017	
3/11/2017	2/10/2017	2/28/2017	
5/6/2017	4/7/2017	4/25/2017	
6/3/2017	5/9/2017	5/24/2017	

\* For SAT II Subject Tests initial \$26.00 fee, plus \$20.00 per subject

\*\* A late registration fee of \$28.00 applies beyond deadline date

ACT			
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration*	Fees
9/10/2016	8/5/2016	8/19/2016	ACT - \$42.50 w/Writing - \$58.50 *\$27.50 Late Fee applies
10/22/2016	9/16/2016	9/30/2016	
12/10/2016	11/4/2016	11/18/16	
4/8/2017	3/3/2017	3/17/2017	
6/10/2017	5/5/2017	5/19/2017	

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 after August 20<sup>th</sup> 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 after August 20<sup>th</sup> 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 reviewed with all seniors in September. 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, 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 – Ask them right away!
  - b. Counselor – Complete your senior profile and return it to Guidance!
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 final letters of recommendation.
6. **Transcript Addendum** – it is often the extracurricular and community activities 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 the Guidance Office. This completed form, along with your academic transcript and counselor / teacher letters of recommendation will be sent.



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

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 April of 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 5 being required for the Class of 2017, 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. 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 all seniors on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, this year.
11. **Financial Aid** – Please plan on attending the financial aid night at North Warren High School, which will be held in October. 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!



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

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. Also, be sure to check the school website frequently for local scholarships at <http://northwarren.k12.ny.us/Guidance/Docs/NWScholarships.pdf>

17. **Applications** – College applications are available in the guidance office, but can also be found at the college website, or by using:

- Common Application download at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- SUNY Online Application [www.suny.edu/student](http://www.suny.edu/student)

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 2016 through June 2017</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 every Senior Seminar Course with all class of 2017 members.
<b>October 6<sup>th</sup></b>	College Information Day at SUNY Adirondack – Over 125 colleges will be represented – 6:30 to 8:30 PM
<b>October 13<sup>th</sup></b>	The ASVAB will be offered to North Warren students at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 13 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>October 26<sup>th</sup></b>	College Financial Aid Night & Workshop – 6:00 pm at the NWCS High School Library
<b>October 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Senior Class College Visit to SUNY Albany and Siena College – permissions slips will be required. (Return to NWCS by 2:30 PM)
<b>November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Deadline for ROTC Scholarships
<b>November 17<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 '16 to June '17</b>	Keep an eye out for the Guidance Newsletters for additional activities, events and scholarships throughout your senior year.
<b>June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>	Graduation!



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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 2016-2017 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)**