



THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL

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COLLEGE GUIDANCE HANDBOOK  
2018 – 2019



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## WELCOME FROM THE COLLEGE GUIDANCE OFFICE

The Wilberforce School has a specific educational mission: to impart basic ordered knowledge about the world and to train students in foundational intellectual skills and qualities of mind and heart, so that they might be of use to God in the wise care and governance of his creation and in the building of His kingdom. The goal, in other words, of a Wilberforce education is to cultivate adults who are equipped to care, govern, and build God's kingdom. For the majority of our students, education at the college level will be an important part of achieving this goal.

The process of finding a good fit for college, applying to college, and figuring out how to pay for college is just that – a process. Our school's role is to provide guidance in this process – to mark out a track to run on, to point out the major hurdles and milestones along the track, and to help inform and prepare you for the overall process and for each milestone.

The first and most important step in the process is to fully engage in the Wilberforce community of learners. To develop a sense of wonder and a depth of inquiry into all of the areas of study at Wilberforce, and to engage in the arts and athletics as well, is the best preparation for college and beyond.

The following handbook is meant to serve as a guide to the college selection and application process. Please read through it and keep it on hand to serve as a point of reference. In addition to this handbook, we highly recommend the following websites as sources of information for the college selection process.

**Aiming Higher Consultants** (<http://www.aiminghigherconsultants.com/>): An independent Christian college consulting firm run by Jeannette Webb. Her focus is on homeschooling families, but she has a wealth of free resources related to the college application process. I encourage you to sign up for her newsletter and check out her blog. When you sign up for her newsletter, you will receive a copy of her free ebook, "10 Mistakes Students Make When Planning for College."

**Collegewise** (<http://wiselikeus.com/>): An independent college consulting firm that gives away many free resources and writes a very informative blog.

**The College Solution** (<http://www.thecollegesolution.com/>): A consulting firm with a heavy focus on financing your college education. Many informative blog posts on loans, scholarships, getting merit aid, and more!

**College Essay Guy** (<http://www.collegeessayguy.com/>): Excellent resource for writing your college application personal essay.

Thank you and please do feel free to contact the college guidance office with any questions!

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## 2018 – 2019 COLLEGE GUIDANCE CALENDAR DATES

August 20 – August 23	Application Boot Camp	9am – 3pm
Thursday, September 20	Senior Parent Meeting	8:15 – 9:15am
Wednesday, October 10	PSAT Administration	8:00am
Wednesday, October 24	“Secrets of Paying for College” Workshop	7:00 – 9:00pm
Tuesday, November 6	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade College Night (Students & Parents)	7:00pm
February 2019	College Planning Night (9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Parents)	7:00pm
April 2019	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade College Guidance Lunch Meetings	Lunch
June 3 & 5, 2019	End of Year College Counseling Workshops for 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Grades	All Day
June 3, 2019	ACT Practice Test offered for Sophomores	

## STANDARDIZED TESTING DATES

### **PSAT** - October 10, 2018

The PSAT is administered during the school day at The Wilberforce School. All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be automatically registered for the PSAT.

### **2018 – 2019 SAT Dates** (Register online at: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))

<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Late Fee Required</i>
August 25, 2018	July 27, 2018	August 15, 2018
October 6, 2018	September 7, 2018	September 26, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018	October 24, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 20, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019	February 27, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 24, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 22, 2019

### **2018 – 2019 ACT Dates** (Register online at: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org))

<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Late Fee Required</i>
September 8, 2018	August 10, 2018	August 26, 2018
October 27, 2018	September 28, 2018	October 14, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 19, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019	January 18, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019	March 25, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 20, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019	June 24, 2019

Students must register for all SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Tests on their own. Registration can take up to 60 minutes, so plan accordingly. We recommend you choose a testing center that is a convenient distance from your home. The Wilberforce CEEB Code is: 311-264.

## 9<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COLLEGE COUNSELING TIMELINE

### Freshman Year:

- Get to know your teachers.
- Begin to explore your interests and passions. Get involved in those areas. Invest in extracurriculars. Volunteer in areas of interest to you.
- Try something new!
- Attend at least one information session held by a visiting college admissions representative.
- Look into summer academic opportunities and service projects.
- Attend the *9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade College Night* held during spring semester.
- If you are interested in taking the Latin SAT Subject Test, inform your Latin teacher and guidance counselor.
- If you are interested in applying to a military academy, begin researching the process.

### Sophomore Year:

- *October:* Take the practice PSAT in October. Use the results to strengthen areas of weakness before taking the test next year.
- *December/January:* Consider how you will spend your summer. Use it well! Look into job opportunities or summer academic programs.
- Meet with your college guidance counselor to discuss your initial thoughts about college.
- Look at the websites of your dream colleges. Look at their admissions requirements to begin getting a feel for what they require.
- Attend 2-4 information sessions held by visiting college admissions representatives.
- Attend the *9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade College Night*.
- Determine whether you will take any SAT Subject tests and register.

### Junior Summer:

- Make the best use of your time during the summer. Find a job or internship, volunteer, or participate in a summer academic program. Do something that interests you!
- Study for the PSAT by working on strategies, taking practice tests, or taking a prep class.
- Begin studying for the SAT or ACT.
- Read for pleasure (reading is one of the best ways to prepare for standardized tests).
- Begin visiting colleges and researching scholarship opportunities.
- Plan out your standardized testing schedule for your Junior year.

### Junior Year:

#### **Fall**

- Study for the PSAT. Take at least one full-length timed practice PSAT test.
- *October:* Take the PSAT.
- *November:* Attend *Junior College Night*.
- Plan your standardized testing timeline. Register for the SAT or ACT as needed.
- Take the SAT or ACT if prepared.
- Plan out college visits for the year. You should aim to visit 3-5 colleges.
- Continue to research colleges and build your interest list.
- Attend at least 5 information sessions held by visiting college admissions representatives.
- Attend local college fairs.

- Research scholarships and make a list of deadlines. Some scholarship deadlines may be during your Junior year.
- Research and apply for summer academic and research programs hosted at colleges.

### **Spring:**

- Schedule a family conference with your guidance counselor.
- Study for the SAT or ACT by working on strategies, taking practice tests, or taking a prep class.
- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Attend a local college fair.
- Visit colleges during holidays or over Spring Break.
- Meet with your college guidance counselor to continue developing your college list.
- Plan an interesting summer! Look into internships, jobs, or volunteer opportunities.
- Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers before summer break.
- Take SAT Subject tests.

### **Senior Summer:**

- Take the initiative to do something that interests you! This could be an internship, volunteer opportunity, or job. If you know what you want to study in college, do something related to that field.
- Visit colleges!
- Become familiar with the Common App when it becomes available on August 1st.
- Begin working on your activities list and your college essays.
- Study for the SAT or ACT by working on strategies, taking practice tests, or taking a prep class.
- Register for the ACT/SAT if needed.
- Get organized! Create a master calendar of deadlines (applications, test registration, test dates, scholarship applications, financial aid, housing).
- Research scholarships and begin applying.
- Attend the College Application Boot Camp at the end of August.

### **Senior Year:**

#### **September**

- Research the applications of all colleges you are applying to. Ensure you have the correct deadlines for each application.
- Consider applying early to your top schools.
- Begin applications. If applying early decision, keep in mind the deadlines for those applications.
- Send SAT/ACT scores to colleges. It can take up to two weeks for scores to be sent and processed.
- Schedule an appointment with your college guidance counselor to discuss your plans.
- Ask for letters of recommendation by end of September if needed.

#### **October**

- *October 1:* The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) becomes available. Submit it as soon as possible after this date.
- *October 1:* CSS Profile Opens. Submit the CSS Profile if required by your school.
- If you are applying “Early Decision” your application may be due as early as *October 15<sup>th</sup>*. Complete your application.

- Apply for college-specific scholarships. Some colleges require an additional application for merit scholarships.
- Meet with your college counselor as needed.
- Visit additional colleges you are interested in.
- Attend college fairs in the area.

### **November**

- Submit the FAFSA and CSS Profile (if required).
- *November 1 and November 15*: Deadlines to submit for Early Action and Early Decision.
- Continue submitting applications with rolling deadlines.
- Begin working on applications with January deadlines.

### **December**

- *December 1 and December 15*: Deadlines to submit for Early Action and Early Decision.
- Receive early decision/early action decisions.
- Begin submitting additional applications to schools with December 15 – February 1 deadlines.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers who wrote recommendations for you.

### **January**

- *January 1 and 15*: Submit additional applications by required deadlines.
- Submit the FAFSA and CSS Profile (if required) if you haven't yet.
- Your senior year midterm transcript will be sent to colleges.

### **February**

- *February 1*: Submit additional applications.

### **March - April**

- Colleges begin releasing admissions decisions.
- Inform your guidance counselor if you have been waitlisted or rejected by an institution you hoped to attend.
- Visit colleges where you have been accepted.

### **May**

- *May 1*: National Candidates' Reply Date – Make your decision on where to matriculate by this date. Inform all schools where you have been admitted of your decision.
- Your final transcript will be mailed to your college choice.
- Thank teachers who wrote you letters of recommendation.

## CREATING A COLLEGE APPLICATION LIST

One of the most important steps in the college admissions process is deciding which schools you are interested in attending – we will call this your **College Application List**!

### **Where do I begin?**

First, begin by thinking through the qualities, programs, and opportunities you want in a college.

Ask yourself questions like these:

- Do you want to go somewhere close to home or far away?
- Do you know what you want to study?
- Are you a city person or a small town person?
- Do you want to study abroad?
- Do you want to go to a Christian school?
- Do you want a large or smaller school?
- Do you want a school with a strong athletic program?

Begin writing down a list of qualities that you want in a school. But remember to keep an open mind as you begin to do your research! You may think you know what you want, but that may change.

### **How do I find schools that match the qualities I want?**

Use the college search tool on [Guided Path](#) to begin creating a college list based on your interests. Students will be given a Guided Path account in the fall of their Junior Year.

Guided Path gives students six categories to narrow search results:

1. General Information: geography, size, specialized lists
2. Academic: average SAT/ACT, acceptance rate, field of study
3. Majors: search by major of interest
4. Athletics: Athletic opportunities – varsity, club, and intramural sports
5. Financial Aid: cost of attendance, percent of need met
6. Social Experience: freshmen retention, social rating

### **What other websites/resources are helpful search tools?**

We recommend using a few search tools, as they will all produce slightly different results. The following websites are all excellent options.

**CollegeXpress** ([www.collegexpress.com/home](http://www.collegexpress.com/home)): Find lots of college lists based on major, student population, athletics, etc.

**Colleges That Change Lives** ([ctcl.org/](http://ctcl.org/)): A book and a website! A curated list of 40 colleges, many of which you have probably never heard of. Organized by geographic region, every profile includes a wealth of vital information, including admissions standards, distinguishing facts about the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and what faculty say about their jobs. Mrs. Antlitz has a copy of the book in her office for borrowing or you can purchase the book [here](#).

**Colleges of Distinction** ([collegesofdistinction.com/](http://collegesofdistinction.com/)): A list of colleges that focus on teaching undergraduates, are smaller in size, foster strong community on campus, and offer hands-on educational opportunities.

**Christian College Search** ([myblueprintstory.com/college-search/](http://myblueprintstory.com/college-search/)): A search tool exclusively designed for Christian colleges.

**Chronicle of Higher Education: College Peer Network** ([chronicle.com/interactives/peers-network](http://chronicle.com/interactives/peers-network)): An interactive website that allows you to select a college or university and see what schools it chose as a “peer school”. A great way to expand your college search!

**Cappex** ([www.cappex.com/](http://www.cappex.com/)): Create a profile to be matched with colleges AND scholarship opportunities. An excellent, easy-to-use website.

**FairTest** (<http://www.fairtest.org/>): Keeps an updated list of schools that are test-optional or test-flexible.

**Consider purchasing on the following college guides or borrowing them from the guidance counselor’s office:**

- Fiske Guide to Colleges: One of the best guides on the market! Updated every year. Available on Amazon.
- Choosing the Right College, published by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute: A very informative guide with a conservative slant. Last published in 2014/2015. Available through the Intercollegiate Studies Institute website.
- Colleges that Change Lives: A curated list of smaller, liberal arts colleges. Available on Amazon.

### **Visit Colleges Online and In Person**

Once you have a list of colleges that interest you, begin by exploring their websites online. Do your research! See what programs they offer, what life on campus is like, and what Christian fellowship options that school provides. It is also important to read a school’s admissions page. Learn about their acceptance rate, average test scores, and scholarships offered.

Finally, one of the best ways to learn about a college is to visit in person! We suggest visiting colleges during your Junior year, but by all means start sooner! If your family is planning a vacation and you happen to be close to a college, schedule a visit! See the next section for more tips on visiting colleges.

## TIPS FOR VISITING COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Visiting college campuses is an essential part of the process as you build your college interest list. A campus visit gives you the opportunity to get a “feel” for a place. It is amazing how much insight you can get into a campus culture just by visiting, even if it is only for a few hours!

### Planning College Visits:

**Schedule a tour and information session** – Do this many weeks ahead of time to find out when tours are offered. You should be able to do this directly through a school’s website. If not, call the admissions office to schedule your visit. *If you are planning a visit during Spring Break, make sure to schedule your visit at least a month in advance, as campuses are very busy during this time of year!*

**Visit during a prospective student weekend** – Many colleges offer in-depth visits over the course of an entire weekend. Check out the colleges you are interested in to see if they offer this kind of visit. These weekends are often geared towards Juniors and Seniors.

**Interview with an admissions representative** – If a school offers an interview, take advantage of it! Schedule this 4-6 weeks ahead of your visit.

**Arrange to visit classes** – If you are visiting a school while in session, arrange to sit in on a class through the admissions office or directly through a professor.

**Allow plenty of time for your visit** – Plan to spend 2-3 hours at each college and surrounding towns. Leave yourself time to explore the campus after the official tour or eat lunch in a dining hall.

**Take pictures and take notes** – Record your impressions via photos and journaling. If you go on multiple college visits a day, they may all begin to run together!

**Get a map of the campus and locate the admissions office before** – Admissions Offices are often the most picturesque buildings on campus, but they aren’t always the easiest to find!

### Questions to ask as you research and visit colleges:

#### **Spiritual Environment\***

- What are the Christian student groups on campus? How active are they? How large are they?
- Are there churches near the campus that students can attend? Is transportation provided?
- If it is a secular school:
  - Is the campus culture welcoming to the Christian worldview? Is it hostile? Is it indifferent?
- If it is a Christian school:
  - How seriously do students at this school take their faith?
  - Is there a weekly Chapel service? Is it mandatory?
  - Is this school affiliated with a specific denomination?
- How will you be challenged to continue your growth as a Christian at this specific campus? What opportunities on campus/off campus are there to find Christian community?

*\*If you are visiting secular schools, the average tour guide will not have detailed answers to these questions. Your best resources for learning about the spiritual environment at a secular school are Christian students or recent alumni. If you don't know any students or alumni, reach out to one of the Christian groups on campus to see if they can connect you with someone. You should be able to find information about the Christian groups through the college's Clubs and Organizations webpage.*

### **Living Environment**

- Tell me about some of the popular student organizations on campus. (Ask about specific organizations you may be interested in).
- What do students do on the weekends?
- Do you offer intramural sports? If so, what sports?
- What is the athletic program like? Do students attend games?
- Is there school spirit?
- What is the arts program like? Are there opportunities to be involved in the performing arts?
- What is the dorm life like? What percentage of students live on-campus? Is housing guaranteed?
- What is the food like?
- What types of housing options are available?
- Do many students have cars? Is parking available?
- If the university is near a city – Does the university provide transportation into the city? What is the public transportation like?
- Are there fraternities and sororities? What percentage of students are members?
- How politically active are the students? Are the students and faculty open to various points of view? How does the campus lean politically?
- How socially conscious is the student body? What kinds of volunteer opportunities are available?
- Is there an Honor Code that students sign?
- What is the alcohol and drug policy at the school?

### **Learning Environment**

- How many large, lecture style classes (50+) can I expect to take?
- What is the average class size? What is the average class size for junior/senior classes?
- Is there a core curriculum that everyone must take? What are the core requirements?
- What percentage of classes do graduate students teach?
- What research opportunities are available to undergraduates?
- What are the relationships like between faculty and students? How well do students get to know faculty?
- What kinds of electives are offered? Not offered?
- What kinds of study abroad opportunities are offered?
- What kinds of internships do students get? When do students typically do internships?
- Do you help students find internships? Can students receive credit for internships?
- Can I test out of any classes?

## PARTS OF COLLEGE APPLICATION

### **The Application Form**

Students are responsible for accessing the application form online, completing it, and submitting it by the college deadline. Many colleges accept The Common Application, but a number of colleges still use their own application. The components of the application include:

- Personal and Educational Data
- Activities Section (includes honors and awards, extracurricular and volunteer activities, employment, internships, and summer activities)
- Essays: personal and short answer
- Disciplinary information
- Audition or portfolio of artistic work (if required for specific majors)
- Application Fee

### **Official Transcript**

The transcript is a record of all the classes taken and grades received by a student at The Wilberforce School. The Wilberforce School does not rank its students therefore class rank is not reported on the transcript.

If students transferred to The Wilberforce School after 9<sup>th</sup> grade, The Wilberforce School will send the transcript from their prior school on behalf of the student.

### **Standardized Test Scores**

Students must arrange for standardized test score reports to be sent directly to each college they are applying through the testing companies (ACT or SAT). Score reports cost \$12 per college. However, each time a student takes either test, they can send up to four score reports to the colleges of their choice for free. For more information about standardized testing, see page 12.

### **Secondary School Report or Counselor Recommendation Form**

This is not required by all colleges but, if it is required, the high school is responsible for submitting this form to the college. The Wilberforce School college counselor will also send a written recommendation on behalf of each student to every college where they apply.

### **Teacher/Additional Recommendation(s)**

Students should plan on requesting recommendations from at least two teachers. Some colleges have their own recommendation forms which they request teachers complete. If this is the case, students must print out the form and deliver it to their recommenders to complete. Recommendations will either be sent directly by the teachers or through the college guidance counselor.

When deciding who to ask for recommendations, think about what your teachers would say about you. Colleges are not only looking for teachers from courses where you have received an A, but from teachers who know you well and can talk about your work ethic, inquisitive nature, and motivation to learn. We encourage students to discuss which teachers they will consider selecting with their college counselor before seeking recommendations. See Appendix 1 for a sample of the

Teacher Recommendation Questionnaire that we ask all students to fill out for teachers writing recommendations. Simply reflecting on these questions can help you decide who you should ask to write for you.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

### **PSAT/NMSQT**

The PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a preliminary version of the SAT. All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders take the PSAT/NMSQT test in mid-October. The Wilberforce School will register students for the test. The results of the test reveal areas of strength and weakness and allow students to better prepare for the SAT. It covers three skill areas: Reading, Writing & Language, and Math. Scores on the PSAT/NMSQT are also used to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship competition. See <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10> for more information.

### **How does the National Merit Scholarship competition work?**

Junior year scores on the PSAT/NMSQT are used as an initial screen of entrants for the National Merit Scholarship. If you are a semifinalist, you will be offered the chance to apply for a National Merit Scholarship. Out of the finalists, winners will be selected for three types of scholarships: National Merit \$2500 Scholarships, Corporate-sponsored scholarships, and College-sponsored scholarships. You will be notified the September of your Senior Year whether you are a semifinalist. Semifinalists and commended students may also qualify for additional scholarships through private organizations and college.

For detailed information on the National Merit Scholarship Competition see: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf>.

### **SAT Reasoning Test**

The SAT is comprised of two sections: Evidence Based Reading & Writing and Math. Students receive a score between 200 and 800 on each section, for a total score out of 1600. There is an optional Essay, which we encourage all students to complete since some colleges require the essay. The SAT is offered seven times a year. Students are responsible for registering for the SAT on their own. See <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat> for more information.

### **ACT – American College Test**

The ACT is comprised of four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Students have the option to register for the ACT with or without Writing. We recommend that all students who register for the ACT, register for the ACT with Writing. Students receive a score out of 36 on each section of the ACT. The four section scores are averaged for a composite score out of 36. Students are responsible for registering for the ACT on their own. See <http://www.actstudent.org> for more information.

### **SAT Subject Tests**

The SAT Subjects Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel. Students receive a score between 200 and 800. Up to three subject tests may be taken on one day. Students may not take the SAT Reasoning Test and a Subject

Test on the same day. While most colleges in the United States do not require Subject Tests, a small number of highly selective schools require between 2 and 3 Subject Tests. It is important to carefully examine the admissions requirements of each college you are interested in to learn about their Subject Test requirements. See page 15 for more information about subject tests.

## TAKING AND PREPARING FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

At The Wilberforce School we do not believe that teaching for the sake of receiving high grades or teaching to the test is the method that will encourage a community of learners dedicated to the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. However, we do recognize that preparing for standardized tests required for college admission is a necessary step in the college preparation and application process. For this reason, we encourage students to take these tests seriously by diligently studying for them. Prior to intensive studying, students should tailor their schedule to allow them enough time to prepare. Below you will find some answers to frequently asked questions about standardized tests:

### **When should I take the SAT or ACT?**

Students should take the SAT and/or the ACT at least once prior to the end of their Junior Year. Unless the student receives an excellent score on their first test, we recommend that all students take the SAT or ACT at least twice. If a student is planning to apply Early Decision or Early Action or to any military academies, it is in the student's best interest to finish all standardized testing by the end of Junior Year.

In terms of the particular test dates, students should look at the academic calendar at the beginning of the year and carefully consider when they will have sufficient time to prepare for the test. For example, if a student is heavily involved in basketball during the winter months, it is probably not in his/her interest to take the SAT in December. Students should meet with their college counselor to discuss their testing plans.

### **When should I begin preparing?**

It depends on when you plan to take the test! We do encourage all Juniors to begin preparing at the beginning of the year (or even over the summer if you plan to take the September ACT or October SAT). Even if students don't plan to take the test until the spring semester, it is in their best interest to begin working through a study guide little by little. However, about three months before the test date, students should dedicate 5-10 hours a week to studying (increasing preparation time as the test draws near).

### **How should I prepare?**

We ask students to view preparing for the SAT or ACT as an extracurricular activity. Just like it would be unwise to run a cross country race without practicing, so too it would be unwise to take one of these tests without proper practice. They are difficult tests! **In fact, we highly recommend that students consider enrolling in a formal test prep course. Students who take courses or work with trained tutors achieve higher test scores than those who do not. Consider investing in a test prep course – they are usually well worth the investment, especially since higher test scores often qualify students for more scholarship money.**

**Step 1: Begin by registering for the free preparation resources provided by the College Board and ACT.**

**Khan Academy**

If you are preparing for the SAT, the College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to offer free SAT practice resources online: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>. This is a fantastic resource. We recommend all students create a Khan Academy account and use the free resources online. There are diagnostic tests and at least 4 full-length SAT practice tests.

**ACT Academy**

If you are preparing for the ACT, we recommend you sign up for ACT Academy: <https://academy.act.org/>. ACT Academy is a free online learning tool and test practice program offering video lesson, interactive practice questions and full-length practice tests.

**Step 2: Purchase a study guide at your local bookstore or on Amazon.**

The College Board and The ACT each publish their own study guides, which we recommend. You can also find guides published by the Princeton Review, Kaplan, or Barron's. There are many other companies that create study resources as well. If students plan to study primarily on your own, using study guides, they should plan to purchase at least three different study guides to have enough practice problems and practice tests to work through.

**Step 3: Figure out your target score.**

What score are you aiming for? Look at the colleges you are most interested in to see what the scores of the middle 50% of students receive. You should aim to get a score that falls in *at least* the range of the middle 50% of students or higher for your top choice schools. Not sure where you want to attend? Look at some colleges you are familiar with just to get an idea of the scores they are looking for.

**Step 4: Take a practice test to determine your baseline score.**

It is very important to take a baseline test to know your abilities and identify your weak spots before you begin studying. All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT in October. This will give you a good idea of a baseline score for your SAT. However, be aware that you won't receive your PSAT scores until December. If you are a junior, we recommend you take another practice test in the fall of junior year. If you are interested in taking the ACT, taking a practice test is very important as there are key differences between the ACT and SAT.

**Step 5: Study! And Take Multiple Full-Length Practice Tests!**

Using the resources in the test preparation books or online, commit to studying 5-10 hours a week for the three months leading up to the test date. Increase the number of hours you prepare as the test draws near. Below are a few tips:

- Focus on your weak areas. Understand each mistake you make on your practice questions.
- Go way back and review the math topics you studied in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade (algebra, basic geometry, etc.)
- Read through the various strategies offered in the study guides and practice them!
  - Check out this blog post for information on SAT study tips:  
<https://blog.prepscholar.com/21-sat-tips-and-tricks-you-must-use>

- Check out this blog post for information on ACT study tips:  
<https://blog.prepscholar.com/15-act-tips-and-tricks-to-improve-your-act-score>
- Take at least **six** full-length practice tests prior to your test date. Keep strict timing on each section and use only official breaks.
- One of the most difficult aspects of these tests is the timing. They require students to answer lots of questions in a short amount of time. The best way to practice timing is to take multiple practice tests!
- Go into test day knowing the test like the back of your hand!

**Step 5: Consider taking a test preparation class or hiring a private tutor**

If you could use additional accountability in studying for the tests or if you have taken the test and are not satisfied with your score, you may want to consider using a tutor or taking a test preparation class. Again, students who take test prep courses consistently achieve higher results.

**How many times should I take the SAT or ACT?**

We recommend that all students take the SAT or ACT at least twice. If students are not satisfied with their scores after taking the test twice, it may be time to rethink their study methods. Students should either plan to dedicate more time to studying or should consider a tutor or test preparation class. In general, students do not usually raise their scores after the third time sitting for the test.

**Will colleges automatically see all of my scores?**

It depends! Most schools will allow students to choose which scores they report as a part of their application. Generally these school will superscore your SAT or ACT tests. Superscoring means that colleges will take the highest sections of multiple tests for a new combined score.

However, there are a number of schools that require students report their entire testing history. They may still superscore your highest scores, but they want to see your entire history. It is very important that students check admissions requirements online so there are no surprises!

**Should I take the SAT or ACT?**

This question needs to be answered on a case-by-case basis. If a student is considering both tests, the best way to determine which one to take is to take an ACT and SAT full-length practice test under timed conditions. While the tests do have some similarities, the formats and timing structures are quite different.

## SAT SUBJECT TEST FAQs

**What are the SAT Subject Tests?**

Subject Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel.

SAT Subject Tests allow you to differentiate yourself in the college admission process or send a strong message regarding your readiness to study specific majors or programs in college. In conjunction with your other admission credentials (your high school record, SAT scores, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a more complete picture of your academic background and interests.

Some colleges also use Subject Tests to place students into the appropriate courses. Based on your performance on the test(s), you could potentially fulfill basic requirements or receive credit for introductory-level courses.

### **Should I take an SAT Subject Test?**

It depends! Some colleges require or recommend one or more SAT Subject Tests as part of the application, especially in specific majors or programs of study. The majority of colleges do not require SAT Subject Tests; however submitting a Subject Test with a high score can strengthen your application.

### **Which colleges recommend or require Subject Tests?**

The most selective colleges in the country usually recommend that you submit at least two subject tests. A few of those colleges include Princeton, Stanford, Georgetown, Duke, and Cornell. Check the admissions requirements for all colleges you are interested in to see if they require or recommend Subject Tests.

### **What Subject Test should I take?**

When deciding which Subject Test to take, we recommend that students consider the classes they excelled in. You should choose subjects that you feel confident about. Make this easy on yourself! You will have much greater success if you are already very familiar and at ease with the material you are studying for the test.

You should also consider what you plan to major in while at college. If you know you want to major in Engineering or Math, then it would be wise to take Math Subject Test. If you hope to major in the humanities, then consider the US History subject test. **Some engineering or science programs require that student submit specific subject test scores. Once again, always check the requirements of the schools you are interested in.**

### **How should I study for the tests? Do I even need to study?**

Yes, most definitely study! Even if you are a US History whiz, you should study. What is the best way to study? We suggest small amounts over a substantial period of time. About two months before the test, plan to set aside 20 minutes a day to studying. Purchase a study guide to help you practice. College Board, Princeton Review, Kaplan, and Barron's all make study guides for various Subject Tests.

As the test approaches, increase your daily practice to at least 45 minutes a day. Plan to take at least four timed practice tests. These tests are all multiple choice, content-based tests. The more familiar you are with the material, the better you will do.

### **What Subject Tests should our students take and when?**

The best time to take a Subject Test is just after you've finished the class for that test. For example, we suggest you take the Chemistry subject test after you take Chemistry in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. However, you can certainly wait to take it later if you want to put in some more time studying.

Below is the table with recommended subject tests that we believe our students can excel in with sufficient preparation:

<b>Subject Test</b>	<b>Recommended Testing Date(s)</b>
Latin	9 <sup>th</sup> grade: June 10 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/October/November/December
US History	9 <sup>th</sup> grade: June 10 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/October/November/May/June
Math II	10 <sup>th</sup> grade: May/June 11 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/May/June 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/October
Literature	11 <sup>th</sup> grade: May/June 12 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/October
Chemistry	10 <sup>th</sup> grade: May/June 11 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/October
Biology (Molecular)	9 <sup>th</sup> grade: June/August 10 <sup>th</sup> grade: August/October/November

Please confer with your college counselor when deciding when to take each test. Students may take other Subject Tests, however we recommend that students only take subject tests in areas that they already have significant knowledge. See the following page for a complete list of Subject Tests.

**When are the tests offered?**

The tests are offered throughout the year, but some are offered more than others. Be sure to check the dates online at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/register/test-dates-deadlines>.

**What Subject Tests are offered?**

**Mathematics**

Mathematics Level 1  
Mathematics Level 2

**Science**

Biology Ecological  
Biology Molecular  
Physics  
Chemistry

**English**

Literature Subject Test

**History**

U.S. History  
World History

**Languages**

Spanish  
Spanish with Listening  
German  
German with Listening  
French  
French with Listening  
Modern Hebrew  
Latin  
Chinese with Listening  
Japanese with Listening  
Korean with Listening  
Italian

## AP EXAM FAQs

AP (Advanced Placement) Exams are tests offered by the College Board that students generally take after completing an AP course. Exams are 2-3 hours in length and consist of multiple choice and free response questions.

### **Why doesn't Wilberforce offer AP courses?**

In general, schools that offer AP courses have to tailor the entire course to memorization of the content of the AP exam, along with test-taking strategies. The result, too often, is students who are good at taking a test, but who have not developed a depth of inquiry in the subject or the habits of thinking we hope to inculcate. We believe, along with our partners at Trinity Schools, that the content of our courses, the ideas discussed, the problems worked on, and the formation that happens as a result, are a better use of time, and not worth sacrificing for the sake of an AP exam result.

### **Can Wilberforce students take AP Exams?**

Yes, Wilberforce students can register for AP exams. Any student can register for an exam, even if they haven't taken an AP class. However, students should recognize that they will have to put in significant time outside of class to master materials that our courses do not spend time on. If a Wilberforce student is interested in taking the exam, the first step is to talk with their college counselor to learn more about the tests. Studying for an AP exam should not cut into students' time and ability to study for the SAT or ACT. Students must put a priority on preparing for the SAT or ACT exam. This is the most important test for the college admissions process.

### **What are the benefits of taking AP Exams?**

Students may receive college credit for AP exams (if they receive a certain score) or be able to test out of introductory college classes. However, not all colleges give credit for AP exams. Some colleges use placement exams instead of AP exam results to exempt students from entry-level classes. Individual colleges have different policies regarding AP exam credit, so it is important to read college websites carefully to understand how each school views AP Exams.

### **Will my student be at a disadvantage if they do not take an AP Exam?**

No! Students will not be at a disadvantage because we are not an AP School. When colleges review applications, they are most interested in the course rigor displayed on the transcript. If a school offers AP courses, students need to take AP classes in order to demonstrate they are taking the most rigorous courses offered in that subject. However, with schools that do not offer AP's, such as ours, colleges measure academic rigor based on the specific courses offered. Our courses and our curriculum are among the most challenging in the United States. Our school profile explains and substantiates the rigor of our courses.

### **What AP Exams are offered?**

You can find a complete list of AP courses here: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse>. AP exams are offered for all courses. If students are interested in an AP exam, they should choose those they already have a high level of proficiency in.

**When are AP Exams given?**

All AP exams are given during the month of May. Students must register through their college guidance counselor.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

Students may receive accommodations for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, or AP Tests if they have a documented service plan or receive accommodations in class. In order to request accommodations, contact the College Guidance Counselor well in advance of upcoming test dates. Accommodations requests can often take up to 7 weeks for approval.

For information on the accommodations process for all College Board tests (PSAT, SAT, Subject Tests, AP Tests) see: <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>.

For information on the accommodations process for the ACT see: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab>.

## ADMISSIONS DEADLINES

One of the more confusing aspects of college admissions is understanding the various admissions deadlines terminology. Not only are the terms themselves confusing, but some colleges use similar terms to mean different things! Once again, this undermines the point that it is essential to read through the admissions process for each college a student applies to very carefully. Do not assume anything.

Most colleges offer an early admission program, usually termed Early Decision (ED), Early Action (EA), or Restrictive/Single Choice Early Action (REA). The deadlines to apply under these programs usually fall between October 15 and November 15. Students who apply under these programs will receive earlier notification of decision (usually by December). However, there are some major differences between the programs outlined below. All colleges will offer Regular Decision (RD) deadlines that usually fall between January 1 and March 1.

**Early Decision:** Early Decision (ED) is an application process by which you commit to enrolling to a certain college if you're admitted. You might hear people refer to Early Decision as a "binding" plan. This means that you can apply to other colleges but only one can be marked as your Early Decision college. If admitted to your Early Decision college, you are **committing** to attend that college and you must withdraw your applications from all other colleges.

**Early Action:** Early Action (EA) is an application process by which you apply and receive a decision much earlier than the Regular Decision notification date. However, unlike Early Decision (ED), Early Action is "non-binding." In other words, if accepted by a college under the Early Action plan, you have no obligation to enroll and will have until May 1st to consider the offer and confirm enrollment.

**Restrictive Early Action:** Restrictive Early Action (REA), also referred to as Single Choice Early Action, is an application process similar to Early Action. You apply early and receive a decision much earlier than the Regular Decision notification date. However, under most REA plans, you cannot apply to any other schools under an Early Action plan (usually with the exception of state schools). If you are accepted, you have until May 1st to consider the offer and confirm enrollment. It is **not** binding.

**Regular Decision:** Regular decision (RD) is an application process under which you apply by a specified date and receive an admission decision in a clearly stated period of time (usually during the month of March). If accepted by a college under this plan, you will have until May 1st to consider the offer and confirm enrollment.

### **Will my chances at admission improve if I apply Early Decision or Early Action?**

Applying early certainly signals to colleges that you are serious about your desire to attend, however it is difficult to say with certainty that it will improve your chances for admission. Statistically, applying Early Decision (ED) does increase a student's chance of admission, because the student is committing to that college if accepted. However, colleges' admissions standards do not change whether a student is applying early or not. Applying early will not give a student a significant leg up if the rest of their application is below admission standards. If students are interested in applying

early, it is in their best interest to finish their standardized testing by the end of junior year. Students should meet with their college guidance counselor to discuss their application timeline.

## 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CALENDAR AND APPLICATION OVERVIEW

### Calendar Overview:

- Begin the Common Application in August or during the Application Boot Camp.
- Write your college essays; submit them to Mrs. Antlitz at least two weeks prior to the deadline to proofread each one.
- Meet with Mrs. Antlitz regularly (about every two weeks) until your college applications are complete.
- Finalize your college application list.
- Create a master calendar of all important dates and deadlines.
- Schedule fall visits to colleges.
- Continue to update Guided Path throughout the year.
- Research and apply for scholarships. Many scholarships from colleges do not require a separate application, but some do! Make sure you know the deadlines.
- Take the SAT, ACT, and Subject Tests, if needed.
- Complete applications and send them to colleges.
- Request that a transcript be sent to each college. If a college requires a mid-year transcript, request that it be sent also.
- Send all standardized test scores to colleges.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Complete the CSS Profile, if necessary.

### Application Components:

- The College Application Form / The Common Application
- Official Transcripts
- Secondary School Report (SSR) – *counselor report, includes counselor recommendation*
- Teacher / Additional Recommendations
- Essay(s)
- Activities Resume – *usually completed on the application form*
- Standardized Test Scores

### Components mailed/sent electronically by The Wilberforce School to colleges:

- An official Wilberforce School profile (see Appendix for sample profile)
- A completed Secondary School Report
- The student's academic transcript
- The college counselor's recommendation
- Copies of the two teacher recommendations (if submitted to the College Guidance Office)

## 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Prior to submitting “SEND” on any college applications, you must follow the application procedures below.

- 1) Meet with your college counselor in early September to discuss your college list and application plans
- 2) Update Guided Path to reflect your final college list and application deadlines
- 3) Submit the *College Application Checklist* (see Appendix II) and final essay drafts to Mrs. Antlitz by the required deadlines listed below (or earlier):
- 4) Deadlines to submit application pieces to Mrs. Antlitz:

Application Deadline: **November 1**  
**Submission Deadline to College Guidance: October 18**

Application Deadline: **November 15**  
**Submission Deadline to College Guidance: November 1**

Application Deadline: **December 1**  
**Submission Deadline to College Guidance: November 16**

Application Deadline: **December 15**  
**Submission Deadline to College Guidance: November 30**

Application Deadline: **January 1 or later**  
**Submission Deadline to College Guidance: December 7**

- 5) Mrs. Antlitz will review students’ application essays and activities and return any edits to the student. She will let them know whether their application is ready to submit or not.
- 6) Mrs. Antlitz will email students and copy parents to let them know when their transcripts and recommendations have been submitted.

The earlier students submit materials to Mrs. Antlitz, the better! This is NOT the time for procrastination.

### **Submitting Standardized Test Scores:**

Submitting standardized test scores is your responsibility. Some colleges allow students to self-report standardized test scores. For a complete list of these colleges see: <https://www.compassprep.com/self-reporting-test-scores/>. For all other colleges, students must submit test scores directly from the College Board or ACT. Students can do this through their online student accounts.

# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COLLEGE COUNSELING CALENDAR

## Summer 2018

- Visit Colleges
- Study for the SAT / ACT / Subject Tests
- Continue to research colleges and work on your college application list
- Research and begin applying for scholarships.
- Study for the SAT/ACT.
- Register for fall standardized testing.

## August 2018

- August 1: Common Application Opens – complete a draft once available
- Schedule any fall visits to colleges
- College Application Boot Camp, August 20 – August 23
- *August 25: SAT date*

## September 2018

- *September 8: ACT date*
- Update Guided Path!
- Meet with Mrs. Antlitz to discuss your college list and application plans. Continue meeting with Mrs. Antlitz every two weeks until your college applications are submitted.
- Follow up with all teacher recommenders (you should have asked them in May!)
- Work on your application and essays
- Apply for scholarships
- Use Guided Path or create your own calendar of dates and deadline – stay organized!

## October 2018

- Finalize your college list and update Guided Path
- *October 6: SAT date*
- October 1: FAFSA and CSS Profile Open
- **October 18:** Deadline to submit College Application Checklist to Mrs. Antlitz if applying for **November 1** deadline
- *October 27: ACT date*
- Apply for scholarships

## November 2018

- **November 1:** Deadline to submit College Application Checklist to if applying for November 15 deadline
- **November 16:** Deadline to submit College Application Checklist to if applying for December 1 deadline
- *November 3: SAT Date*
- If asking Senior Year teachers, ask them for recommendations
- **November 30:** Deadline to submit College Application Checklist if applying for December 15 deadline

## December 2018

- *December 1: SAT date*
- *December 8: ACT date*
- **December 7:** Deadline to submit College Application Checklist if applying for January 1 or later deadline

## January – April 2019

- Wait for decisions
- Let Mrs. Antlitz know where you have been admitted/rejected – Update Guided Path
- Compare financial aid offers. Determine what your out-of-pocket cost will be to attend each school
- Schedule visits to colleges to which you were admitted

## May 2019

- May 1: National Candidates Reply Date – Deadline to commit to a college. Let the other colleges to which you were admitted know that you will not be attending.

## June 2019

- June 3: Graduate!

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TERMINOLOGY

**ACT** – A standardized test used by college admissions officers to evaluate prospective students. The test has four sections: English, Math, Science, and Reading and is scored out of 36 points. All four-year colleges accept the ACT. You can learn more at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

**Advanced Placement (AP)** – A program coordinated by the College Board whereby high schools offer college-level courses with specific curricula in a large number of academic fields. Participating students have the option of taking an AP exam at the end of the course to demonstrate knowledge and potentially earn college credit.

**Bachelor's Degree** – A diploma earned after successfully completing a required course of study at a college or university. The degree usually takes four years and is abbreviated B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) or B.S. (Bachelor of Science).

**Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA)** – An agreement many colleges follow that gives applicants until May 1 to accept or decline offers of admission. This agreement gives students time to get responses from most of the colleges they have applied to before deciding on one.

**Class Rank** – A student's place based on a rank ordering of students in a class by grade point average (GPA). (Note: The Wilberforce School does not rank students.)

**Common Application** – An online application for admission that is accepted by nearly 500 participating US universities. It can be accessed online at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). Some colleges also require a school-specific supplementary form.

**Concentration** – A specific focus in an area of studies that is a subset of (or related to) your major.

**Core Curriculum** – A group of specially designed courses in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and sciences designed to give students a strong foundation in general education.

**Deferral** – A decision by a college to delay a final response to an Early Action or Early Decision application until the regular decision cycle.

**Early Action (EA)** – An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early actions plans are not binding, which means that you do not have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action. Some colleges have an early action option called EA II, which has a later application deadline than their EA plan. Most EA plans allow students to apply by November 1 or November 15 and receive an admission decision by December 15.

**Early Decision (ED)** – An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs. Some colleges have an early decision option called ED II, which has a later application deadline than their regular ED plan. Most ED application plans allow students to apply by November 1 or November 15 and receive an admission decision by December 15.

**FAFSA** – Abbreviation for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid.

**General Education (Gen Ed) Requirements** – Courses selected from several divisions required for a college degree. These are usually completed during the first two years of college, before moving on to focused course work in major or minor areas.

**Liberal Arts** – An academic program that includes the sciences, social sciences, languages, arts, and mathematics, as distinguished from professional or vocational programs that focus on training for careers such as engineering, business, and nursing.

**Major** – The subject in which a student concentrates to earn a degree. For example, biology majors will have a degree in biology. Note: there are no set majors for prelaw, dental, medicine, and veterinary degrees - graduate work is necessary for each of these disciplines.

**Minor** – A secondary area of concentration, which may or may not be required by an institution.

**Need-Blind Admission** – A policy of making admission decisions without considering the financial circumstances of applicants. Colleges that use this policy may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student's full need.

**Regular Decision** – An application option that involves applying by a late fall or early winter deadline in exchange for an admission decision the following spring.

**Rolling Admission** – An application option by which colleges review and make decisions about applications as they are received. The application cycle usually opens in early fall and may extend into the spring or until the freshmen class is filled.

**SAT** – The most widely taken standardized test for college admission. The test contains three parts: writing, critical reading, and math and is scored out of 2400 points. You can learn more at <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>.

**SAT Subject Test** – SAT Subject Tests are standardized tests used to demonstrate proficiency or knowledge in one of 20 specific subject areas. You can learn more about SAT Subject Tests at <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/sat-subject>.

**Student:Faculty Ratio** – The number of professors per number of students at a college or university. For example, if a college had 2,400 students and 100 full-time professors, the student:faculty ratio would be 24:1.

**Transcript** – A copy of a student’s cumulative record, requested by all colleges and universities for admission purposes.

**Undergraduate** – A college student who has not yet received a Bachelor’s Degree.

**Waitlist** – A group of students held in reserve after a college makes its admissions decisions. If openings occur, students on the waitlist may be offered admission.

**Yield** – The percentage of students offered admission to a college who subsequently enroll.

Source: <http://blog.ivywise.com/blog-0/bid/132382/College-Admissions-Terminology>

Definitions sourced from *The Truth About Getting In* (Katherine Cohen, Hyperion); *Admission Matters* (Springer, Reider, Franck, Jossey-Bass)





## APPENDIX II



### THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

This checklist must be submitted to your college counselor at least two weeks prior to your college deadline. If you have a January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline or later, you must submit this checklist by December 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Please submit one checklist per college application.*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**College Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Deadline:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Application Type:**      Common App / Coalition App / Institution App / Scholarship

\_\_\_\_\_ I have requested teacher recommendations from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed my application

\_\_\_\_\_ I have sent my SAT or ACT scores to the college OR Self-Reported scores (if allowed)

\_\_\_\_\_ If applying through an institutional application, I have attached a Secondary School Report (SSR) for my counselor to complete (or sent it electronically)

\_\_\_\_\_ If applying ED, I have signed my ED binding agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ If transcripts need to be mailed, please include the address of the admissions office:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_



# THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL

A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN PRINCETON, NJ

Howe Whitman Jr., *Head of School*

Leo Yoon, *Head of Upper School*

Karen Ristuccia, *Academic Dean*

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The Wilberforce School is accredited by The Middle States Association and is a Trinity Member School.

## MISSION AND METHOD

The mission of the Wilberforce Upper School is to impart basic ordered knowledge about the world and to train students in foundational intellectual skills and qualities of mind and heart, so that they might be of use to God in the wise care and governance of his creation and in the building of His kingdom. We accomplish this by establishing a culture marked by the discovery of truth, the practice of goodness, the creation of beauty, the development of intellectual and aesthetic habits of the mind, and cultivation of servant leadership. The Wilberforce Upper School is a community of learners engaged in the rigorous exploration of reality, the free and disciplined exchange of ideas, and active participation in the fine arts.

## CURRICULUM

The Wilberforce School cultivates whole persons: intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually. Knowing that our students are stewards of their minds and hearts, we invite them to engage in the Great Conversation; they study written texts, musical scores, paintings, and sculpture to ask and answer questions, to provide springboards for creativity, and to set standards for excellence. Learning in community, whether around the seminar table or in the laboratory, is a hallmark of our classes. In every class at Wilberforce, students not only analyze and evaluate but also reflect and respond. They apply habits of responsible stewardship, gentle justice, and self-discipline to their scholarship, their sports, and their service.

**As a Trinity Member School we provide an Honors/AP level curriculum for all students:** every course offering - from Humane Letters starting in Grade 9 to multivariable calculus taught in Grade 12 - represents academic depth and challenge. Though we operate according to a different educational philosophy than AP or IB, the courses compare favorably in terms of rigor. For instance, each student who completes our curriculum has done the following:

Humanities	Math/Science	Fine Arts
Written at least 30 analytical essays and three substantial research papers.	Learned the topics covered in the AP Calculus BC class, in addition to linear algebra, Newtonian mechanics and electromagnetism.	Studied the fundamentals of acting the technical aspects of staging a performance. The student has acted and helped put on both a one-act play and a full-length production.
Mastered the art of disciplined discussion through participation in seminar classes that met 10 hours per week for four years.	Used calculus and physics to write graphical user interfaces (GUIs) with MATLAB, modeling physical phenomena and solving complex problems.	Studied two years of vocal music and theory. Performed in four public formal choral concerts.
Read many of the greatest literary and philosophical works in the Western canon. It is normal to have one hour of reading per night.	Investigated science through 100+ hours of hands on laboratory work.	Analyzed art works, ranging from pre-historical to contemporary, and learned to produce art in a spectrum of styles and media.

## HUMANE LETTERS SEMINARS, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

These courses account for four hours of instruction each day and serve as the backbone of The Wilberforce School curriculum.

### HUMANE LETTERS SEMINAR

In the Humane Letters Seminar, students conduct an integrated study of literature, history, philosophy and theology by reading and discussing original texts and source documents and by writing essays about issues which emerge from their study. Historical lectures supplement the discussions.

Freshman Humane Letters is dedicated to the study of American history and literature. Although a textbook supplies some of the historical narrative, the main focus is on reading original documents. For examples, students carefully study the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and selections from The Federalist Papers. The reading list also includes works by Stephen Crane, Mark Twain, Harper Lee, Willa Cather, Upton Sinclair, Frederick Douglass and others.

Sophomore Humane Letters focuses on European history and literature. Students study political works by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Engels and Marx. They read literature by T.S. Eliot, Jane Austen, George Orwell, Charles Dickens and Dostoevsky.

Junior Humane Letters focuses on major works of Greek literature and philosophy, including works by Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Thucydides, Plato and Aristotle, as well as early Christian works by Augustine and Athanasius.

Senior Humane Letters focuses on medieval and modern literature and philosophy. Seniors read a wide range of authors, including Aquinas, Dante, Descartes, Montaigne, Hegel, Marx, Dostoevsky, James Agee, Raymond Carver, Wallace Stevens and Flannery O'Connor.

### MATHEMATICS

The goal is proficiency in both the theoretical understanding and the practical use of mathematics. The curriculum equips students to use mathematics effectively as a tool in understanding other disciplines, brings them to a comprehension of the substance and structure of mathematics, and prepares them for further study at a higher level. The program emphasizes advanced algebra, trigonometry, precalculus and calculus. Seniors study advanced topics in single- and multi-variable calculus, linear algebra, and discrete mathematics. Beginning calculus in junior year allows students to apply calculus to physics. Rather than seeing math as a hoop to jump through, we hope our students come to see the beauty of mathematics and find inspiration leading to a lifetime love of mathematics and its applications.

### SCIENCE

Our object is to cultivate a mindset of wonder and inquiry into how the universe works, and to equip students with foundational disciplines of biological, chemical and physical science. Freshmen study biology, and sophomores learn the principles of organic and inorganic chemistry. The program culminates with two years of physics, which integrates calculus and MATLAB programming into the course. First-semester juniors take a course in MATLAB, a first year engineering programming language, in which they learn to create graphical user interfaces (GUIs) that solve particular classes of problems in science or mathematics. Second-semester juniors take a course focused on the fundamentals of Newtonian mechanics. Covering heat, electromagnetism, light, relativity and quantum physics, the senior physics course builds on junior physics, math and computing. The integration of physics, calculus and MATLAB is a hallmark of our program, which equips them both with a way of thinking, and with a toolkit for competent work in college and graduate level STEM disciplines.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

All students take the same curriculum, unless otherwise noted on the transcript. The only exception is modern language during the sophomore through senior years. A student may choose Mandarin or Spanish.

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Humane Letters 1	Humane Letters 2	Humane Letters 3	Humane Letters 4
Biology	Chemistry	Physics 1	Physics 2
Geometry / Precalculus A	Precalculus B/C	MATLAB Programming	MATLAB Programming
Latin III or Classical Roots of the English Language	Modern Language 1	Calculus	Multivariable Calculus
History & Creeds of the Church	Old Testament	Modern Language 2	Advanced Math Topics
Art 1 / Music 1	Art 2 / Music 2	New Testament	Modern Language 3
		Art 3 / Dramatic Theatre I	Art 4 / Dramatic Theatre 2
			Theology Colloquium

## GRADING SCALE

The grading scale follows the normal 4.0 system, with the addition of an A+ for exceptional work.

A+ = 4.33	B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D = 1.00
A = 4.00	B = 3.00	C = 2.00	F = 0.00
A- = 3.67	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	

## CLASS RANK

Due to the small size of classes and the rigor of The Wilberforce School's curriculum, class rank would be misleading in most cases. Therefore, The Wilberforce School does not rank its students.

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

The Wilberforce School is a Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school located in central New Jersey, a populous and fast-paced community. Our school draws students from twenty miles in all directions.

<b>Student Body</b>	Pre-Kindergarten through High School	208
	Upper School (9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	65
	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class	20
<b>Upper School Faculty</b>	13 full-time, 8 part-time	
<b>Faculty Degrees</b>	7 doctorate degrees, 8 master's degrees, 6 bachelor's degrees	

## COLLEGE VISITATIONS

The Wilberforce School welcomes college representatives. To make an appointment to visit the school or meet with interested students, please contact Susan Antlitz at (609) 454-3137 or at [susan.antlitz@wilberforceschool.org](mailto:susan.antlitz@wilberforceschool.org).



## STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS

The Wilberforce School opened its high school in the fall of 2014. Our first senior class of seven students graduated in June 2017. The following test scores are taken from the class of 2018 and the class of 2019.

### Class of 2018 & 2019 SAT Averages

Reading & Writing	688
Math	673
<b>Total</b>	<b>1361</b>

### Class of 2018 & 2019 ACT Averages

English	31
Math	27
Reading	30
Science	26
<b>Composite</b>	<b>29</b>

## CLASS OF 2017 & 2018 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Allegheny College (2)                              | *Messiah College (2)                            |
| Baylor University Honors Program                   | Niagara College                                 |
| *Biola University, Torrey Honors Institute         | *North Carolina State                           |
| Bowling Green State University                     | Patrick Henry College (2)                       |
| Calvin College                                     | Pennsylvania State University                   |
| Christopher Newport University                     | Purdue University                               |
| College of the Holy Cross                          | Roanoke College                                 |
| College of William & Mary, James Monroe Scholars & | Rosemont College                                |
| St. Andrews Joint Degree Program                   | *Rowan University (3)                           |
| Colorado School of Mines                           | Rutgers University (3)                          |
| Colorado State University                          | Rutgers University Engineering Honors Program   |
| *Davidson College                                  | Southwestern University                         |
| Earlham College                                    | St. John's College                              |
| Eastern University (2)                             | Stockton University                             |
| Elmira College                                     | *Stony Brook University                         |
| *Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University              | *Temple University                              |
| Elizabethtown College                              | *The College of New Jersey                      |
| Elon University                                    | *University of Delaware (2)                     |
| Evangel University                                 | University of Georgia Honors Program            |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University                     | *University of Notre Dame                       |
| George Mason University                            | *University of Pennsylvania                     |
| Gettysburg College                                 | University of Rochester                         |
| Gordon College                                     | University of the Sciences in Philadelphia      |
| *Gordon College, A.J. Gordon Scholars Program      | *University of Virginia, Echols Scholar Program |
| Grove City College                                 | University of Washington                        |
| Hillsdale College                                  | *Wake Forest University                         |
| *Houghton College, Six Year Medical Program        | Westminster College, New Wilmington             |
| James Madison University (2)                       | Westmont College                                |
| Kean University                                    | Wheaton College                                 |
| Louisiana State University                         | Widener University                              |
| Loyola University Maryland                         |   |

\* 2017 & 2018 matriculation

