



Stepping into Your Future

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today

~Malcolm X



Upcoming Dates:

October 13 & 14

Alaska College & Career Fair

October 13 & 15 All

Alaska Military Service Academies Event

October 14

Princeton

University of Oregon

Duke

Oberlin

Carnegie Mellon

Kenyon

West/Frontier Webinar

October 16 UAA

Application Day

October 21

Whitworth

Williams College

Boston University

Vanderbilt

Johns Hopkins

October 22 College

Admissions Panel

October 28

University of

Colorado-Boulder

Hamilton College

Seattle University

COLLEGE VISITS AND CAREER EVENTS

UAA College and Career VIRTUAL Fair

There is something for everyone at the 39th Annual Anchorage Alaska College and Career Fair. Whether you are looking at in state schools, out of state colleges, vocational and trade ideas or options to go straight into the workforce:

[Alaska College & Career Fair](#)

VIRTUAL EVENT

Oct 13th 4-7:45pm

College Exploration Panel

Oct 14th 12pm-3:45pm

6X6 Virtual Fair Session

Colleges Visit West

Schools will be visiting (virtually) West regularly. Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to join. After you sign up, you will receive the zoom link a few days before the scheduled meeting. Sign up and find the most up to date list [HERE](#).

How To Choose a School

Are you curious (or confused) about [HOW TO CHOOSE A COLLEGE](#)? The introspection, research, and planning you do now will make next year's process of applying to college

less stressful. Check out this great article by The College Essay Guy with a step by step plan to help you start to get a handle on college choice [here](#).

Parent Support

Parents, we understand that gearing up to apply to college next year can bring up a lot of questions for you, too. If you're looking for some ways to support your student in the process, The College Essay Guy has some good pointers, which you can find [here](#). This article also provides links to some blogs by admissions personnel - these are often a goldmine of solid, trustworthy advice that can be applied to the process of applying to any school, not just the one they are writing for. Starting early and doing your research goes a long way toward reducing the possible stressors of this process!

All-Alaska Military Service Academies Event

This year's All-Alaska Military Service Academies Event is being held virtually and it will take place on 2 nights - Tuesday, 13 October and Thursday, 15 October from 17:30 to 18:30. To participate you will need to send an RSVP to Academy.Nominations@murkowski.senate.gov and you will receive a link to the meeting.

West HS/Frontier Tutoring webinar:

11th & 12th Graders College Admissions Checklist
Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 PM Alaska time

As an 11th or 12th grader, what should you be doing this fall to set yourself up for college admissions success? During our live webinar, the West High School counseling team and Kimberly Hewitt, director of Frontier Tutoring's college counseling practice, will walk through the following fall semester priorities for juniors and seniors:

For seniors, determine whether initial or additional SAT/ACT testing is necessary based on your scholarship and college admissions goals. For juniors, determine whether you should prepare for the PSAT this fall to potentially qualify for National Merit recognition and scholarships), and develop your SAT/ACT testing strategy.

Create and finalize your college list, which drives all of your academic, testing, and application priorities

For seniors, finalize essays and applications Identify financial aid and scholarships

Maximize your GPA and manage virtual school

Manage extracurriculars in the COVID-19 era

At the end of the webinar, we'll have time for Q&A about all things testing and college admissions. Representatives from the West Anchorage High School counseling department will also be available to answer any West-specific questions.

[Register now to save your spot](#)

*Before anything
else,
preparation is
the key to
success*

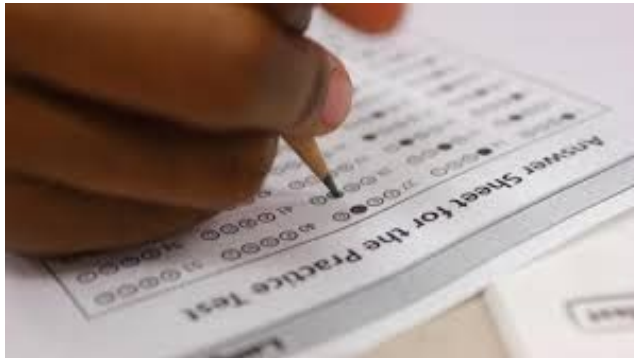
*~ Alexander
Graham Bell*



FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

REVIEW Alaska Performance Scholarship Information:

If you are interested in qualifying for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) you can see the qualification requirements [here](#), or more details [here](#). This scholarship is available to Alaska students who meet the qualifications and can be used at many Alaska post-secondary programs. Note: the ACT or SAT is still required for qualification purposes this year, so you should start registering now. Some tests are taking quite a long time to get registered for, and are filling quickly. Register for the SAT [here](#) or ACT [here](#).



THERE IS A TEST FOR THAT

A Junior's Guide to "Which TEST is Which?"

Are you ready for post-secondary admission testing? Yes, college entrance exams begin in your Junior year and they all have confusing-sounding acronyms. It can be pretty tough to figure out which tests you *need* to take, which tests you *should* take, and *when* you should take these tests. Here is a quick guide of tests you may want to consider during your Junior year:

PSAT

WHAT IS IT: The *PSAT/NMSQT* stands for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which students typically take in their Junior year. It is NOT a college admission test. The value of taking the PSAT during your Junior year can be viewed in two ways.

1. The PSAT is good preparation for the SAT, which is a broadly used college admission exam. Taking a trial run with the PSAT is one way to get ready for the SAT and can give you a pretty accurate prediction of how well you will do on the SAT.
2. The PSAT may also yield college scholarships for top scorers. High enough marks on the *PSAT/NMSQT* as a junior can help a student land a National Merit Scholarship. All juniors who take the PSAT are automatically entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program, which awards annual \$2,500 scholarships to top scorers. Those students who are aiming to win scholarship money should study for the PSAT as diligently as they would for the SAT or ACT.

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE IT & HOW DO I SIGN UP: In their Junior year students register for the PSAT through their high schools. The West counseling staff will tell you how and when to sign up for the PSAT. Dependent on Covid-19, we are hoping to offer the PSAT at West in January.

ACT & SAT

WHAT IS IT: The ACT and SAT are college entrance exams. Most colleges require students to take either the SAT or the ACT and submit their scores to their prospective universities. You only need to take one. Some students opt to take both tests, given that they cover slightly different things and then decide which one better suits their strengths. Some students choose to take the same exam more than once as you are likely to do better as you become more familiar with the test. ACT/SAT scores, combined with a specific set of high school courses and GPA at high school graduation are also used to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS).

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE IT & HOW DO I SIGN UP: Most students take the test for the first time during the *spring* of their Junior year. Scores are provided anywhere from two to eight weeks after the test.

Having SAT scores you're proud of by the end of your junior year ensures that you can finalize your college list the summer between junior and senior year with real exam results - not wishful-thinking results - as a firm basis for clear-eyed decisions. Can you test during your senior year too? Absolutely! But ideally senior year testing is for adding a few additional points to an already solid SAT score. There are specific dates the SAT and ACT are offered throughout the year with registration deadlines. Follow links below for dates and signup and *email your school counselor for Fee Waiver if needed*.

SAT: www.sat.org

ACT: <http://www.act.org/>

PRACTICE: *Just like with a test for a class, YOU SHOULD STUDY FOR YOUR SAT/ACT!*

FREE SAT practice: www.khanademy.org

FREE ACT practice: <https://academy.act.org>

FREE Practice SAT/ACT: <https://www.frontiertutoring.com/>

WORKKEYS

WHAT IS IT: If you're considering career training (a vocational program or a registered apprenticeship program), WorkKeys may be a requirement. WorkKeys is a set of assessments that measure workplace skills. WorkKeys scores can also be combined with a specific set of high school courses and your GPA at graduation to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). If you choose to use your WorkKeys scores to qualify for APS, you can use it for certificate programs, but not for associate, bachelor, or other degree programs.

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE IT & HOW DO I SIGN UP: Typically Seniors entering vocational training or the workforce take the WorkKeys exam. This exam is NOT typically taken during your Junior year. However, it is important to know about this test and keep it on your radar for your Senior year. This exam is available at the [Alaska Job Center](#)

ASVAB

WHAT IS IT: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) The value of taking the ASVAB during your Junior or Senior year can be viewed in two ways.

1. This is the test you need to take to get into the military. The ASVAB does not obligate you to anything. It is just a test used by the military to determine if you are qualified to join and what area or areas you would excel in.
2. The ASVAB is an excellent career assessment tool even if you currently have no desire to join the military. The ASVAB can help you identify which career areas best suit you. Because this is an aptitude test it doesn't just tell you what you are currently good at, it will also tell you what you may be good at learning. You may know nothing about electronics but your scores may say you have the ability to learn electronics.

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE IT & HOW DO I SIGN UP:

This test is given to many juniors and seniors at high schools all across the country. The ASVAB is offered at West every year. The West counseling staff in conjunction with West's JROTC program will tell you how and when to sign up for the ASVAB. You may also contact a local recruiter and he or she can set you up to take it.

PRACTICE: *Just like with a test for a class, YOU SHOULD STUDY FOR THE ASVAB!*

The higher you score the more opportunities are available to you. Practice material can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UbghYh9DaXAfvbT2QY0FEZHKNaiFRPRM>

<https://asvabtutor.com/asvab-practice-tests/>



DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN?

Career Search Tool:

AKCIS (Alaska Career Information System). This is a fantastic, free, tool students can use to create portfolios, assess interests, write resumes, search for post-secondary education and post-secondary scholarships, and much more. Follow this link or sign-on through the West Library webpage. Your FREE student login = ID: Wesths Password: 4Student You may also set up a portfolio and save your information. I encourage you to check it out!



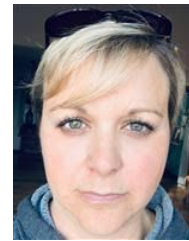
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