

# Guidance Notes

“Whoever is thirsty, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” –Rev. 22:17  
October 2009 by James Bilitz, Guidance Director

## SENIOR UPDATES

The Class of 2010 has been meeting with Mr. Bilitz during the first few weeks to receive information on the college application process, scholarship availability, and college recruitment visits.



It is important for students to apply early to the school of their choice. Most colleges have a system whereby they accept applications on a rolling basis.

Qualified applications are often processed as they come in.

Scholarship offerings will be coming in on a fairly regular basis towards the end of the calendar year, but mostly during the second semester. Notices of scholarships will be posted on the information center wall as they come in and soon to be found on the WLA website under “Admissions.” The scholarship information will also be filed in the Guidance Office along with the applications for the scholarships if we receive paper forms. Many applications are now processed Online (see later info for websites).

As most students are aware, the competition for scholarships is normally quite intense (many students will be competing for a few scholarships), especially on a national level. A sometimes-overlooked source of scholarships is a parent's or student's employer. Be sure to check with your company to see if it offers scholarships to employee children. If the student is working, he/she may want to do the same.



## Test Day at WLA

Wednesday, October 14, will be the annual Test Day at WLA. All students will be given various

standardized tests during the morning periods of the day.

The freshmen class will be taking the EXPLORE Test. This test will measure the current level of achievement of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is the first in the series of tests published by American College Testing (ACT). This test along with the PLAN and ACT will help us track student progress and career interests.

The sophomores will be taking the PLAN test. This test is a preliminary test for the ACT (college entrance test most commonly used in this area). It is also an instrument that can be used to help in career planning.

The juniors will be taking the NMSQT/PSAT. The test is the qualifying test for National Merit scholarship competition. It is also a preliminary SAT test (a college entrance test used by some colleges in the USA). It is a good test for determining how well the student compares to other college-bound students in the nation.

Seniors are scheduled to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). This test, as the name indicates, is a test to determine the degree of aptitude for various vocational fields both military and civilian. The test is administered by one of the branches of the armed services.

There is no additional cost for any of the tests. The freshmen, sophomores and juniors are covered under the student fee paid at the beginning of the school year. The senior ASVAB is provided by the armed services at no cost to the student.

Seniors who have already taken the ASVAB will be excused from the morning session.

## Congratulations to Chad Skaer

Chad Skaer has been named a semifinalist in the 2010 Nation Merit® Scholarship competition. He now goes on to compete for one of the 8200 National Merit Scholarships. To be considered for a National Merit award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90% are expected to attain

Finalist standing and about half of those will win a National Merit Scholarship.

Approximately 16,500 students out of over 2,000,000 students who took the PSAT/NMSQT are awarded a Semifinalist standing.

We wish Chad well in the Finalist competition!

Again – Congratulations Chad!

## **WLA Career Exploration Day - October 14<sup>th</sup>**

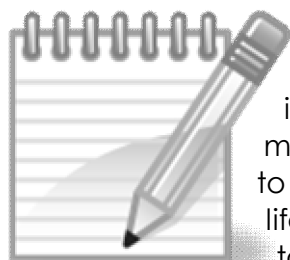
The guidance office is hosting WLA's fifth annual Career Exploration Day during the afternoon of October 14. Approximately 20 presenters will be here to talk with students about their jobs and related careers. Each student will have an opportunity to explore two career choices.



We have tried to have a wide variety of choices – some which require college preparation and others which require a different kind of training.

Hopefully, this day will give students a better idea of what is available to them as a career choice and will encourage them to do further study.

## **FRESHMEN GUIDANCE**



The freshmen class has been meeting both in the chapel as a class and in their homerooms. At the meetings we are attempting to acclimate the students to life here at WLA by covering topics in the handbook, by having instructors give helpful hints on studying for the various courses, and by a variety of other presentations.

Presentations by the faculty will deal with the students' spiritual lives including family devotions, chapel conduct, private Bible reading and the use of the sacraments in the home congregations.

Freshmen have been busy planning the activities for homecoming including decorating and class skit.

Most of the freshmen have now settled into the school routine and appear to be comfortable with school life.

Over the next few weeks we will be exploring career opportunities and working on preparing individual four-year course plans. Students will receive information on which courses to take if they are college or tech school bound.

## **Helpful Websites for College-Bound Students**

### **Financial Aid:**

FastWeb Scholarship Search [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.SchoolSoup.com](http://www.SchoolSoup.com)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid (available in January)..... [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Direct Loans ..... [www.ed.gov/DirectLoan](http://www.ed.gov/DirectLoan)

### **College Searches and Admissions:**

FastWeb College Search..... [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

SchoolSoup College Search

[www.SchoolSoup.com](http://www.SchoolSoup.com)

College Board ..... [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

UW System schools..... [www.apply.wisconsin.edu](http://www.apply.wisconsin.edu)

[www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu](http://www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu)

### **Choosing a Major/Career:**

Career Planning ..... [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

Monster Job Search..... [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)

America's Career Infonet..... [www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)

### **2009-2010 ACT Assessment**

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
Oct. 24, 2009	<b>Sep. 18, 2009</b>	Oct. 2, 2009
Dec. 12, 2009	<b>Nov. 6, 2009</b>	Nov. 20, 2009
Feb. 6, 2010	<b>Jan. 5, 2010</b>	Jan. 15, 2010
April 10, 2010	<b>Mar. 5, 2010</b>	Mar. 19, 2010
Jun 12, 2010	<b>May 7, 2010,</b>	May 21, 2010

The optional writing test is available on all test dates.

**ACT Fees: \$32 without writing test; \$47.00 with writing test.**

Our school code for the application is:

**500-685.**

**WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN ACADEMY**

*Loving it for four years, Living it forever!*