

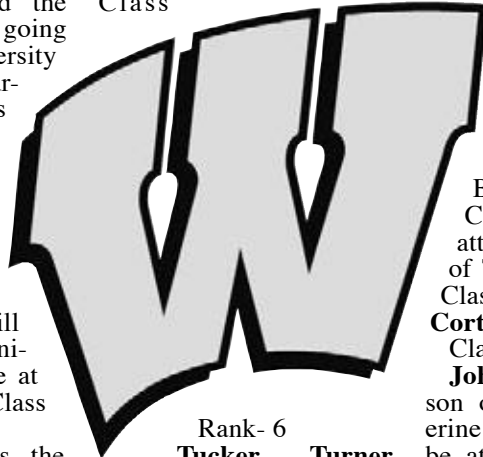
Westview High School: Academic Top 10 cont.

Tyler Earls is the son of Andy and Jennifer Earls. He is a member of the Beta Club, Science Club, Calculas Club, and the Spanish Club. He is going to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall. Class Rank- 4

Michael Long is the son of Dr. David Long and Sarah Long. He participated in Beta Club, HOSA, and Golf. Michael will be attending the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall. Class Rank- 5

Olivia Wilson is the daughter of Josh and Kelly Wilson. She was a member of HOSA, Spanish

Club, Anchor Club, and Beta Club. She will go to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Class Rank- 6



Tucker Turner is the son of Randy and Ana Turner. He was a member of FBLA and

Spanish Club while in high school. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall. Class Rank- 7

Kaylin Patel is the child of Manish and Sarah Patel. Kaylin was a member of Band, Japanese Club, Book Club, and Beta Club. Kaylin plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. Class Rank- 8

Cortez Kennedy Class Rank- 9
John Carithers is the son of David and Catherine Carithers. He will be attending the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the fall. Class Rank- 10

The benefits of taking a gap year

Whereas high school graduates once felt compelled to enroll in college the fall after receiving their high school diplomas, nowadays a greater number of teens are opting to take time off between graduating high school and going to college. Known as a "gap year," this trend has become increasingly popular in recent years.

According to the American Gap Year Association, attendance at Gap Year Fairs, which aim to bring together Gap Year organizations, interested students and parents, has increased by 294 percent since 2010. While there are no statistics indicating just how many students take gap years before going to college, the increase in fair attendance suggests more students are interested in taking a year away from school after earning their high school diplomas.

Each student is different, so what entices one student to take a gap year may not do the same for his or her classmate. However, the following are some of the potential benefits of taking a gap year between high school and college.

- Gap years give more time to find a major. Many incoming college freshmen feel pressured to choose a major even though they are uncertain about which courses of study they hope to pursue. Colleges and universities may not require incoming freshmen to choose majors, but that does not stop many from doing just that. Students who have no idea what they want to study can benefit from the time gap years afford them to further explore their interests. The year away may help students discover hidden interests, while volunteering during gap years may inspire some to pursue careers they otherwise may never have considered had they not found the time to volunteer.

- Gap years may provide students with opportunities to travel. Some organizations now connect students taking gap years with opportunities to work overseas. The work may not be lucrative, but it can give students the chance to experience life in other countries. Such an experience may prove invaluable and help students

to better understand the world that awaits them upon graduating college.

- Gap years give students a chance to exhale. Students who spent their high school years working hard in the classroom and engaging in extracurricular activities may benefit from the time to breathe and relax that gap years afford. Stepping away from a hectic schedule can provide students with the chance to reflect on their interests and explore how they want the next chapter of their lives to unfold.

- Gap years can help students earn some money. While gap years may not make young students rich, students who spend their gap years working can earn money that can help them pay for college tuition or cover the additional costs associated with going to college, such as room and board.

Gap years give young students a chance to learn about themselves and more time to explore what they want to do with their lives after high school.

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