

# COUNTDOWN TO SENIOR YEAR

## Things to do between now and August

### GRADES | COURSE SELECTION

- The rest of this year matters: Focus firmly on **grades**. This is the last semester to impact your GPA for college admissions applications in the summer/fall.
- Complete a **credit check** with your counselor; be sure you have the courses you need to graduate and be competitive in your chosen major.
- Register for relevant, meaningful senior classes. **Course selection** is very important to most colleges; they want to see you challenging yourself academically and/or demonstrating your genuine interests throughout your senior year.

### TESTING: PSAT | SAT | ACT | TSI

- Use the 11th grade PSAT as a baseline score from which to **prep for spring's SATs and ACTs**. Create an account with Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)) for FREE test prep using your personalized PSAT access code.
- If you have not taken the SAT or ACT, **sign up** for the May or June tests. We encourage students to try both exams to see which is your stronger test.
- If you regularly receive **accommodations** on tests, contact your counselor for information on applying for appropriate accommodations on the SAT/ACT.
- If you receive free or reduced lunch, see Ms. Chapman in the counseling office to obtain a **fee waiver**.

### TEST DATES: SAT | ACT | TSI

<b>SAT</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/SATregistration">bit.ly/SATregistration</a>	<b>March 9th</b>	<b>March 27</b> <i>Offered @ LHHS during the school day</i>	<b>May 4th</b> <i>Offered @ LHHS</i>	<b>June 1st</b> <i>Offered @ LHHS</i>
<b>ACT</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/RegisterforACT">bit.ly/RegisterforACT</a>	<b>Feb. 9th</b>	<b>April 13th</b>	<b>June 8th</b>	<b>July 13th</b>
<b>TSI</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/ACC-TSI">bit.ly/ACC-TSI</a>	<b>April 16th, 17th</b> <i>Offered @ LHHS</i>	To schedule a time to take the TSI at ACC other than the dates offered @ LHHS, go to <a href="http://bit.ly/ScheduleTSI">http://bit.ly/ScheduleTSI</a> .		

### CHOOSING COLLEGES

- Attend **College Fairs** and talk to college representatives; this allows you to establish contact with various schools of interest to you.
- Talk with **college representatives** when they visit the high school – they could eventually be your advocate at the college admission selection table when applications are reviewed.
- **Make a preliminary list of potential colleges**. We recommend applying to four or more: 1 reach school, 1 safety school, and 2 match schools. Visit college campuses to help refine your choices. Students have two excused college visit days their junior year and two more their senior year.
- If you plan to be a collegiate athlete, **register with the NCAA** eligibility center at <http://bit.ly/NCAA-HS>. (They will want your SAT/ACT scores, so be sure to add school code "9999" when you register for those tests.)

## PREPARE FOR THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

- There is more to the application than just academic information: Colleges are interested in your extracurricular involvement, service hours, employment, letters of recommendation, and essays.
- **Letters of Recommendation: Teacher, Counselor**
  - Consider which teachers you want to ask – pick those who know you best as a student (it might be that a teacher who knows you best and can attest to your academic growth is not the teacher of a class in which you made the highest grades).
  - Request 3 weeks in advance of due date
  - Fill out questionnaires to help us write better letters for you (find them on the WHS home page under “Counseling” > “Senior Information” > “Applying to College”)
- **Essays**
  - Complete rough drafts (check current college applications for essay topics)
  - Find links to essay topics on the counseling website under Senior Information > “Applying to College”
  - These do not have to be perfect pieces of writing (though you should check carefully for careless mistakes). The purpose of the essay is to give the reader insight as to who you are as a person – maybe a glimpse of your sense of humor or personality, or a sense of what is important to you and how you might fit in on their campus.

## SUMMER | RESUME

- Make your summer “meaningful.” Consider internships, enrichment programs on college campuses, work experiences, volunteering, etc.
- Search for scholarships on FREE websites. Check out our suggested search engines on the counseling website: [lhscounseling.weebly.com](http://lhscounseling.weebly.com).
- Explore local, national, and college-specific scholarships listed on the Counseling website (under Scholarships).
- Begin to develop your resume. Go online to view samples of high school resumes – there is no single “right way” to build a resume. It’s okay to be creative; it’s critical to be clear and concise. Proofread carefully. You can also build your resume in Naviance.