



Post-Secondary Planning Sophomore Year

High School & Beyond—XELLO

Students are required to complete the High School & Beyond requirement each year which is done through XELLO. Please visit our Xello Page - <https://lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling/high-school-beyond-plan>. Different activities are added each year, and students must stay on track to graduate.

Fall

- Take the PSAT at Lake Washington High School in October (Dependent on Covid restrictions)
 - Check out the SAT/ACT Test Prep in Xello
- Attend a virtual college fair presented by NACAC <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/>.
- Visit the College & Career Center web page.

Winter

- Continue participating in school activities or volunteer efforts. Extracurricular activities can help you develop time management skills, enrich your high school experience and strengthen your application resume.
- Read, read, read. Developing your reading skills will help prepare you for required tests and increase your vocabulary.
- Work on your writing skills—you'll need them no matter what you do.
- Meet with your counselor/career specialist and discuss your PSAT scores after the February review session.
- Focus on grades. Continue developing strong study habits.
- Do some research about how to obtain financial aid. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. Begin the discussion with your parents about what they can and can't afford and what needs to be done to get you where you want to be. The College & Career Center has lots of resources.

Spring/Summer

- Visit a few college campuses. Read all the mail you receive from colleges. This will help you establish what you like and dislike.
- Continue tracking your accomplishments.
- Attend college fairs in your area.
- Contact colleges and trade schools that interest you and request additional information.
- Keep thinking about what career options may interest you. Consider participating in a summer program that relates to your interests.
- Talk with college students home for the summer. Get their take on college. It's always good to get a student's perspective.
- Get involved. Whether you get a job or volunteer, steady summer activity will look good for colleges and employers. Putting the money you earn over summer away for college will also help you get a head start on a college savings plan.