

# PATH TO COLLEGE



## LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL ROAD MAP

### FRESHMAN

- **Take challenging courses.** Homework is an expectation not an option for academic success. A challenge means you worked harder than expected.
- **GET INVOLVED!!** Try new clubs and organizations. If you do not like the club after a few meetings, then you know what not to get involved in. It is the quality of your involvement, not the quantity that matters.
- Remember your **foreign language requirements** for certain colleges.
- **Be realistic.** You will have to STUDY!!
- **Get a summer job.** Your summer experiences can develop your leadership and responsibility skills. It will help you afford your car insurance and college costs.
- **Meet with your counselor about clubs and activities.**
- Take the PSAT 9 test at LTHS
- Check out the cost of your local community college and another local college to start thinking about affordability

**Life is not an event, but a journey. Make the most out of your journey through life. You will only be able to do it once.**

### SOPHOMORE

- **Consider the optional PSAT in October as a practice.** It can not count against you and colleges will not see the score. Look at the results and begin to examine where your strengths and weaknesses are.
- Continue to take challenging courses. Are you ready for an AP course?
- Try some different courses. Explore careers and skills.
- Remain involved. Begin to consider leadership positions for the following year.



**High School is only four years of your life. Enjoy it!!**

#### SPRING

- Prepare a list of colleges. Are they realistic with your grades and rank? Consider college costs as well. Discuss the list with your counselor.
- **You NEED to study!!!**
- Take Practice SAT at LTHS

### JUNIOR

#### OCTOBER

- **Consider taking the PSAT.** This qualifies you for the National Merit Scholarship.
- **Sign up for ACT/SAT review classes.** Khan Academy offers free reviews and tests.
- Sign up for spring AP tests.

#### JANUARY

- Sign up for the ACT or SAT. Start thinking about colleges you would like to attend.

#### SECOND SEMESTER

- Attend college fairs.
- Select challenging senior year courses. Show them what you've got!! Consider taking an AP for senior year.
- Do you need to take the SAT subject tests? Some colleges require them for admission.

- **April is test month.**
- Last semester of grades colleges will see when you apply. Do your best

#### ALL YEAR

- Tour campuses and have interviews. Compare college costs and programs.
- Get a job!! Where will you be applying to?
- Become a leader in your club or sport.
- **Meet with your counselor about careers and colleges that you may not have thought about.**

### SENIOR

#### FIRST SEMESTER

- Sign up for ACT/SAT in October if you need to.
- Sign up for AP tests.
- Review the list of colleges. Are they appropriate to your academic record? Do you meet their academic requirements?
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation early.
- Ask teachers, family etc. to review your college essays.
- **Fill out college applications.** It is your responsibility to fill everything out correctly and to have included all the necessary materials. Beware of application deadline dates. Prepare applications for back-up schools. **THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!!**
- Early decision or early action? Talk to a counselor and parents about it.
- Do you need to take any SAT subject tests for certain colleges?
- **Fill out the FAFSA forms online right away. (October 1).** This helps you receive financial aid for college.

- **Meet with your counselor about your applications, essays and scholarships.**

#### SECOND SEMESTER

- Request transcripts of your first semester grades to be sent to applicable colleges.
- Watch out for senioritis.
- **Begin filling out as many scholarships that you qualify for.** Talk to your parent's employer/ insurance company about possible scholarships. Do not assume you are not qualified or do not have a chance to win a scholarship. Find out about scholarships at the colleges you have been accepted to. Check LTHS website for scholarships all year long.
- Choose the one school you will attend and find out information regarding housing, roommates, orientation, and course selection. Most housing deadline dates are May 1<sup>st</sup>.