



JUST FOR JUNIORS

CLASS OF 2025

LHS COUNSELING CENTER



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LIFE READY CENTER

The Life Ready Center (LRC) is located in the Counseling Office. It is designed to be a place for students to access computers on campus to apply for college, apply for scholarships, research careers and pick up job applications.

It is open before school, during lunch, and by appointment with a counselor.



WHAT ARE WE COVERING

- Graduation Requirements
- GPA Calculation and Timeline
- Junior Timeline
- Post Secondary Options
- College Visits
- Testing Information
- NCAA Information



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements

4 English

4 Math*

4 Science

4 Social Studies

2 Languages other than English

1 PE

1 Fine Art

1 Technology

½ Professional Communications

½ Financial Literacy

5 Elective credits that lead to an endorsement

***Distinguished Level of Achievement--Math courses must include Algebra 2**



ENDORSEMENTS

STEM

- Additional credits in Math and/or Science
- Engineering Courses

Business & Industry

- Agriculture
- Culinary
- Audio Video
- Business/Marketing

Fine Arts

- 4 years of Fine Art credit

Public Service

- Criminal Justice
- Health Science

Multidisciplinary

- 4 courses in each of the 4 core areas



PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Successfully completing 12 hours of dual credit courses with a grade of B or higher
- In bilingualism/biliteracy by earning an 80 or above in all English classes and completing three credits in the same language in a language other than English
- Earning a score of 3 or above on a College Board Advanced Placement exam
- Earning a score on the PSAT that qualifies the student as a commended scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corp.
- Earning a combined critical reading and math score of at least 1310 on the SAT exam
- Earning a composite score of 28 on the ACT exam (excluding writing)
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license by performance on an exam sufficient to obtain a certification



STAAR/EOC TESTING

- Students must pass the following EOC's to graduate:
 - English 1
 - English 2
 - Algebra 1
 - Biology
 - US History



FAFSA

Financial Aid is money (grants, loans, scholarships and work study) that help defray the overall cost of your college education.

FAFSA: Free Application For Federal Student Aid

No matter what your financial situation, it is strongly recommended that you complete the FAFSA. It is required by all colleges for students to be eligible for financial aid and is a **graduation requirement**.

FAFSA opens TBD

Use completed 2023 tax returns



JUNIOR TIMELINE

1. Credit and Transcript Evaluation
2. Create a Personal File and Résumé
3. Ask Yourself, “What do I want to be when I grow up?”
4. Consider Post-Secondary Options
5. Exams
6. Research Schools/Research Requirements
7. Visit Schools
8. NCAA Eligibility Center (if applicable)



GPA CALCULATION & TIMELINE

Students will be ranked in January and June of each school year.

Students shall be ranked using semester averages according to the weighted grade point scale. All courses are used in GPA/rank with the exception of local credit courses.

Students will be ranked using the weighted grade point system

All students will be ranked at the end of each semester

Final calculations to determine honor graduates will be completed after the fourth marking period for Seniors eligible for graduation.

It is important for Juniors wanting to apply for college starting in the Summer to request a transcript prior to June 1, 2024.



CREDIT & TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

- Evaluate your credits and review your transcripts. Check your GPA and class rank.
- You will register for your senior year courses in the spring.
- GPAs are recalculated every semester. The GPA listed on your transcript is your current GPA – though the 1st semester of Junior year.
- When you send off transcripts to the colleges, they will see your GPA and rank from the end of your JUNIOR year. You will be applying in the fall and will NOT have earned senior grades when you apply.

If you see any discrepancies on your transcript, please make an appointment with your counselor.



CREATE A PERSONAL FILE/RESUME

- Find a good spot in your house (a drawer, a bucket, a bin, etc.) to put all of the mail from colleges
- Create folders for each college, or consider one big folder for colleges you are interested in.
- Create folders on your computer and in your email to save important email documents (you will get a LOT from email)

When writing your resume...

Include: academics, athletics, clubs, volunteer hours, and work experience.

Update your resume every semester so it is ready to go anytime.

Order your resume:

By Activity, then

By Year

- Include amount of time for each activity.
- Include leadership positions.
- Include descriptions and duties for all activities.
- Include resumes when asking for recommendation letters



PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

What are the Options?

- Short-term Training Program
- 2-Year College
- 4-Year College
- Work, including apprenticeships/on the job training
- Military



PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

2 Year University:

- A junior or community college that will allow you to earn an associate's degree with the core courses 4 year universities require.
- These schools also offer scholarships and financial aid.
- They are much cheaper and a great way to transition to college life.
- Four year universities are much more accepting of transfer students – they only look at your college grades and do not look at your high school GPA/Rank/ACT-SAT scores, etc.
- Some have housing depending on the type and location of the school.
- Some also are “feeder” schools to larger, four year universities (Blinn-A&M, South Plains College – Texas Tech).

4 Year University:

- A college that will allow you to earn a bachelor's degree or higher.
- These schools offer scholarships and financial aid.
- They offer on-site housing.
- They have higher requirements for acceptance.
- They will have many options for majors and will specialize in certain areas.
- The first 2 years at a four year university will be spent working on the core curriculum and then the last 2 years will be spent working on classes in the major area.



PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Trade/Technical Schools:

- Trade/technical schools offer programs and certificates in many areas that do not require associates or bachelors' degrees.
- Trade/technical schools do not usually have a core curriculum, students have classes related to the career choice only.
- Some trade/technical schools have on-site housing, but many do not.
- Check accreditation for trade/technical schools to ensure you are attending a quality school.

U.S. Military:

- Talk to a recruiter for specific information on each branch of the U.S. Military. Do not sign any paperwork without discussing your decision and choice with your parents.
- Students can earn college credit while in the U.S. Military.
- The U.S. Military can pay for some or all of your college tuition.
- College ROTC programs can help you prepare for the U.S. Military while attending college.
- You must take the ASVAB Career Inventory Program and Test your junior or senior year to determine the type of job for you in the U.S. Military. www.asvabprogram.com



PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Workforce:

- You may decide to join the workforce immediately after you graduate from high school, but remember, it will be difficult to go back to school after you've been out for awhile.
- Depending on each job, you will be required to do some sort of training for each job.



COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

What do College Admission Officers Review?

- Grades/GPA
- Class Rank
- Strength of high school courses
- SAT/ACT Scores
- College Essays
- Leadership Positions
- Community Service
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Teacher/Counselor Recommendations



RESEARCH COLLEGES

- Go online and research specific degree requirements
- Research college application requirements and deadlines
- Research the area where the college is located
- Research the “Extras” of the college – dorms, activities, support systems
- Make a list of schools you want to visit
- Remember...the Newest, Prettiest building will be on the website.



COLLEGE SEARCH WEBSITES

Helpful College Search Websites

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

www.collegeforalltexas.com

www.campustours.com

www.chegg.com/schools

www.texasgearup.com

www.petersons.com



COLLEGE VISITS

2 JUNIOR YEAR & 2 SENIOR YEAR

Here are things you shouldn't miss while visiting a college. Take a look at this list before planning campus trips to make sure that you allow enough time on each campus to get a sense of what the school—and the life of its students—is really like.

- √ Take a campus tour.
- √ Have an interview with admissions officer.
- √ Pick up financial aid forms.
- √ Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- √ Talk to a professor in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you.
- √ Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- √ Read the student newspaper.
- √ Eat in the cafeteria.
- √ Ask students why they chose the college.
- √ Wander around the campus by yourself.
- √ Ask students what they hate about the college.
- √ Ask students what they love about the college.
- √ Browse in the college bookstore.
- √ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- √ Ask students what they do on weekends.
- √ Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour.



COLLEGE APPLICATION WEBSITES

<https://goapplytexas.org/>

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

<https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

Individual College Websites



TIPS FOR A PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION

- Your application is a reflection of yourself.
- Have someone proofread for spelling – If you are not sure, look it up.
- Always type when possible, if not always complete using a pen.
- If you do not already have one, create an appropriate email address. (Do not use your school e-mail.)
- Make an appointment with your counselor, or visit the LRC if you need assistance.



PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Scholarships Types:

Institutional Scholarships: Straight from the university; based on need, academics, ACT/SAT, or special programs like athletics, fine arts, or volunteer hours. Some universities will have one application for all freshmen scholarships.

Independent Scholarships: Straight from organizations; can be based on need, or specific to the organization. Check with your work, church, or community organization for available scholarships

Local Scholarships: Most local scholarship applications will not open until January. You can find the link to local scholarships on our website and on the Facebook page.



COLLEGE BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

How to Qualify

Earn entries in monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships by completing steps to plan for life after high school. Every month, BigFuture will award hundreds of \$500 scholarships and two \$40,000 scholarships until February of your senior year. The scholarships awarded by BigFuture can be used at two and four year institutions.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Start your Career List | Deadline: February of Senior Year |
| 2. Build you College List | Deadline: June of Junior Year |
| 3. Start your Scholarship List | Deadline: February Senior Year |
| 4. Strengthen College List | Deadline: October of Senior Year |
| 5. Complete FAFSA | Deadline: February of Senior Year |
| 6. Apply to Colleges | Deadline: February of Senior Year |



SAT

www.collegeboard.com

Cost of the SAT \$52

SAT School Day: March 11- 14th (Deadline to Sign-up February 1st & is free for Juniors)

We will offer another SAT School Day in October 2024 (Sign-ups will be at the beginning of next school year)

The SAT is also given on the following dates at various locations throughout the area.

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Mar 9, 2024	Feb 23, 2024	Feb 27, 2024
May 4, 2024	Apr 19, 2024	Apr 23, 2024
Jun 1, 2024	May 17, 2024	May 21, 2024

**Free SAT TEST PREP at
KHAN Academy**



ACT

www.act.org

Cost of the ACT \$63

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024



TSIA-2

We will offer TSIA-2 Testing to juniors in April/May (unless they meet one of the exemption options below)

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) is a series of placement tests for students enrolling in public colleges and universities in Texas. The tests help Texas schools determine whether you're ready for college-level courses in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

TSIA-2 Exemption Options

TEST	READING & ENGLISH EXEMPTION	MATH EXEMPTION
ACT taken within 5 years from the test date	Composite 23+ and English 19+	Composite 23+ and Mathematics 19+
SAT (March 2016 or later) taken within 5 years from the test date	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) 480+	Math 530+



STUDENT ATHLETES

Wanting to Play College Sports?

You have to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center Below:

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

- Register with NCAA
- Register with NAIA
- Confirm with your counselor that you are on track with the classes you take for NCAA (4 X 4 Curriculum)
- Send LISD official transcript to NCAA or NAIA
- Send your official SAT or ACT scores to NCAA or NAIA
- Pay registration fees (or use fee waivers if eligible)



CONNECT WITH US

For Important Announcements and Reminders Connect with us
on Facebook: Lumberton HS Counseling Office

Visit the CCMR webpage on the LHS High School Website

Visit the Life Ready Center