JUNIOR NOTES (from the Guidance Office) Fall 2026

1. Your next step: college, military, work, or a combination of these…. It is time to start preparing.
    a. **Graduation-to-College:** Colleges will use your transcript and ACT to determine admission and scholarships. Your transcript (when you apply) will only show 9th-11th grade courses and grades, so this year is crucial! Leadership/ service will also work in your favor for scholarships so get involved and lead.
    b. **Graduation-to-Military:** Entrance into the military is based on high school diploma and ASVAB scores. **ASVAB will be Nov 12**. Let Mrs. Martin know if you would like to take the ASVAB and/ or visit with a military recruiter.
    c. **Graduation-to-Work:** High School Diploma at least! Consider career tech programs at a junior college, which will increase your skill set and make you more marketable. Work on a good resume with some work experience.

2. **Register for the ACT**! The ACT is given 7 times per year, and Lawrence County High School is the testing site for our area. Colleges use the ACT for admission and scholarships, so the more you take it, the better your scores can be = getting more of what you want in 2028! $$$$$
   ***All juniors will take the ACT at school on **March 9** (no fee, and you don't have to register).
    a. To register for a Saturday ACT test, go to actstudent.org and proceed with directions to create an account, or log in if you already have an account.
    b. Make sure you enter codes for the colleges where you want your scores sent. If you plan to play collegiate sports, remember to include code 9999 (NCAA code) as a score recipient.
    c. The cost to take the ACT is $70-100. Students are eligible for 2 ACT waivers during their junior/senior year if they qualify for free/reduced lunch or in Talent Search. Guidance Office has the waiver codes.
    d. There are ACT Prep programs to help prepare you for the test. Free practice tests are at www.actstudent.org, kuder.com (use your clever account), Test-Guide.com, www.allpencilsdown.com, and ACT workshop information can be found at scoreplusacademics.com, itsatestthing.com. You can also take an ACT prep course on Edmentum (clever.com) – just ask Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Welborn, or Mrs. Martin to enroll you in the class!

3. If you plan to play **collegiate sports**, you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at www.eligibilitycenter.org. Students are eligible for a fee waiver if they are on free/reduced lunch or in Talent Search. Do this your JUNIOR year.

4. **Visit college campuses**! Attend College Preview Days or schedule tours through admissions. Go to admission websites of your colleges of choice to view Preview Day dates. Most Preview Days require pre-registration. Spring Preview Dates are especially geared for Juniors. Bring back proof of visit for a school excuse.

5. Keep listing all of your clubs, sports, service, and academic accomplishments for a good resume. You will need this information when filling out college and scholarship applications next year. We will meet again to work on Resumes.

6. Helpful websites to begin your college, scholarship, and career search: GoingMerry, Scholly, Unigo, BigFuture, FastWeb, Cappex, alcareerinfo.org, mymajors.com, degreesearch.org, careerkey.com, chegg.com/scholarships, spokeo.com/scholarship/list, and studentscholarships.org.

7. Prom March 12: Juniors attending prom must pay $50 to Mrs. Singleton by Oct 16. After Oct 16 +$25 late fee. There will also be a ticket fee for prom dates who are not LCHS juniors or seniors; those tickets are sold second semester (after Christmas break).

Most Scholarships are for seniors only, but there are some opportunities for JUNIORS to start earning scholarships now. Creating accounts on some of these scholarship sites will be a good start! Check your email throughout the year for other opportunities.

Scholarships Available to JUNIORS- Fall 2026

Scholarship	Description	$$	Deadline	Contact
Shout it Out	Essay contest	$1500	Sept 30	unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/shout-it-out-scholarship *just one example of unigo.com scholarships!
No Sweat – Cirkled In	Create an account	$2500	Sept 30	https://www.cirkledin.com/scholarships/
Digital Responsibility: Don't Text and Drive	Short essay	$1000	Sept 30	https://www.digitalresponsibility.org/scholarships Several others listed here as well, with later deadlines.
Jump Start: Pay it Forward	Short essay	$1000	Sept 30	http://www.jumpstart-scholarship.net/ scroll to bottom of page – several listed here for the year
Regions Riding Forward	Video or essay	$8000	Sept 30 & Dec 31	https://www.regions.com/about-regions/inclusion-belonging-impact/supporting-communities/essay-contest-scholarship
Voice of Democracy	Audio essay	Up to 35K	Oct 31	https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships
Zombie Apocalypse *Just one example of many UNIGO listings	Essay	$2000	Oct 31	https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship
Unigo 10K Scholarship	Short answer to a challenge question	$10,000	Dec 31	https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship
Around the Corner	Short essay	$1000	Dec 31 & June 30	https://accessscholarships.com/around-the-corner-from-college-scholarship
John F Kennedy Profile in Courage	Essay Competition	Up to $10,000	Jan 11	www.jfklibrary.org/essaycontest
fastweb.com				Create an account that matches your profile with scholarship opportunities
unigo.com **goingmerry.com** **studentscholarships.org**				National database of scholarships; create an account *All these search sites are FREE. Never pay for a scholarship search.

Looking ahead to spring: Boys State/ Girls State applications