Senior Newsletter

Your Guide to Success This Year & Beyond

October - 2nd Edition

The CommonApp, essays, test optional, OH MY! There are so many things to think about when you start the application process with any college, trade school, the military or even future employment.

Take a deep breath, we've got your back! **October is the busiest months for applications to be submitted to colleges and trade schools.** We have a few tips that might make your application process a little smoother.

Decisions...Decisions

APPLICATION TIPS & TRICKS

- Open a new/professional email address for all communication
- Create a Google sheet with all of your application requirements and deadlines or use the Post High School Planning Worksheet below!
- Don't provide your cell phone number if you don't want texts or calls from admissions reps
- If you are only filling out 3-4 college applications, apply through the school's website, anymore than that, use CommonApp
- If you are not happy with your ACT score, apply with a test optional application, if available (then keep taking your ACT to see if you can get more scholarship money)
- You don't have to complete the application in one sitting.
- Don't let admissions reps scare you into submitting your application if you aren't ready! You have time!! We promise!

UNDECIDED? THAT'S OK!

It's hard to decide what you want to do for a career when you are just 18!! You want to love your job, but how do you pick the right one?

It's time to reflect on the opportunities you have had, the things you have enjoyed learning about and the things you love spending your time doing. These things can often lead you to your ideal career.

Have you considered...

- things you like to do outside of school
- completing interest inventories in Schoolinks
- taking the ASVAB
- researching options with Great Jobs KC
- doing an internship
- interviewing people in a field you might be interested in

THE FAFSA IS NOW OPEN!!!

What is the FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form you need to fill out to receive financial aid from the federal government, state aid programs, and institutions. Each year, over 13 million students who file the FAFSA get more than $120 billion in grants, work-study, and student loans from the U.S. Department of education.

The Missouri College and Career Attainment Network (MOCAN) provides comprehensive FAFSA support in the Kansas City area. Resources and events, like FAFSA Frenzy, that help answer all of your FAFSA questions.

FAFSA Timeline

Now
Create an FSA ID. The FSA ID is your account for the FAFSA. You can create one here. It takes a few days to process, so make sure to create one before you attempt to complete the FAFSA.

October 1
Complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA will open in December 2023. The exact date has not been set. You can complete the FAFSA here

February 1
Missouri's priority deadline for state aid. Students who complete their FAFSA by this deadline will have first priority for state aid. If your FAFSA is not complete by this date, don't worry! You can submit by April 1 and still receive aid.

April 1
Missouri's final deadline for state aid. Students who submit by this deadline will be eligible for aid including the Access Missouri program.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT @ LHS

Who: Parents/Guardians of Senior Students
What: **Financial Aid Information Night**
When: October 20, 2026 from 6:00 PM
Where: Liberty High School (in the Black Box)

We have partnered with the **Educational Opportunity Center** to answer all of your questions about financial aid during parent/teacher conferences. They will be presenting the most up to date information and giving you some trips and tricks to make filling out the FAFSA a little easier.

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

CYBERSECURITY

In today's world, nearly everything runs on technology — from hospitals to schools to businesses. Cybersecurity specialists protect that technology from hackers, data breaches, and online threats. This fast-growing field keeps our digital world safe and secure.

EDUCATION

Start with an associate or bachelor's degree in Cybersecurity, Computer Science, or Information Technology. Many local programs in the Kansas City area (including community colleges like MCC and JCCC) offer strong hands-on training and transfer options. Other schools include UMKC, Northwest Missouri State University, UCM, KU and William Jewell College.

Helpful Certifications

- CompTIA Security+ – a great first step into cybersecurity
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) – learn to think like a hacker to stop one
- CISSP – an advanced certification for leadership and higher-level roles

SALARY

Cybersecurity specialists typically earn $65,000 – $120,000 per year, depending on experience and certification level. Senior engineers can earn even more.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Did you know William Jewell College gives students scholarships, that's **free money** just because you attend Liberty High School???
It's true!
Scan the QR Code



Helpful Resources

SCHOOLINKS

Remember, you will **REQUEST YOUR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT** in Schoolinks. Click HERE for directions.
BRAG SHEETS are also in Schoolinks. If you need a letter of recommendation, be sure to fill out your brag sheet today!

SPORTS YOU

Connect with us on SportsYou! You will get a notification anytime we post something. Access Code: W5HS-GFSD

YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Feel free to reach out to your counselor anytime! Your senior meeting doesn't have to be the only time you meet with your counselor about post secondary plans. We know a lot of questions will come up. Reach out! We are excited to work through this process with you!

LHS COUNSELING WEBSITE

There is so much information on the LHS Website & **The LHS Counseling Webpage.**

What you can find there:

- Instructions for requesting your transcript.
- A+ Information
- Post Secondary Planning help
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Dual Credit/AP Information

