

The Steps Toward College

Freshman

- Develop a **4 year plan** for high school.
- Get involved in clubs, activities or sports.
- Always do all of your homework. Get your work in on time.
- Make a study schedule and stick with it.
- Get to know your counselor.
- Use the *Discover* program to explore any career or college ideas you have. Explore the internet to see the information on colleges and careers available.
- Get help with your study skills if necessary.
- Use our Reading Specialist to get extra help.
- Choose courses for sophomore year that allow you to explore new subject areas.
- Learn about future options for a career training course at the **Lake County High School Technology Campus** as part of your junior/senior year schedule. Attend their open house on **October 26th from 5-8 p.m.** at their Grayslake campus.

Sophomore

- Do your best on the pre-ACT exam for sophomores, the **PLAN** assessment on November 9th. Learn about the PLAN at www.act.org.
- Consider taking the **PSAT** assessment on October 18th. Register in the Guidance Office and pay the \$14.00 fee by October 9th. Get more information at www.collegeboard.org.
- Familiarize yourself with the resources in the Guidance Office and library. Use websites for career and college research.
- Adjust your 4 year plan based on your past performance and upon your knowledge of college requirements.
- Stay involved. Try new activities; make healthy choices.
- Make an appointment to talk with your counselor about college and your future plans.
- Become aware of your strengths and capitalize on them. Set goals for yourself.
- Visit college campuses whenever you and your parents are able.
- Learn as much as possible about the world of careers. Talk with adults about their jobs. Check a career book out of the Library or Guidance Office. Use the *Discover* program.
- Check to make sure you are taking all the high school courses that are required for admission to college or needed to be eligible for participating in college athletics.
- Apply for career training course in which you are interested at the **Lake County High School Technology Campus** as part of your junior year schedule. Attend their open house on **October 26, 2006 from 5-8 p.m.** at their Grayslake campus.

Junior

- Take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (**PSAT/NMSQT**) on October 18th. Register in the Guidance Office by October 9th and pay the \$14.00 fee. Study the *Student Bulletin*.
- Meet with college admissions representatives at **CLC Regional college Night on October 26th from 6-8 p.m.** Take a sheet of labels with your name, address, email address, graduation year, high school rank, and g.p.a.
- Research information on colleges. Spend time in the Library and Guidance Office studying the materials available. Go through the *Discover* program and search the internet.
- Bring your parents to the LCHS College Planning Seminar on September 21 at 7 p.m.
- Discuss college with your counselor.
- Check to make sure you are taking all the high school courses required for admission to college or participation in college athletics.
- Consider taking the February 10, 2007 ACT exam at LCHS. Registration materials are available in the Guidance Office or at www.act.org.
- Select your senior year courses. Review your selections with your parents. Be sure to take academically challenging courses to best prepare yourself.
- Attend the **Tuesday, March 20, 2007 Regional College Night** at College of Lake County from 6-8 p.m.
- Consider registering for the **April 14th ACT exam** at Lakes. All juniors considering college should take the ACT.
- Do your best on the PSAT in April which is required for all Illinois juniors and contains an ACT assessment.
- Take the SAT I if you are interested in selective colleges or ones out of our geographic area. Registration materials are available in the Guidance Office or at www.collegeboard.com.
- Check with colleges to verify if they require a Writing Exam score on the ACT or SAT.
- Take the SAT II subject area exams if the highly selective schools recommend it.
- Visit with college admissions representatives who come to LCHS during the school day to provide materials, describe their schools, answer questions and meet interested students.
- Visit college campuses. Make an appointment with the admissions office to get the most out of your visit.

Senior

- Narrow your college choices. Keep in mind the unique qualities you possess in deciding the college factors that are important to you. Discuss your priorities with counselors, teachers, friends, and, above all, parents.
- Go to the **CLC Regional College Night** on **October 26th from 6-8 p.m.**
- Download paper applications or apply online.
- Continue to do your best work. Keep refining your application essays.
- Transcripts are requested by written release and completed applications are sent through the Guidance Office. Send official ACT/SAT scores. **Apply** well before deadlines.
- If you need a recommendation letter written, give at least 2 weeks notice to your teacher or counselor.
- Keep track of what you've sent and college responses. Keep track of any deposits you've made and the deadlines for refunds.
- Research scholarship opportunities. For scholarship information go to the Guidance Office.
- Visit with college admissions representatives during their scheduled visits to LCHS.
- Start applying in September and October. Apply up to 6 schools.
- Call the college financial aid office(s) to determine procedures and deadlines for applying.
- Apply for housing (a dormitory room) upon your acceptance.
- Complete the FAFSA and other required financial aid forms after January 1.
- Review the financial aid "packages" (offers) you receive from colleges.
- Decide on your college if you have not already. Be sure you have visited the campus.
- Take your Advanced Placement exams in order to earn college credit.
- Notify college(s) of your final decision by May 1. Request deposit refunds.
- Request in the Guidance Office that your final transcript be sent to your final college choice.

GOOD LUCK! HAVE FUN! BE SAFE!