



# LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Equipping young men and women to **engage** and **transform** the world for **Jesus Christ**.

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## 11th Grade College/Career Planning Checklist

- **Focus on your learning and performance.**

Remain focused on your academic performance and don't forget to engage with your teachers and classmates as well as with the content in your courses. Your courses will be more challenging, so don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers and advisor if you need additional guidance and support.

- **Take the PSAT in October (at school).**

This test is used to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship competition so ensure you take this seriously. It is important to note, however, that colleges will not look at your PSAT score when applying for admission. After you take the test, review your results and use Khan Academy to prepare for your first official SAT/ACT (in the spring).

- **Take the ACT or SAT.**

Begin preparation for either the ACT or SAT to ensure you're ready when the time comes. Most students take their first official test in the winter or spring of junior year, and if necessary, retake in the late spring/summer or fall of senior year. Students will select and register for a testing date individually (these tests are not offered during the school day)

- **Use the advising time well.**

Use the material given during whole grade level info sessions and individual meetings with your advisor to inform your current and future plans. The more you invest in this time, the more we hope you learn what your unique purpose is in God's story.

- **Expand your research of colleges.**

Complete the "College Preferences Worksheet" (under the "resources" tab on the LCS website\*) and use this to help you do a College Search on Naviance or other websites. Research colleges by visiting the college's website, reading online/print guides and talking with friends, family, teachers, and recent grads of LCS who are in college. Begin to narrow down the list of college characteristics that are most important to you. For more ways to research colleges use the "College Resource Guide" (under the "resources" tab\*).

- **Visit colleges.**

Sit down and talk with your parents about free time in your schedule throughout junior year (e.g. Spring Break, Christmas Break, etc.) where you might have time to visit colleges. Try to visit a range of colleges so that you're able to get a good feel for different types of institutions (e.g. liberal arts, research universities, private colleges, public universities, etc.). Remember to take notes during your visit by using our

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“College Visit Impression Worksheet” (under the “resources” tab\*). These notes will be helpful when the time comes to write your college essays.

- **Talk to your parents about college costs and financial aid.**

If you haven't already done so, make sure to sit down with your parents to discuss whether you'll be applying for merit and need-based aid. To give you an estimate of how much your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Most colleges offer a Net Price Calculator on their websites that gives you an estimate of how much you might pay to attend--visit the financial aid portion of the website to fill out.

- **Visit admissions reps that come to LCS.**

Several admissions representatives from various colleges across the country come to LCS each year to visit with interested students. Make sure to check the daily announcements to see the upcoming visits and stop by their info table.

- **Teacher Recommendations.**

Many colleges will require you to have one or two of your teachers write letters of recommendation to apply. Think about junior year teachers who know your academic capabilities best and who could write on your behalf.

- **Create a resume.**

Use the Naviance resume builder to create a polished resume. Make sure to add all extracurricular activities that you have done in high school including: athletics, community service, volunteering, school clubs/organization, work, internships and any honors or awards you have received.

- **Finalize your senior year schedule.**

Talk with you teachers, advisor and parents to determine the optimal schedule for senior year. You should continue to challenge yourself as colleges will see what you plan to take your senior year and many colleges will receive your first semester grades before making a decision on your application.

- **Plan for your summer.**

Be intentional in choosing what to do over the summer. Explore opportunities that compliment your academic area of interest (e.g. job shadowing, internship, courses or research) or pursue activities in more depth (e.g. volunteering, music, art, etc.) to show a college you're productive and engaged. Start working on college applications.

- **Narrow your list of colleges.**

Based on the research you've conducted, by the summer before senior year you should narrow your list to around 5-10 colleges. Think about your preferences and then find colleges that meet those. Ensure you have a balanced list (safety, target and reach).

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