



# LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade College/Career Planning Checklist

- **Take time to get acclimated to high school at LCS.**  
Get to know your teachers, advisors, and administrators. Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you have questions or need some additional support transitioning to high school—it's a big step, but we're here to help guide you through.
- **Create a 4-year plan.**  
Find out about the different levels of courses in each subject and what's required by most colleges or to enter certain fields. Begin to think about what you enjoy and explore courses that spark your interest. Talk to Mrs. Lohman, Dr. Wernet, your parents, and your teachers about your goals and various course offerings.
- **Set realistic goals.**  
Think about what you'd like to accomplish or how you would like to improve in a certain area throughout your freshman year. Add your goals to Naviance so that you can track your growth throughout high school.
- **Get involved inside and outside of school.**  
Academics aren't everything. Start exploring your interests in a sport, school club, church, community service, or in the arts. **You don't need to be involved in everything.** Colleges prefer to see consistent commitment to a handful of activities rather than a loose connection to many activities. Consider how your involvement is growing you as a person.
- **Put forth your best effort in class.**  
Your grades are one of the most important factors in an admissions decision. Freshman year is the foundation for the rest of your time at LCS. Teachers will often write valuable recommendations for your college application, so build these meaningful relationships early by demonstrating a strong work ethic in your classes.
- **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.
- **Get to know yourself.**  
Take the personality assessments on Naviance to determine your areas of strength and weakness. Use this information to inform your future plans, hopes, and ideas.

Accredited by Christian Schools International and AdvancEd.

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- **Take the PSAT in the spring (at school).**  
Take time to familiarize yourself with the test format and content. The PSAT provides you with valuable feedback on your college readiness and can give you a better of how you might do on the SAT.
- **Save for college.**  
If you plan to attend college after high school, it's never too early, or too late, to start saving money for your higher education. Talk to your parents about saving for college.
- **Explore meaningful summer opportunities.**  
Consider a job, internship, volunteer position, or research opportunity that appeals to you and will help you learn more about a field of interest or about yourself. Again, you don't need to be involved in everything. Pick one thing each summer and invest deeply in it. This gives you time to rest and rejuvenate in the summer months as well.