



Middle and High School Year Overview for Parents 2014-15

Please refer to the Events Calendar, available on the LCS website, for specific dates and times of the events listed below. Events that include an asterisk (*) are volunteer opportunities for parents. Please contact the main office or the MS/HS office for more information if you are interested in volunteering for a specific event.

AUGUST

High School Student Schedules: During the first part of August, 2014-15 class schedules will be posted on individual student PCR accounts. Schedule changes can be made by e-mailing Mr. Blamer at tblamer@lansingchristianschool.org. New students should e-mail Mr. Blamer to set up an appointment.

Sports Physicals: During the first week of August, LCS will host sports physicals for the upcoming school year. Each student athlete is required to submit a current sports physical by the first practice in order to practice or play with the team.

Fall Sports: Fall sports begin during the second week of August. We will post the start date, practice schedules, and coaching information on our website, along with sending a copy of the information to all families in the mail. Middle school sports practices generally begin on the first day of school.

Back-to-School Email: During the second or third week of August, LCS families will receive an email of important information for the upcoming school year. Included will be information about plans for the new school year and forms to complete before the first day of school.

New Parent Orientation: This orientation for new parents will include a brief orientation to the school, homework sites, and an overview of the major activities and events that occur during the school year.

Meet the Teacher: This is a two-hour time, scheduled for *middle and high school students* before the school year begins. This event gives current students the opportunity to turn in required forms, set-up their lockers, and greet their teachers before the school year begins.

SEPTEMBER

School starts the Tuesday after Labor Day: The first day of school is a full day. Hot lunch is an option on the first day of school.

***First Day Chapel:** As a long standing tradition at LCS, parents are invited to join the K-12 student body in a brief time of praise and worship and a whole school community prayer. The chapel is typically scheduled from 8:15am – 8:45am. *Volunteer opportunity:* Contact the main office for more information.

SEPTEMBER (continued)

Parent Nights: Scheduled on two different evenings during the second or third week of school, Middle and High School Parent Nights give parents the opportunity to meet their child's teachers, learn about classroom plans for the year, and learn about methods for effective parent-teacher communication.

***Senior Survival:** Senior Survival is a weekend camping trip for seniors on South Manitou Island in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The seniors leave early in the morning on a Friday and return Sunday evening. It is an opportunity for the senior class to challenge themselves as a group and as individuals as they experience the beauty of God's creation and camp in a rustic setting. Seniors need to supply their own backpacks, camping equipment, food, and anything else they will need to "survive" the weekend. *Volunteer opportunity:* Senior parent chaperone. Contact the HS office for more information.

***Fall Retreat:** Lansing Christian School has been sending middle and high school students on Fall Retreats for more than 40 years. We use the annual fall Retreat as an opportunity to build relationships with students and teachers and to lay some groundwork for spiritual development throughout the year. Camp Geneva, in Holland, on Lake Michigan, has been the location of our Retreat for many years. The middle school students stay at the Geneva Pines for two nights, and the high school students stay at the Geneva Shores for two nights during the same week. *Volunteer opportunity:* Parent chaperones for middle and high school retreats. Contact the MS/HS office for more information.

***Stratford Trip:** In late September or early October, junior and senior English students have the opportunity to travel across the border into Canada to see a dramatic production that reinforces a literary selection they have studied. The Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario is considered by many to be one of the finest in North America and attracts world-class acting and production talent. This is typically a one-day trip. Students under age 19 do not need a passport, only a birth certificate and a driver's license (or other ID). *Volunteer opportunity for parent chaperones.* Contact HS office for more information.

OCTOBER

***Fall Festival:** Fall Festival is an all school community event designed to bring people together for fun and fellowship! There are games for elementary and middle school students, food, and a high school home game scheduled on this day.

***5K Run/Walk:** A 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, October 11 at 9:00am. *Volunteer opportunity: Contact the main office for more information*

Standardized Testing: Information to be announced at a later date.

Parent Teacher Conferences: High school and middle school conferences are scheduled for two evenings at the end of October before the end of the first quarter. When we talk about partnering with parents, this is one of the most important investments we make together at the beginning of the school year! Attendance at these conferences is very high.

College Planning 101 Workshop for Parents: The goal of the workshop is to help families understand and successfully manage the college planning process so parents and students are empowered to confidently find, be admitted to, and afford one or more “good fit” colleges. Topics include: high school preparation, designing a plan for college, finding a “good fit” college, financial aid, scholarship searches, and adjusting to college. The workshop presenter, Frank Bernier, Ph.D., is a local college planning advisor with more than 30 years experience as a college director of admissions and financial aid and as a high school college planning advisor. The workshop will be held Thursday, October 2, 6:30-8:00 pm.

NHS Induction Ceremony: New sophomore, junior, and senior NHS members are formally inducted into the Lansing Christian School chapter of the National Honor Society. The ceremony is attended by parents of new inductees and current NHS members. For more information about NHS, go to the high school page of the LCS website.

Senior Pictures due for the yearbook: Senior pictures are generally due to the yearbook staff advisor by the end of October. You may submit a formal or informal portrait for the high school yearbook.

NOVEMBER

Winter Sports: Winter sports begin during the first week of November. Students must submit a current physical in order to practice or play.

***Grandparent Day:** Grandparents are invited to LCS to participate in a brief social time with other grandparents, a school-wide assembly that highlights various student classes and performing groups, and then visit grandchildren in their various classrooms. This event is held on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. It begins after the lunch hour and concludes at the end of the school day. *Volunteer opportunity: Contact the main office for more information.*

High School Play: The high school play is open to all interested high school students. Performances are scheduled for November 7 and 8.

DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Concert: Middle and High School choirs and bands perform Christmas music for the school community and for the Greater Lansing community at one of the local churches. The concert ends with the singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus” with alumni, parents, staff, and the high school choirs joining together to create a large chorus.

Christmas Break: The school is typically closed for about two weeks. See the master calendar for specific dates.

JANUARY

High School Exams: First semester exams for high school students are scheduled over the course of three days. The high school will run an exam schedule that allows for two morning exams on each day. Students are released from school after their exams are finished.

Semester Grades: First semester grades are posted on individual student PCR accounts.

College Financial Aid Seminar: This seminar provides instructions for completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as well as general information on financial aid, scholarships, and paying for college. Parents of senior and junior students are encouraged to attend. There is no cost.

***Science Olympiad:** Science Olympiad is an academic competition which is designed to increase student interest in science and increase the depth and breadth of a student’s science education. Students will be asked to select three or four events of most interest to them and practice in those events for 6-8 weeks. Practices are held one day a week after school beginning at the end of January. The Regional competition is held during the month of March. *Volunteer opportunity: We need approximately 20 Science Olympiad event coaches. Contact the high school office for more information.*

FEBRUARY

***Spirit Week:** Spirit Week is a time to celebrate Lansing Christian School and the many gifts of our students. During a week in February students will participate in a number of unique and creative activities that encourage them to work together as a class. In addition to competing in various activities, students will implement our spiritual theme by creating major projects, including a poster and a video production. The week will culminate with an assembly that will include student performances in “Battle of the Bands” and the showing of class video productions, followed by our Homecoming basketball games in the evening. *Volunteer opportunity: We need parents to assist with food and supervision while students work at school during the evenings.*

6th and 9th Grade Orientation: Held on two separate evenings, these orientations are designed to give parents an overview of middle or high school. At the 9th grade orientation, current 8th grade students will come with their parents to create a four-year plan for high school and register for 9th grade classes. 6th grade orientation is for parents of 5th grade students. 5th grade students will also participate in a middle school orientation during the school day.

MARCH

Spring Sports: Spring sports begin during the first week of March. Students must submit a current physical in order to practice or play.

Michigan Merit Exam: Juniors will take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) during the first week in March. *All juniors must be in school for the MME testing. Make-up testing will only be done for illness or family emergencies.* The juniors will only be in school for half-days while testing. The testing has three components. The first day of testing will be the ACT test and this score will be used for both the MME and for college admission. The second day of testing will be the Work Keys test, which is a test from the ACT program. On the third day of testing, the juniors will take the Michigan Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies tests. All of these tests will be taken together to give each student a MME score in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Spring Conferences usually take place beginning in the late afternoon until mid-evening on one night. Spring Conferences give middle and high school parents and students the opportunity to meet with individual teachers before the end of the third quarter.

***Black and Gold Event:** This annual fundraising event is attended by parents and friends of the LCS community and by guests who are interested in financially supporting our school. Tickets can be purchased online and in the main office. *Volunteer opportunity: There are many ways for parents to help with this event, and we need lots of parent volunteers. Contact the main office for more information.*

APRIL

Spring Break: Spring Break is during the first full week of April.

***Junior/Senior Banquet:** Each year the junior class puts on a formal banquet in honor of the senior class. The banquet is usually scheduled at the end of April or the beginning of May. The banquet is attended by the junior and senior class, *senior parents*, high school teachers, and administrators. The banquet is typically held at a local banquet facility. Tickets generally cost between \$35.00 - \$40.00 per guest. There is no charge for senior students. The banquet is planned primarily by a committee from the junior class, a parent representative, and the junior class sponsors. *Volunteer opportunity: Junior parents are needed to help with this event. Contact the high school office for more information*

***High School/Middle School Musical:** On alternating years the middle school and high school produce a musical during the month of April or May. The musicals are produced through the choir department but auditions are open to all students. Recent musical productions in the high school include: *Cinderella*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Oklahoma*. Recent productions in the middle school include *Willy Wonka* and *Music Man Junior*. *Volunteer opportunity: Parents are needed in many areas such as set building, make up, and costumes. Contact the MS/HS Office for more information.*

MAY

AP Exams: Students taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes take these national standardized tests during school hours in early May. The AP exams are scheduled over the course of two weeks. The cost for each exam is \$87.00.

Senior Chapel: This chapel is traditionally led by senior students on their last day of school. Parents are warmly invited to attend this special chapel held in the gym.

High School Talent Night: This event has become a great way for high school students, and particularly seniors, to end the school year. Talent Night is produced by the choir department and features the music, dance, and comedic talent of many of our high school students. Auditions are open to all high school students, and are usually held 2-3 weeks before the event.

***Junior Class Trip to Gettysburg:** This four-day trip is part of the U.S. History curriculum and includes all junior students. A few highlights of this trip include: exploring the battlefield and museum in Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry and the site of the pivotal battle of Antietam, Maryland. On the way back students visit the temporary memorial to United 93, the September 11th flight where the passengers heroically died trying to re-take control of the plane. *Volunteer opportunity: Junior parent chaperones are needed for this trip. Chaperone applications are available on line and in the high school office.*

***Senior Class Trip to Washington D.C.:** The senior trip is the last formal event for seniors before graduation in early June. A few highlights of this trip include: Tour of the Capital, Holocaust Museum, night tour of the monuments, a service opportunity in the Washington area, Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, and more. Information about the cost of the trip will be available to parents and students in the late fall. *Volunteer opportunity: Senior parent chaperones are needed for this trip. Chaperone applications are available on line and in the high school office.*

Service Week: While the juniors and seniors are on their class trips, 9th and 10th grade students serve a variety of organizations in the Greater Lansing Community over the course of three to four days. Service Week has been a long-standing tradition at LCS. The purpose of this week is to help our students see and understand some of the needs in their own community; to teach our students the necessary skills and etiquette for meeting community needs in a variety of settings; and to help create a context and enthusiasm for serving in God's kingdom for a lifetime!

***Senior Breakfast:** This breakfast for senior students and their parents is hosted by junior parents and students. The breakfast is scheduled for the morning of graduation and is immediately followed by the Honors Assembly for all high school students. *Volunteer opportunity: Junior parents are needed to help set up, serve, and clean-up the breakfast. For more information contact the high school office.*

Honors Assembly: This event is scheduled on graduation day and will take place immediately following the senior breakfast. 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will have a late start (approximately 9:00am) on this day. At the Honor's Assembly students are recognized for their academic achievement, and awards are given to individual high school students by teachers in each area of study. All high school students receiving a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher are recognized, scholar athlete awards are distributed, and college scholarships are awarded to senior students. Parents are encouraged to attend this end-of-the-year opportunity to acknowledge student academic achievement.

MAY (Continued)

Middle School Spotlight Night: Similar to High School Talent Night, this event highlights the various talents of our middle school students. Spotlight Night is produced through the choir department, and auditions are open to all middle school students.

***High School Graduation:** Graduation ceremonies are held at Trinity Church. The hallmark of a Lansing Christian graduation is that it features our senior students in a way that reflects their growth and education at LCS. There are no tickets required for this LCS community event. *Volunteer opportunity: Junior parents provide refreshments for the reception immediately following graduation. For more information contact the high school office.*

JUNE

8th Grade Graduation: This one-hour ceremony for 8th grade students and their parents takes place during the school day. 8th grade students are honored with a graduation certificate as well as a certificate that honors a character trait chosen for each student by the middle school teachers.

***8th Grade Trip:** On the day following 8th Grade Graduation, 8th grade students, parent chaperones, and a few 8th grade teachers travel to Chicago for an overnight trip. Highlights of this trip include: Shedd Aquarium, Navy Pier, and Hancock Observatory. *Volunteer opportunity: 8th grade parent chaperones are needed for this trip. Chaperone applications are available on line and in the middle school office.*

***Middle School Field Day:** Middle School students compete in various outdoor events as Family Groups. Each Family Group prepares special team t-shirts and a flag to represent their team in the competition. The overall winning team receives a trophy to be displayed in the team sponsor's classroom during the next school year. *Volunteer opportunity: We need middle school parents to provide healthy snacks and assist with events. For more information contact the middle school office.*

Exams: Second semester exams for high school students take place over the course of three days upon completion of second semester classes. The format is the same as first semester exams in January.

Semester Grades: Second semester grades are posted on individual student Skyward accounts.

Summer Sports Camps: Summer camps are offered to students in Kindergarten – 12th grade in June and July. LCS sports camps include boot camp, basketball, soccer, tennis and baseball. More specific information will be available online or in the elementary, main, middle and high school offices.

