

Senior Post High School Planning Reminders

1. Update your, and your parent's email address.
2. **College applications:**
 - They should be submitted fall of senior year. Each school has a different cut-off point. Verify your schools' deadlines. Some might already be accepting applications for next year. The UW schools start processing them on September 15th.
 - When you apply, you will need to send a high school transcript. The transcript that gets sent is the last semester completed. We send transcripts electronically through *Parchment.com*. Go to **Parchment.com** and sign up. This is the way colleges want transcripts to be sent! The cost is \$3.50 to send a transcript. You will need to have a parent's credit card to do it.
 - College admission is TENTATIVE: *if you decide to drop a course after you have been admitted to a college, check first with the college to see if your admission status will be affected by the schedule change.*
 - Personal Statement essays must be well-written! Proofread, Proofread, Proofread! They value these "personal statements" highly – especially when a student is borderline for admittance.
 - They want applications from the student, not the parent. When applying in the UW system, **every applicant needs their own email address**. It won't work if the family has already used an address for an older sibling.
 - Be careful of social media. Admissions directors might look at Facebook and/or Twitter and/or others to help them decide on an applicant that is "borderline".
3. **Campus visits: do them! but try to plan visits on days we don't have school:**
 - Monday, October 16th: (children's theater day and grade school promotion day)
 - Wednesday, October 25th: Career Day
 - Thursday/Friday/Saturday, October 26th, 27th, and 28th: No School/extended weekend
 - Friday, November 3rd: No School (also Focus on Ministry trip to MLC)
 - Friday, November 10th: No School (Choral Fest preparations)
 - *students may also be excused from school to make campus visits*
 - *call the admissions office of the college you wish to visit to set up an appointment*
 - *make plans to visit the local WELS/ELS pastor/church/campus ministry*
4. **Financial Aid:** to be considered for federal financial aid, students/parents must submit the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA). This can be done any time after October 1st for those students starting college in the fall of 2018. Parents and students can use the tax information from their 2016 taxes. This is a change from the past and is what the financial aid people call "prior, prior".

5. Scholarships:

- Request information from the college you are attending. Some colleges automatically include you in scholarships as part of enrollment, others have separate application processes.
- I get some sent to me – they will be posted on the LHS website under academics – then “guidance”.
- LHS awards some scholarships (worth over \$20,000) at the end of the year at the awards banquet – some of these you will need to apply for – others are just given. Information will again be posted on the LHS website under academics and then “guidance”.
- Check with your or your parents’ work, bank, and other private organizations in the area you live that give scholarships.
- Be careful of social media. Private scholarships might look at Facebook and/or Twitter to help them decide.

6. **ACT test dates:** If you haven’t taken the ACT yet, or want to take it again, here are the dates. See posters in school or ACT website for registration deadlines (usually 3-4 weeks ahead). You should be knowing what the school you are applying for needs for an ACT score!

- October 28th
- December 9th
- February 10th
- April 14th
- June 9th
- July 14th

7. **Accuplacer:** This is the test that Western requires for those that don’t take the ACT, or if parts of the ACT weren’t high enough for the program you are applying for. This test has replaced the COMPASS test from the past. Western has a great website with information/requirements for all their programs. You can make an appointment at Western for almost any day to go there and take the test. It takes about 1-1.5 hours.

8. **Career Day Contracts:** Return to your homeroom advisor by October 18th.

9. **“Request for Letter of Recommendation”:** – see attached sheet or LHS website under academics/guidance. Any of your teachers will be happy to do one for you. You should decide who the best one would be for what you are applying for. Please give them/me the “request for letter of recommendation” form when asking.

10. See me in my room or send me an email from home anytime for any questions about ANYTHING. Have a great senior year! I am here to help you if you need it.

Request for Letter of Recommendation

- All of this information will help the person writing make it the best letter it can be.

Written for: _____ Date: _____

Written by: _____ Complete by: _____

Address letter to: _____

Letter content should include the following information:

BIOGRAPHICAL AND/OR ANECDOTAL INFORMATION

In addition to listing information, describe and/or explain how your involvement has made an impact on your life; why you choose to be involved in certain activities; and what you hope to gain from this involvement.

Extra-curricular Activities:

Leadership Experience:

over

Community Service and/or Volunteer Activities:

Hobbies and Interests:

Employment History: