

**2021-2022**



**LCHS  
COLLEGE BINDER**

## **ACT and SAT Information...**

At some point in your high school career, you will take either the ACT or the SAT. As a junior, the ACT will be given to you free of cost at school. But it is a good idea to take both tests and to take one of the tests multiple times. Generally, the second time you take either the SAT or ACT, you will see an improvement in your score due to general familiarity with the test and less test anxiety.

Most LCHS students seem to prefer the ACT, but the SAT can be a great option as well, especially for those students who are strong in Math and Science.

Our recommendation would be to take both tests, and then to take the test of your choice at least one more time.

The essay section for each test is optional, but we recommend taking the essay at least once. While it is not required for most schools' admissions process, it is a factor that can help you gain acceptance into your college of choice (and it cannot hurt your admissions chances!) Consider the essay to be a "plus factor" that can only help, not hurt, your chances at getting into your top choice school.

## **ACT/SAT Resources Available to You at LCHS...**

**ACT Prep Classes-** October, January and May. These eight-day prep class will provide an overview of the ACT, strategies to beat the test, updates to the test, collaboration time, practice resources and practice feedback. These are taught by Mr. Fuller and Dean of Academics and Math teacher Mrs. Turner

**Free Practice Resources-** Available in the Guidance Offices

**ONLINE-** Both the SAT and ACT have great online practice resources to you, available for free! Navigate to [act.org](http://act.org) or [sat.org](http://sat.org). Khan Academy is a great test-prep resource.

**Open Door Policy-** If you have a question, or if you need help, ***Just Ask!***

# **Naviance Program**

The Naviance program is your first step in the college search and college application process. Naviance includes Career Interest tests, School Profiles, with detailed demographic statistics, admissions statistics, average SAT and ACT scores, application requirements, majors and advanced degrees, admissions contact information, and much, much more...

## **A Few Examples of What You Can Do With Naviance:**

- Research potential careers (income, job outlook, daily tasks)
- Link careers to specific college majors
- Search for schools by college majors, location, average SAT/ACT score, extracurricular activities, size, and much more
- Scholarships (All local scholarships are posted, along with application directions)
- Request Letters of Recommendation from teachers
- Request transcripts to be released to colleges
- Track where and when your application materials have been sent

## **Lake Catholic's Specific Naviance Website:**

<http://connection.naviance.com/lakecatholic>

**Note: An individualized username and password specific to Naviance is required to use the site. A registration code will be provided by the college guidance office. If you lose your information, please see/contact your counselor**

# College Guidance Brainstorming Activity for Students and Parents:

The college search, application, and selection process can be daunting and intimidating. The following activity is designed for students and parents to sit down and discuss desired criteria for potential colleges. Nothing in this activity should be set in stone. In fact, as you continue through the process (especially with college visits), many things may change. Keep this as a reference and consider what your “non-negotiables” will be when selecting a college or university. Anything that is unknown to you on this worksheet is an example of a great item to inquire about with the college’s admissions office.

## 1. Potential Careers of Interest/Related College Majors

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. College Characteristics (Ideas to Consider)

### Location and Environment

In-state

Out-of-state

Urban Campus

Rural Campus

Small Class Size

Large Class Size

Proximity to City

Walk-ability of Campus

Public/Campus Transformation Available

Distance to Social Options

### Academics

Top Majors

Your Major Offered?

Major/Minor Options

Internship/Co-op Opportunities?

Unique Programs/Experiences?

Study Abroad Options?

Additional Requirement for some Majors?

Grad School/GA Options?

Average Class Size

Classes taught by TA’s or Profs?

Prestigious programs?

Job Fairs/Networking/Career Center?

AP/CCP Credit Accepted?

**Student Life**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Religious Affiliation                                   | Desired Clubs/Activities      |
| Unique On-Campus Events                                 | Greek Life                    |
| Student Center  | Recreation Center             |
| Dining Hall Options                                     | Varsity Sports                |
| Club/Intramural Sports                                  | Desired Student Organizations |
| Library/Labs/Learning areas<br>Outside of the classroom | Dorms/Off-campus housing      |
| Service Opportunities                                   | ROTC (Army/USAF/Navy)         |

**Admissions Requirements**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Average ACT/SAT        | Average GPA             |
| Deadlines              | Additional Requirements |
| Admissions Events/Days | Required Essay          |
| Visit Procedure        | Free Application        |

**Expenses and Financial Aid**

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tuition/Room & Board     | Books/Fees                       |
| Work-study Opportunities | Meal Plan Options                |
| Scholarship Contests     | Availability of Jobs in the Area |

***3. Other Ideas/Interests to Consider***

*Now that you have some ideas of what you are looking for in a college or university, it is time to choose a list of specific schools you are interested in contacting and visiting. Use the following worksheet to begin to compile your list.*

<b><u>College Criteria: What are your non-negotiables in your college search?</u></b>	
<b>Academic Criteria</b>	<b>Student Life Criteria</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<b><u>Potential Colleges List</u></b>
<b><u>Level I: Dream Schools-</u> If you could go to any schools, what would they be?</b>
1.
2.
3.
<b><u>Level II: Solid Candidate Schools-</u> What schools are you a solid candidate for?</b>
4.
5.
6.
<b><u>Level III: Safety Schools-</u> What schools will you apply to as a back-up plan?</b>
7.
8.
9.

## Teacher Recommendations Tips

At the beginning of your senior year, it is time to request teacher recommendations. Think of 2-3 teachers who you know would write you a solid letter of recommendation. **You want to ask teachers who know you personally, who can speak to your ability in the classroom, and who also have knowledge of your extracurricular activities and work outside of school.** It is your job to make sure that you make your letter writers aware of ALL of your leadership experiences, extracurricular activities, awards, and work outside of school. Anything that you have done in your high school years is fair game. Middle School activities are not powerful speaking points for college admissions.

- The more information you provide to the teachers writing your letters of recommendation, the better the letters will be. You may not end up using all of the letters, so if you choose 2-3 teachers, you will at least have 1-2 letters you will submit to colleges.

### **HOW TO PROVIDE INFO TO TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS**

*(Do not skip this step)*

1. Login to Naviance
2. Navigate to the “About Me” tab on the top right-hand side of the screen (drop down menu)
3. Select the “resume” link
4. Fill in all appropriate areas of the resume to provide a snapshot of your activities and accomplishments in high school (not limited to school activities; provide employment and service information as well)
5. In the middle of the screen, click on the “colleges” link and a drop-down menu will appear
6. Under “Apply to College” select the “Letters of Recommendation” link
7. Click “add request” and select the teacher or staff member who will be your recommender
8. “Select All” colleges unless you want the specific recommender to send the letter to only one or two specific schools
9. Hit the “submit request” button

- **\*\*Please allow 2-3 weeks for teachers to write your letter of recommendation\*\***

- Ask the teacher for a letter of recommendation **in person**, NOT only via Naviance. Let the teacher know why you are asking him/her specifically. This personal touch will result in a better letter.
- If you find an error in the teacher's recommendation letter, be *tactful* when addressing errors with the teacher.
- After you receive your letter of recommendation, write your teacher a **'thank you' note**. A handwritten note, not an email, is a true sign of appreciation. A letter of recommendation takes time and consideration to write, so a true sign of gratitude is appropriate.

**Note:** The college counselor will write you a letter to go along with your admissions materials (required by most admissions offices), you need to have at least one teacher recommendation for most colleges, and then another letter can be beneficial. This can be from any adult you have worked with during your high school career (non-relative).

**Examples:**

Coach	Part-time job Supervisor	School Administrator
Service Supervisor	Church member	Distinguished family friend

*If you are not sure what letters to include, or who to ask, make an appointment to meet with the College Counselor*



## College Visit Tips for Success

**1. When you know that you are interested in a college or university, the first step in to make contact with the admissions office. This can be done via email, and here are some items to include:**

- Your Name and Contact Info
- A Little Bit About You (High School, Grade Level, Extracurricular Activities)
- Intended Major/Academic Area of Interest
- Sports/Extracurricular Areas of Interest
- Ask to be placed on the School's Mailing List
- Ask for information about your Intended Major/Program

**2. Once you have made contact with the admissions office, set up a college visit.**

### **Appearance/Image Tips**

- Dress professionally (not a suit, but look "business casual")
- Bring a Resume
- Bring a folder/binder to collect materials/take notes
- Don't hang out in the background during tours- Stand near the front of the group, appear interested, ask questions

### **Demeanor**

- Speak up! Ask questions about the school in general and your specific major
- Student take the lead- Parents DO NOT ask all of the questions
- Good posture
- Be enthusiastic

**3. Personalize The Visit**

- Ask to speak to a professor in your intended area of study
- Eat the food
- Ask random students on campus about the school experience
- See the dorms (ALL dorms)
- Ask about off-campus housing
- View all of the facilities you intend to use:
  - Library
  - Computer Labs
  - Science Labs
  - Writing Lab
  - Athletic Facilities
  - Rec Center

- Student Center
- Food Court(s)
- Communications/Radio Station
- Career Center
- Fraternity/Sorority Houses
- Chapel/Church
- Green Areas/Outdoor Recreation Areas

#### ***4. After the Visit:***

- **Send a “Thank You” card**
- Send a follow-up email with questions that went unanswered
- Request a personal interview (speak with the College Counselor if you are not sure)
- Stay in touch with the school’s admissions rep. The more proactive you are, the more you will get the “benefit of the doubt” in terms of admissions and scholarships

**NOTE:** Juniors and Seniors are able to take an excused absence from school to visit colleges.

**Juniors:** 1 excused absence

**Seniors:** 2 excused absences

The Guidance Department suggests scheduling college visits during scheduled days off of high school (**when college is in session**). Summer visits to college campuses are great, but visit again when school is in session...the experience may be very different.

Also, you can visit a school *after* you have been admitted. In fact, a second visit in the spring may be a great way to decide between two schools. You have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to make your final decision, so keep a spring visit in mind. Schedule all college visits away from Lake Catholic with the ***LCHS Attendance Office***.

## College Representatives On-Campus at Lake Catholic

College admissions reps from across the country will visit Lake Catholic. These visits will be announced on Naviance and on the Morning Video Announcements. It is your job to be prepared for these visits. Sign up via Naviance, prepared questions prior to the visit that you would like to ask about the school in general and your specific major/area of study. Take the time to meet the admissions rep, record his/her contact information and stay in touch.

**This is your chance to meet face-to-face with person who will make the admissions decision on your application.**

Smile, be polite, and ask good questions. You are impacting your own image as well as the image of Lake Catholic High School.

If you are unable to attend, please see your counselor for the information you missed.

Please remember, **teachers have the final decision concerning your ability to attend the on-campus visit.** If you are unable to leave class, please see your counselor when you are free.

## What are College Looking for in YOU?

**A rigorous course schedule-** High school grades/GPA and ACT/SAT scores are very important, but your course schedule is another critical factor in the admissions process. As you consider what classes you are going to take at Lake, challenge yourself. You need to take the hardest classes you can be successful in (A or B).

**Genuine interest in the college or university-** If you make it know that a school is your top choice (even if it isn't) they are more likely to want you. Colleges are looking for enthusiastic young people who will add to the overall campus experience. If a college knows you want to be a part of their environment, this can translate into greater admissions/scholarship opportunities.

**An interest in learning-** Are you passionate about your intended major? Do you want to make a difference in your career? Do you have a passion for learning? A demonstrated interest in learning gives you an admissions advantage!

**Willingness to lead-** Will you create a new club in college? Will you participate in internships or service opportunities? Will you network and lead in your future career? Colleges want to admit leaders who will eventually make their institution look good now and in the future.

## College Guidance Timetable for All Grade Levels

<b>Freshman</b>
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### **Fall Semester-**

- Start Strong- Make a strong transition into high school by working hard and building a solid foundation of academic success
- Get to Know People- Meet teachers, counselors, staff members, student leaders and your peers. Make connections and think about how you would like get involved at Lake.
- Get Involved- Go to the activity fair and select a few student organizations to join.
- Think about the Future- What career is right for you? Start thinking and asking questions if you are not sure!
- Service- Meet Mrs. Ellis to learn about service opportunities and make a difference in our community

### **Spring Semester-**

- Speak with a counselor- Meet with your guidance counselor and/or the college counselor to make a plan for your career at Lake. How can LCHS be your spring board into the college and career of your dreams?
- Take the Career Tests on Naviance- Familiarize yourself with the college counseling website and take the 'Career Interest Profiler' and 'Do What you Are' Assessments
- Begin to explore colleges you are interested in on Naviance. Does the school have your major of interest? Does the school have the activities and extracurricular activities you are interested in? Naviance can help you answer these questions.
- Select a Sophomore-year schedule that is challenging, but that will also help you emphasize your individual strengths

## Sophomores

### Fall Semester-

- Start Strong! Colleges want to see an upward trajectory in your grades. If you had a solid freshman year, keep the momentum going. If you struggled at times, this is the time for you to work hard to correct any issues.
- Stay Involved- Continue to stay involved in extracurricular and service organizations. Now is the time to begin to think about leadership opportunities within those organizations. **Colleges are looking for leaders.**
- October Testing Day...try your best! For many, this is the first time you will take a major college entrance standardized test.
- Have you completed the 'Career Interest Profiler' and 'Do What you Are' Assessments on Naviance? If not, make sure to utilize these insightful tools.

### Spring Semester-

- Maximize your ACT/SAT potential! Take one of the prep classes offered at Lake to learn about the test and practice strategies
- Schedule- Challenge yourself with your junior year schedule. Take an Honors or AP course...try something new related to your intended major or career.
- Speak with the guidance department concerning leadership camps/experiences available to Lake Students (i.e. Leadership Lake County, HOBY, LAB, Buckeye Boys and Girls State)
- Think about a summer job that will provide leadership opportunities
- Not involved yet? Meet with your counselor to discuss ways you can get involved at Lake. This is critical for college admissions.
- Attend the Sophomore College Night in the spring. Learn about the college admissions process, college visits, and how to make yourself the best candidate for college admissions.

## Juniors

### August

- This is a challenging and rewarding year of high school. Start strong and keep up the intensity all year long. This will be the last set of grades that college admissions offices see when you apply.  
REMEMBER- Colleges want to see an upward trend in your grades. If your grades slip this year, it is a *major red flag* to colleges.
- If you do not remember your Naviance information, see your counselor and log on to the website (<http://connection.naviance.com/lakecatholic>). Upcoming college visits, career tests, college stats and contact information are all just a click or two away.

### September

- Attend on-campus (virtual) college visits at LCHS

### October

- Take the ACT Prep Class in October
- PSAT/Pre-ACT- Do your best. As a junior, this counts for the National Merit competition
- Create a list of 10 Colleges you would like to explore

### November-December

- Stay involved and look for leadership opportunities
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Sign up for the Winter ACT Class (January)
- Begin to create a resume
- Study Hard and do your best on mid-term exams

### **January-February**

- Begin to plan college visits- Don't wait until the summer. Visit a college while school is in session
- Career Exploration- Are you leaning towards a certain career? See your counselor for more information about the career. The guidance department can assist with career shadowing.
- Register for the SAT/ACT

### **March-April**

- Look for a summer job that will provide leadership opportunities
- Speak with the guidance department concerning leadership camps/experiences available to Lake Students (i.e. HOBY, LAB, Buckeye Boys and Girls State)
- Schedule a family meeting with your counselor to create a college admissions game plan
- Maximize your grades!

### **May-June**

- Continue to plan college visits
- Think about teachers/coaches/other adult leaders that you will ask for a letter of recommendation
- Register for the ACT/SAT
- Take the ACT Prep Class
- Make contact with/introduce yourself to the admissions office of all potential schools (via email)

<b>Seniors</b>
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### **August**

- Make sure your transcript information is correct (meet with your guidance counselor)
- Make initial contact with college admissions reps at all potential schools (via email)
- Create a Common App profile
- Re-familiarize yourself with Naviance (<http://connection.naviance.com/lakecatholic>). Here, you can find college contact information, college admissions statistics/averages, majors, extracurricular activities, and much more.
- Set up a meeting with your counselor as needed.
- Ask teachers/coaches/administrators for letters of recommendation.

### **September**

- Take the ACT if needed
- Attend virtual campus college visits in the Global Learning Hub or Media Center, take time to speak with your admissions rep
- Begin working on all college applications

### **October**

- October 1<sup>st</sup>: FAFSA Opens for submission (fafsa.gov)
- Take the ACT Prep Class
- Take the ACT if needed
- Be aware of upcoming deadlines!

### **November**

- Goal: Have all college applications complete and submitted prior to Thanksgiving Break (at the latest!)
- Begin to search for local scholarships (A comprehensive list can be found on Naviance)
- Provide 'Thank You' cards for writers of letters of recommendation

### **December**

- December 1<sup>st</sup>: FAFSA DUE DATE
- Last Chance (in most cases) for seniors to take an ACT or SAT Test...register as needed!
- Continue to search for and apply for scholarships



- **Do your best on mid-term exams! If you are wait listed or would like an admissions office to reconsider an admissions decision, a “mid-year report” may be needed. Solid grades in the fall semester may be the key to you going to your dream college.**

### **January-February**

- Mid-January- FAFSA Awards released.
- Still not sure what college you would like to attend? Schedule another college visit.
- Continue to search for and apply for scholarships

### **March-April**

- Do you need to negotiate your financial award? Speak with our LEAF rep Mrs. Brainard
- Submit all scholarship awards to the Guidance Office.

### **May**

- May 1<sup>st</sup>- All College Decisions Due
  - Submit your deposit to the college you plan to attend
  - Send a ‘Thank You’ card to all other schools, informing them of your decision to attend elsewhere
- Notify the Guidance Office of your college decision (this is where we will send your Final Transcript)

## **Five Early Steps to a Successful College Selection Process**

**ONE- Determine the type of college you want to attend** (use the College Brainstorming activity in this binder). Small, large, private, public, residential, technical, 2-year, 4-year, urban, suburban, rural? Can you picture yourself at the school? There are many factors to consider!

**TWO- How far are you willing to travel?** Do you want to be able to travel home on a regular basis, or just a few times per year? Can you afford the extra expenses associated with travel? A warm climate shouldn't be the sole basis for your decision.

**THREE- Have an honest discussion with your parents.** Do your expectations match your parents' expectations? What is truly affordable for you and your family, *especially in respect to your future career?*

**FOUR- Consider your academic and extracurricular interests.** Do you know what you will study? If not, don't worry! 1/3 of all college freshman are undecided and another 1/3 change their major within one year. BUT, the sooner you know what you will study, the more "ahead of the game" you are. What extracurricular activities are important to you? Does the prospective school offer what you are looking for? College should be a springboard into your career!

**FIVE- Research, research, research!** Attend college fairs, utilize Naviance and the internet, speak with counselors, friends, and alumni. Then, create a list of schools you want to visit and hit the road! (Call college admissions offices to schedule an appointment)

## College Applications

**IMPORTANT- Make sure you are aware of all deadlines!** This is true for applications and scholarships. A general rule of thumb is that all college applications should be submitted prior to Thanksgiving break. But some programs and Early Action/Early Decision deadlines may be earlier. Our recommendation would be to turn in all college applications by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

ALSO IMPORTANT- This year's FAFSA (Federal financial aid application) is due on DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> (available October 1<sup>st</sup>). **Everyone should complete the FAFSA.**

**Organization is important. Make yourself a college search calendar and folder.**

### Where can I find college applications?

- Create a Common App account (and link it to your Naviance account). More and more schools are using this form of application. ([commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org))
- Find the application on the college's website
- Attend a college visit of college fair and learn about special applications you may be able to complete "on the spot"
- Complete an application on a college visit. Sometimes, colleges will even waive the application fee since you visited. It is OK to ask if the college has a chance to apply for free.

**NOTE- Guidance will help you with all applications, essays, resumes, etc. If you need help, please ask via email, phone, or in person at the guidance offices.**

# Top 10 Tips for a Winning College Essay

*Let the admissions office see your personality through your essay*

1. **Be careful when re-using essays or portions of essays:** You can carefully re-use essays that answer the exact same question, but please re-read the essay to make sure all aspects of the recycled essay are applicable to the current application. Tailor-make the essay for the specific college and college application (this is less important with the Common App). Slightly off-topic essays demonstrate a lack of effort, attentiveness, or ability.
2. **Don't Overextend:** Don't take on too big of a topic and don't adopt a "preachy" tone. The admissions office does not want a lecture.
3. **Be yourself:** Choose a topic that is meaningful to you. Speak in your own voice. Write more of what you feel and less of what you think the admissions office would like to hear.
4. **Accentuate the positive:** You can describe negative experiences, but emphasize the lesson learned and how the experience made you a better person.
5. **Write in the Active Voice:** The passive voice implies that things happened to you, instead of you taking charge in your life.  
Example- Incorrect: I have been taught many lessons about life through volunteering.  
Correct: I learned many life lessons through volunteer work.
6. **Captivate your audience:** Your essay should be engaging and memorable. Draw the reader in with a quick, enticing introduction and give them a reason to finish reading the essay.
7. **Ask people for input:** Ask a teacher, counselor, friend or parent, or anyone else you respect. Does your essay "hit the mark" or is it confusing or boring?
8. **Leave time for rewriting:** Write a first draft and let it sit for a few days. Look for weak or dull spots and spelling/grammatical errors. Never use your first draft as your final draft.
9. **Revise/Reword:** Put your draft into shape through various rewrites. Read the essay aloud to find awkward sentences or problems.
10. **Pursue Perfection:** Utilize the writing lab. Have your teacher look the essay over. Quadruple check the spelling. Put your best foot forward!

**NOTE- These tips also apply to Scholarship Essays**

# How to Ace your College Interview

**Goal: Impress the admissions office with your preparation and confidence. Counselors will be happy to conduct mock-interviews by request.**

1. **Research the school and your intended program:** Read through the school's website and brochures. Research using Naviance. Learn as much about the college as possible before you meet with the admissions representative.
2. **Practice your answers to possible questions:** Common questions include...
  - Why are you a good fit for this school?
  - What will you add to the campus environment?
  - What have you learned through failure?
  - What is your greatest weakness (call it your 'opportunity,' i.e. 'an opportunity for improvement is that sometimes I am *too* passionate')?
  - What are you most proud of?
  - What was your most rewarding moment of high school?
  - How do you overcome adversity?

*Be prepared to tie in your own academic and extracurricular highlights!*

3. **Be prepared with questions:** You never want to end an interview without asking a few questions. Take some time to prepare and ask a few solid questions (two is probably enough, unless you legitimately have more things you'd like to know).
4. **Consider a Mock-interview:** Speak with your counselor about scheduling a mock-interview. This is a great way to practice your skills and experience less stress during the actual interview.
5. Following your interview, ALWAYS send a "thank you" note to the person who interviewed you.

# Early Decision & Early Action

## The benefits and drawbacks of applying early

Early decision (ED) and early action (EA) plans can be beneficial to students — but only to those who have thought through their college options carefully and *have a clear preference for one institution*.

## Early decision versus early action

**Early Decision (ED) plans are binding** — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college. **Early Action (EA) plans are nonbinding** — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Approximately 450 colleges have early decision or early action plans, and some have both. Some colleges offer a nonbinding option called **single-choice early action**, under which applicants may not apply ED or EA to any other college.

## ED applicants

- Apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually by December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted *and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family*.
- **Apply to only one college early decision.**
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED.
- Send a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

## EA applicants

- Apply early.
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February).
- Consider acceptance offer; **do not have to commit upon receipt.**

- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.

### **Who should apply early?**

#### **Applying to an ED or EA plan is most appropriate for a student who:**

- Has researched colleges extensively.
- Is absolutely sure that the college is the first choice.
- Has found a college that is a strong match academically, socially and geographically.
- Meets or exceeds the admission profile for the college for SAT/ACT scores, GPA and class rank.
- Has an academic record that has been consistently solid over time.

#### **Applying to an ED or EA plan is not appropriate for a student who:**

- Has not thoroughly researched colleges.
- Is applying early just to avoid stress and paperwork.
- Is not fully committed to attending the college.
- Is applying early only because friends are.
- Needs a strong senior fall semester to bring grades up.

### **The benefits of applying early**

For a student who has a definite first-choice college, applying early has many benefits besides possibly increasing the chance of getting in. Applying early lets the student:

- Reduce stress by cutting the time spent waiting for a decision.
- Save the time and expense of submitting multiple applications.
- Gain more time, once accepted, to look for housing and otherwise prepare for college.
- Reassess options and apply elsewhere if not accepted.

### **The drawbacks of applying early**

**Pressure to decide:** Committing to one college puts pressure on students to make serious decisions before they've explored all their options.

**Reduced financial aid opportunities:** Students who apply under ED plans receive offers of admission and financial aid simultaneously *and so will not be able to compare financial aid*

*offers from other colleges. For students who absolutely need financial aid, applying early may be a risky option.*

**Time crunch for other applications:** Most colleges do not notify ED and EA applicants of admission until December 15. Because of the usual deadlines for applications, this means that if a student is rejected by the ED college, there are only two weeks left to send in other applications.

### **Does applying early increase the chance of acceptance?**

Many students believe applying early means competing with fewer applicants and increasing their chances for acceptance. This is not always true. Colleges vary in the proportion of the class admitted early and in the percentage of early applicants they admit.

Higher admission rates for ED applicants may correlate to stronger profiles among candidates choosing ED. Students should ask the admission office whether their institution's admission standards differ between ED and regular applicants, and then assess whether applying early makes sense given their own profile.

(Source: <https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/applications/early>)



## **Scholarships**

**Local and National Scholarship possibilities that come into the school are listed on the Naviance website. To find them, follow these steps!**

1. Logon to Naviance
2. Choose the “Colleges” tab
3. Scroll down and choose “Scholarship List”
4. Browse the scholarships for opportunities
5. Internet links, when appropriate, will be provided. Otherwise, hard copies of applications can be obtained from your counselor or our LEAF rep Mrs. Brainard.

**Please remember that the Guidance Office will help compile all necessary materials and assist in any way. BUT, it is the responsibility of the students to adhere to all deadlines, and to notify the college counselor in a timely fashion.**

# LEAF at LC

**LEAF-** LEAF is a FREE college/financial aid/scholarship advising group. This advising program is open to residents of Lake and Geauga county, but the resources are available to all.

This year, Lake Catholic has again partnered with LEAF for college guidance. Mrs. Liz Brainard will be in our building three days a week this year providing assistance with the college process and with financial aid. Mrs. Brainard will be available throughout the day each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and she will actively find and meet with students when free. She is also available by appointment and her sign-up sheet can be found outside the college guidance office.

Mrs. Brainard can also be emailed at [\*\*lbrainard@lakecatholic.org\*\*](mailto:lbrainard@lakecatholic.org)

A good, secondary scholarship resource is the LEAF scholarship page.

LEAF Scholarship Page:  
<http://scholarship.leaf-ohio.org/>

*Suggestion- Search without entering any keywords or terms...you will find over 20 pages of local scholarships!*

## **Military Enlistment/Military Academies**

Are you interested in serving in the US Armed Forces? If so, please see Mr. Fuller ASAP so he can put you in touch with an appropriate recruiter. There is a lot to the process, so the sooner you see Mr. Fuller, the better.

Lake Catholic High School has numerous recent alums at the Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, and West Point. We can also help make you the best-possible ROTC candidate or assist with general enlistment. Mr. Fuller is able to speak to all of the military options and help you choose the right path for you.

## **NCAA Registration**

NCAA recommends that prospective college student athletes register with the NCAA at the beginning of the senior year.

The website to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse is: [\*\*eligibilitycenter.org\*\*](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

You will need a credit card or follow the instructions for other payment methods.

**Please request a transcript to be sent to the NCAA via Naviance.**

Test Scores- The NCAA will not accept test scores that come from schools...**they must come directly from the SAT or ACT. You will request these scores just as you were requesting them for a college.**

## Resume Resources

If you are very involved in work and extracurricular activities during your high school years, you should consider including a resume with your application. Normally, you will be able to add the resume as a document on your application. Or, you may want to send it directly to your college admissions representative. Regardless of the delivery, if you are active in work, service, and extracurricular activities in high school, you should consider including a resume to make yourself stand out among the crowd of applicants.

### Key Words for your Resume:

#### Action Words-

Actively	Accelerated	Adapted	Administer	Analyze
Approve	Coordinate	Conceived	Conduct	Completed
Control	Created	Delegate	Develop	Demonstrate
Direct	Effect	Eliminate	Established	Evaluated
Expanded	Expedite	Founded	Generate	Increased
Influence	Implemented	Interpret	Improve	Launched
Lead	Lecture	Maintain	Manage	Motivated
Organized	Originated	Participated	Perform	Plan
Pinpointed	Program	Proposed	Proved	Provided
Proficient	Recommend	Reduced	Reinforced	Reorganized
Revamped	Responsible	Revise	Review	Schedule
Significantly	Set up	Solve	Strategy	Structure
Streamline	Successfully	Supervised	Support	Teach

#### Self-descriptive Words-

Active	Adaptable	Aggressive	Alert	Ambitious
Analytical	Attentive	Broad-minded		Conscientious
Consistent	Constructive	Creative	Dependable	Determined
Diplomatic	Disciplined	Discrete	Economical	Efficient
Energetic	Enterprising	Enthusiastic	Extroverted	Fair
Forceful	Imaginative	Independent	Logical	Loyal
Mature	Methodical	Objective	Optimistic	Perceptive
Personable	Pleasant	Positive	Practical	Productive
Realistic	Reliable	Resourceful	Self-reliant	Sense of humor
Sincere	Sophisticated	Systematic	Tactful	Talented

*Sample resume, next page...*

**John Smith**  
**210 Church Street**  
**Mentor, OH 44060**  
**(440) 578-1020**

[jsmith@lakecatholic.org](mailto:jsmith@lakecatholic.org)

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**Objective:**

To gain admission into the Pre-Law program at a selective college or university

**Education:**

Lake Catholic High School Mentor, OH  
Graduation Date: May 28, 2017  
GPA: 3.67  
ACT Composite: 26  
SAT: 1100

**Academic Activities and Honors:**

National Honor Society 2015-

Latin Club 2014-  
*President*

Student Life Committee 2014-2016

Prom Committee 2015-2016  
*Actively coordinated and managed the efforts of students and adults in planning "Lost at Sea" 2016 Spring Prom*

**Extracurricular Activities:**

Varsity Football 2014-

Varsity Basketball 2014-  
*Player of the Year (Sophomore Year)*

Oklahoma, School Play 2015  
*Lead male role*

**Work Experience:**

Longhorn Steakhouse 2015-  
*Server, managed the needs of customers in a corporate restaurant setting*

*Letters of Recommendation Available Upon Request*