

*All LCHS students and families are encouraged to attend the “College Information / Financial Aid Night” every fall and “Cougars go to College Night” every spring.

*Every student has a Naviance account which they will use all 4 years in high school. Naviance is a comprehensive college and career readiness program that helps students identify strengths and interests and connect them with postsecondary goals.

FRESHMAN YEAR

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS	<p>Courses are selected based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8th grade teacher recommendations ● Placement test (for Math) ● Student choices <p>Create a 4 year plan during 9th grade registration night.</p>
FIRST SEMESTER	<p>From the moment you come to Lansing Catholic:</p> <p>Every Grade Counts!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work hard ● Study hard ● Ask for help if you need it ● The courses you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself. Challenge yourself with a rigorous schedule. Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging classes than by outstanding grades in easy ones – play to your strengths when possible. <p>-Become involved in extracurricular activities at school, at home, and within your community.</p> <p>-Explore and learn about careers and what college requirements are for majors that interest you.</p>
ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY MARCH	<p>Freshman will take the preACT to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare for the ACT ● Understand the structure and pacing ● Obtain a projected ACT score
JANUARY / FEBRUARY	<p>Meet with your counselor to determine Sophomore courses.</p>

SOPHOMORE YEAR

ALL YEAR	<p>Keep your grades strong, seeking assistance when needed. Your college applications will evaluate your Freshman through Junior year grades <u>and</u> courses. Continue to challenge yourself academically!</p>
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PRACTICE TESTING DAY OCTOBER	<p>Sophomores have the option to take the PSAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a great way to practice for the ACT and SAT • Students that take the PSAT will automatically be screened for the National Merit Scholarship Program
JANUARY / FEBRUARY	<p>Meet with your counselor to determine Junior year courses. Challenge yourself with tougher courses.</p>
ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY MARCH	<p>Sophomores will take the preACT to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for the ACT • Understand the structure and pacing • Obtain a projected ACT score
ALL YEAR ROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn what resources are available to help you plan for college by meeting with your counselor, attending Seminar Days, and exploring your Naviance account. • Begin your college search and visits – find out about the different types of schools. Decide what characteristics are most important to you – size, location, curriculum, culture and cost. • Continue extracurricular activities.

JUNIOR YEAR

AUGUST	<p>Start your year off right by talking with your school counselor about the year ahead. Ask about test dates for the PSAT and the ACT.</p>
ALL YEAR	<p>Make sure that your grades are the best they can be this year. When colleges look at your transcripts, they put a heavy emphasis on Junior year grades as a part of your overall academic trend. Continue challenging yourself in your coursework, playing to your academic strengths when possible.</p>
FALL SEMESTER	<p>-College Admissions Representatives from all over the country visit Lansing Catholic each fall. Students are encouraged to speak with reps during these lunch room visits. These representatives are the readers of your applications.</p> <p>-Plan to visit local College Fairs.</p> <p>- Update your Naviance account and update your resume.</p>
PRACTICE TESTING DAY IN OCTOBER	<p>Juniors have the option to take the PSAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSAT is a great way to practice for the ACT and SAT • Students that take the PSAT will automatically be screened for the National Merit Scholarship Program
EARLY SPRING SEMESTER	<p>-Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities. Make a file for each college and gather information about academic and standardized test requirements, financial aid, and campus life. Attend college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can about colleges online.</p> <p>-Begin planning college visits. Try to visit colleges and include a large, medium, and small campus.</p> <p>-Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Organize your collected information into detailed, useful comparisons.</p> <p>-Begin to search for scholarships. Fastweb (www.fastweb.com) and The College Board (https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search) are both useful for national searches. Contact local businesses about potential scholarship opportunities, including workplace, community, religious, and civic organizations.</p>

	<p>-Meet one on one with counselor. Discuss college plans.</p> <p>-Attend Cougars Go To College Night.</p>
JANUARY / FEBRUARY	Meet with you counselor to determine Senior year courses.
ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY MARCH	Juniors will take a practice ACT exam.
APRIL	Take the ACT.
MAY	Study for AP exams. If you are in AP classes, prepare and study for your AP exams. Scores of 4 or 5 (and occasionally 3s) typically will earn you college credit.
END OF SPRING SEMESTER	<p>-Make a list of teachers, coaches, and employers you might ask to write a letter of recommendation for your college applications and scholarships.</p> <p>-Plan for a productive summer. Line up a summer job, internship, or look into taking a summer class at a community college. Plan to visit colleges.</p> <p>-Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you plan on playing sports at the college level, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (or NAIA Eligibility Center) and request that your transcript be sent. Your ACT scores must also be sent to them directly (actstudent.org).</p>

SENIOR YEAR

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER	<p>Register for the ACT and/or SAT if you are not satisfied with your score and want to re-take it in the fall.</p> <p>-Ask your teachers for letters of recommendation (as needed). You should give your teachers <i>at least 3 weeks notice</i>.</p> <p>-Update your college list in Naviance.</p> <p>-Log in and complete your Common App (if you are applying to schools connected to Common App – otherwise do NOT create a Common App account)</p> <p>-Connect your Common AP and Naviance accounts</p> <p>-Start Applying! Once you've submitted an application, remember to request to have your transcript sent to each college you've applied to. You do this through your Naviance account.</p>
OCTOBER 1	FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) becomes available. We recommend that ALL students complete their FAFSA. Some colleges also require the CCS profile form – complete it as needed.
OCTOBER 15	Lansing Catholic's recommended deadline for Early Action applications. Most Early Action colleges have a strict November 1 st deadline.
ONGOING	-Keep Senior Year Grades Strong, as some colleges will request them. While most applications are complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions or have already received a decision, it is important to keep your grades up. The college you decide to attend <i>will</i> receive your final transcript. It's also good to keep strong habits and routines going into college. No Senioritis!

	<p>-If you have been deferred or waitlisted from a college that you want to attend, concentrate on strengthening your academic record (GPA and ACT) and resume. Don't hesitate to visit, call, and write the admissions department of a college to make your interest clear. Ask your admissions advisor/recruiter how you can strengthen your application.</p> <p>-Keep the counseling office updated on your college decisions.</p>
MAY 1	Deadline to make your final college selection and notify the school of your decision. You should also notify the schools that you will NOT be attending.
END OF MAY	GRADUATION!!!! Final transcripts must be sent to the college that you plan on attending. The LCHS registrar will send final transcripts to colleges at the end of June.