

 **Scheduling** and having a strong senior schedule including at least 4 or 5 core academic classes is very important to college admissions. The idea of taking a senior year “off” in terms of academic coursework is a thing of the past. Colleges often make admissions decisions without first seeing a student’s first semester grades. In these cases, they use the senior schedule as a critical component of the application.

**College Visits** are valuable in the college research process. A “good” college for one student may not be for another. In truth, it depends on the student’s needs and preferences. Thorough research is how a student determines the “fit” of the college with their personality and values. *Spend time visiting schools now and it will be a lifesaver next year, as senior year is a very busy year!*

Resources for college search:

* College Supermatch in your Naviance account
* www.collegeboard.org
* www.act.org/profile

It has been my absolute joy and privilege meeting and working with you this year. The Class of 2016 is leaving a magnificent legacy for other classes to follow. Whether you choose college, apprenticeship, the military, employment, or volunteerism, I hope that you find your post-high school life to be fulfilling and happy.

**Senior Survey** will take place in May. Seniors will be asked to complete an end of the year questionnaire which includes where to send Final Transcripts. You have until May 1st to let colleges know you will/will not be attending.

**Wait List?** If you received a “wait list” letter from a college, this is not a denial, but it is not an acceptance. To improve your chances of admission off of the wait list, let the colleges know of your sincere interest in their school and tell them that you will attend if offered admission! Sometimes this can make all the difference.

**FAFSA** is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This needs to be completed by seniors and their parent/guardians and sent to colleges. Even if you believe you will not receive aid from the government, colleges need your FAFSA report on file to consider students for other scholarships and grants! Go to fafsa.gov to complete the application.

**Continue your Scholarship Search** by accessing the scholarship page on Naviance where I post local scholarships. Also create an account on Fastweb.com or Cappex.com and have scholarships sent to your email daily or weekly. *Most importantly, contact the financial aid office at your colleges to find out what other scholarships they offer.* Financial aid offers are negotiable!

**Undecided?** If you are still unsure of your path after high school, consider visiting and applying to Ohio colleges on rolling admissions. Make an appointment to meet with me in the counseling office and we can build a plan!

## College Cost: Net Price Calculators

“Net Price” is a college’s sticker price for tuition and fees *minus* the grants and scholarships and education tax benefits received. The net price you pay for a particular college is specific to you because it's based on your personal circumstances and the college’s financial aid policies.

The net price, on average, is considerably lower than the published price. For example:

 -Average published in-state price four-year public colleges is $9,139 per year

 -Average net price (what the average family really pays) is just $3,030 per year.

 -For private nonprofit four-year colleges, the average published price is $31,230 per year,

 -Average family pays just $12,360 annually.

Net Price calculators, by law, must be posted on college websites!

# SENIORS

## JUNIORS

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Mrs. Jordan Waddell, MA

 College and Career School Counselor

March, April, May

College and Career Spring Newsletter

## Time Line of Events for College Admission

9th and 10th GRADE

* Research possible career paths by interviewing 2 or more people about their careers
* Review your academic courses, GPA, and class rank. Discuss all the factors that contribute to college admission decisions
* Consider challenging yourself to take more rigorous courses in the subject areas you are confident in
* Increase your involvement in school and community. Colleges and employers will look for extra-curricular activities as well as any leadership roles you take on.
* Take virtual campus tours with websites like www.youvisit.com/education
* Search for summer jobs, internships, and volunteer work that develop workplace habits and soft skills
* Resources for career search:
	+ https://**jobs**eeker.k-12.**ohiomeansjobs**.monster.com
	+ https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers

11th GRADE

* Prep for the ACT/SAT using free test prep on College Board and ACT websites
* **Take ACT and/or SAT (With Writing!) and send scores to colleges – take both if possible!**
* **Schedule campus tours**
* Start researching college cost and discuss financial aid with family
* Continue taking challenging high school courses and align your elective choices to your interests
* Use college search websites/books to discover your must-haves
* Scope out colleges’ social media pages
* Determine teachers you will ask for letters of recommendation
* Over summer, draft your resume and write personal essays for college apps

**College Credit Plus**

Many students have questions about College Credit Plus (CCP) courses. If you are considering taking college credit courses next year (aka Dual Enrollment/PSEO) while still in high school, here are the steps to take:

* BY MARCH 31st - Complete and turn in the Letter of Intent to Participate in CCP (located in the counseling office)
* Watch the CCP information video on the high school counseling page
* Apply to the college credit plus program at the college you intend to take classes with. (Typically by May 1st but check with college)
* Send test scores (ACT/SAT or COMPASS) to the college
* Request your high school transcript to be sent to the college
* As soon as your schedule college courses with a college advisor, you must bring a copy of the schedule to the high school

“Check out the updated School Counseling webpage for resources, presentations, videos, and helpful handouts.”

**www.lhschools.org/**

**highschoolcounselors.aspx**

12th GRADE

* Re-take ACT or SAT and send scores to colleges
* Request transcripts and letters of recommendation in Naviance
* Narrow down your list of schools
	+ Minimum 4
	+ Include "reach” and “safety” schools
* Set reminders for deadlines
* **(\*New 2016-2017) OCT. 1st**  families can complete FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov
* Send completed applications by each deadline
* Search for additional scholarships using Naviance, Fastweb.com, Cappex.com, finaid.org, etc.
* Check that colleges have received your materials
* Compare financial aid/acceptance packages
* Go on final college visits
* May 1 – make final decision!

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If you are considering Division I or II sports:

1. Create an account on the eligibility center website
2. Send ACT/SAT scores
3. Request official high school transcript in the counseling office

## Resources:

<http://www.ncaapublications.com/>

Under “Miscellaneous” tab, download the Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete

[www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)

Click “Students and Parents” to find the “Get in the Game Tips for Student-Athletes and Families” link on the right side

## NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NJCAA)

[www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

The level of competition varies. Students must transfer to another college to complete a bachelor’s degree and may continue their athletic career at a four year school. Athletic scholarships available.

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (NAIA)

[www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center](http://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center)

Competitive levels are comparable to the NCAA’s Division II. . Athletic scholarships available.

NCAA Division I – Generally have more students and larger athletics budgets. Athletic scholarships available.

NCAA Division II – Emphasize a life balance in which academically gifted students can compete at a high level while maintaining a traditional college experience. Athletic scholarships available.

NCAA Division III – Teams have shorter playing sessions, emphasizing life balance and reducing students’ time away from academic studies and other campus activities. No athletic scholarships.

## NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

As college-bound athletes, students are responsible for achieving and maintaining eligibility. This means planning ahead, taking high school classes seriously.

**College Athletic Associations:**

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## College Bound Student-Athletes

* Actstudent.org and collegeboard.org
* Download test prep apps for smartphones:
	+ Play2prep
	+ ScoreBeyond (ACT Up, SAT Up)
	+ Varsity Tutors
	+ Daily Practice SAT
* Tutoring Club – ACT Smart and SAT
* Smart program www.tutoringclub.com
* Sylvan Learning – College Prep www.sylvanlearning.com

To the family of:

 «AddressBlock»

*Follow these College/Career Groups on Twitter for tips and news!*

*@NACAC*

*@USATODAYcollege*

*@ohiomeansjobs*

*@USNewsEducation*

*@College\_Experts*

*@Naviance*

**Licking Heights H.S.**

4000 Mink St SW

Pataskala, OH 43062

**Phone:**

740-927-9046

**Website:**

www.lhschools.org

## College Fairs

* April 16th – **Columbus National College Fair** @ Greater Columbus Convention Center 1-4pm
* April 20th – **Licking County College Fair** @ Granville High School 6:00pm (7:30pm breakout panel about selective admissions colleges)

## ACT and SAT Practice

**SAT Test Dates:**

* **May 7, 2016** – Register by April 8
* **June 4, 2016** – Register by May 5

**ACT Test Dates:**

* **April 9, 2016** – \* Late Registration by March 18
* **June 11, 2016** – Register by May 6

fall of their senior year.

**Licking Heights H.S.**

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