

WORTHY OF NOTE:

- \* **JUNIORS:**
- \* Register for and take the ACT and/or SAT in your junior year! Upcoming registration and test deadlines are:
  - \* **SAT**  
Regular Registration by: **February 10** for the **March 10** test date.  
**April 6** for the **May 5** test date.  
**May 8** for the **June 2** test date.  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - \* **ACT**  
Regular Registration by: **March 9** for the **April 14** test.  
**May 4** for the **June 9** test.  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - \* See your counselor for more information if you have questions. They are there for you through this process!
  - \* Room 600, College Corner, is filled with resources including guide books, college view books, catalogues and scholarship resources. Bring a friend during third block lunch, and Ms. Hanks-Nicoll will be there to answer your questions. Computers are available for numerous online resources.
  - \* You and your parents are welcome to make an appointment at any time.
  - \* E-mail: [hanks-nicollm@wjcc.k12.va.us](mailto:hanks-nicollm@wjcc.k12.va.us)
  - \* Phone: (757) 259-3733  
Ext. 32286

## College & Career Web Link

Did you know that the three WJCC high schools have a shared web link where you can access a wide variety of important information useful in post-high school planning? To enter the link click on the college-career glasses icon. They can be found on each school's main page as well as on your Edline page.

Start with the Interactive College Planning Timelines. . The timeline for college planning breaks down the process by high school year. Each year is an important and critical piece as you "build your credentials." Use the hyperlinks to take you to sites that will provide related information or tools.

If you misplace the division's college handbook you receive in your counselor meeting,, no problem, here it is online in its entirety! In addition to *Four Steps to the Future* you will find the *Virginia Opportunities Booklet*. These excellent resources take you from the college search and application process to financial aid explanations. The glossary of terms can be very helpful in deciphering things like the important difference between early action and early decision. Don't miss the link to the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) for their numerous online sources.

College listings can be accessed

with direct links to the institutional web pages. Initially you will want to check out a wide range of institutions before you have your search refined to those that you feel are a 'match' for you. The College Planning and College



*Sharpen your focus as you plan your high school courses . Define and refine choices. Be in the know!*

Information sections will help you along the way. Federal Financial Student Aid or the FAFSA link is where you can complete the federal form for financial aid and submit your information after January first in your senior year.

The College Scholarships section has been organized by type. General, college-specific and local scholarships will pertain mainly to seniors but as a junior it is not too early to take a look here. Freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors all can participate in essay scholarships and contests.

The SAT and ACT section contains registration and free on-line test prep sites. Release yourself from stress: prepare and register early!

The Virginia Education Wizard with the career assessment, college search, college cost calculator are useful guides. They are worth taking a peek at even in your early high school years.

Other websites of special interest for you may be the links for First Generation College Students, The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and Historically Black Colleges. Learning style differences and the link to the ETS resources for test takers may be other areas to check out.

The British practice of a semester or year between high school and university is represented with various sites including Outward Bound and NOLS. This is a pathway less common here in the states but worth knowing about in the wide range of programs and options.

Career and military links round out the web page with their own sections. Explore. Find the areas that will help you through your choices and options in high school and beyond!

Reach out to the personal resources at Lafayette. Your counselor, academic advisor, and teachers are here for you!



# Rising Senior Checklist

Choose your senior year courses with thought. Course changes are difficult once the master schedule is set! A few things to keep in mind:

- \* Do they match your strengths and interests?
- \* Will they match the requirements for admission to the programs or institutions you are thinking of applying to?
- \* Senior year is a year colleges take seriously. Keep a balance so you can enjoy your final high school year but keep your academic focus too!

Taking charge of your college process will put you in the driver's seat. Most of it truly is in your control!



## Winter

- \_\_\_ Create a testing plan of which tests you will take and when. Register.
- \_\_\_ Use your My College [QuickStart](#) to prepare.

## Spring

- \_\_\_ Spring Break: take a college tour.
- \_\_\_ Make the most of your counselor meeting. Involve your parents in the conversation. Make sure everyone has a good understanding of you and your goals for the application process.
- \_\_\_ Explore your values, needs and strengths.
- \_\_\_ Register in March and April to take the May SAT and June SAT Subject tests. (discuss which Subject tests you should take with your counselor).
- \_\_\_ Register in May for the June ACT.
- \_\_\_ Begin to identify the

characteristics you would like in a college.

- \_\_\_ Discuss your senior schedule with your college counselor. Select the most rigorous course load that you can carry successfully..
- \_\_\_ Develop a preliminary or long list of colleges that interest you.
- \_\_\_ Research your list of schools in a variety of ways (objective and subjective guidebooks, discussion with alums and present students).
- \_\_\_ If there is a possibility that you will be applying Early Action or Early Decision to a college that requires SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests make sure that you have taken them in the spring prior to the fall application deadlines.
- \_\_\_ Ask for teacher recommendations. Many teachers use the summer to write their fall recommendations.
- \_\_\_ Register for NCAA Clearinghouse if you

think participating in Division I or II athletics is a possibility.

- \_\_\_ All potential college athletes (including Div. III) should be contacting college coaches.
- \_\_\_ Begin looking at college essay questions and begin drafting your college essay.

## Summer

- \_\_\_ If you don't have a summer job, try volunteering in an area of interest to you.
- \_\_\_ If you are interested in athletics, meet with coaches whenever possible.
- \_\_\_ The new Common Application is usually available in July—start completing it!
- \_\_\_ **Read**—Books, newspapers, whatever interests you!
- \_\_\_ **Write!** Work on your essay; consider people, issues, and experiences that are important to you, and write reflectively on a number of topics.

## Ideas for the Winter

- \* Register now for your base line SAT and ACT. You will then be able to maximize your best test by having time to take it again in your junior year or in September of your senior year. Use your [My College Quickstart](#) code from your PSAT to prepare. It is your individualized study guide, a preparation tool tailored specifically for you!
- \* Research colleges online. Look at department pages for the majors you are interested in. Read college catalogues online. Become familiar with how similar and different they can be. Look beyond the surface!
- \* Reach out to the adults here at Lafayette High; your counselors, academic advisor, administrators, teachers and coaches. (Student Advancement, Career and sports).