

**Welcome to
Lake Central High School's
College-Bound
Parent Meeting**

March 10, 2026

Lake Central High School Guidance Staff

▶ Counselors

- Robin May (A-Brown)
- Megan Graman (Brt-Dem)
- Ginger Marinkovich (Den-Gond)
- Courtney Severin(Gonz-Jim)
- Jessica Sanchez (Johnsen-L)
- Karen Fatouros (M-Ne)
- Steven Aguilera (Ng-Rh)
- Ashley Kline (Ri-Rz)
- Melissa Santaguida (S-TeX)
- Tom Golumbeck (Th-Z)

Administrators/Staff

- Erin Novak, Principal
- Ashley Kline, Guidance Department Head
- Laura Selin, Registrar
- Sherrie Bereda, Naviance Secretary
- Cyndi Ninkovich, Secretary
- Beth Toth, Data Secretary

College Application Timeline

▶ FRESHMEN:

- ▶ Do your best in class - Build GPA
- ▶ Get Involved - Quality NOT Quantity
- ▶ Explore Naviance

▶ SOPHOMORES:

- ▶ Build Resume - Naviance
- ▶ Research Colleges
- ▶ Start College visits/Meet with representatives at LC

▶ Juniors:

- ▶ College Visits
- ▶ Take SAT at Lake Central
- ▶ Narrow Down College Choices
- ▶ Think About Recommenders

▶ Seniors:

- ▶ Apply/Watch Deadlines
- ▶ Request Transcripts/Letters of Recommendation
- ▶ FAFSA
- ▶ Apply for Scholarships
- ▶ Check Emails!!!

Explore Colleges/Universities

- Location - In state/Out of State
- Majors
- Public/Private
- Small/Large
- Tuition/Housing costs
- Extra Curricular Opportunities

College Fairs

- ▶ LCHS College and Career Fair
 - ▶ Thursday, April 16th during PTE
 - ▶ Students only
- ▶ NACAC Virtual College Fair
 - ▶ March 15 and April 19th
 - ▶ Register: nacacattend.org

College Visits

- Best time to visit is when school is in session
- Tour campus, visit academic department, sit in on class, explore dorms
- Colleges videos, lots of information online, visit once accepted
- Bring back documentation for the Attendance Office
- Students are permitted two excused absences for college visits

College Admission Representative Visits at Lake Central

- ▶ By listing schools you are interested in, you will be notified through Naviance when that university representative will be visiting LCHS.
- ▶ Visits are also announced on the Daily Announcements and posted on the LCHS website
- ▶ Visits are during lunch on Main Street or after school in the Library
- ▶ Bring questions about campus life, major etc

Upcoming College Visits

- ▶ **Indiana State University: March 11th**
 - ▶ After School Library
- ▶ **The University of Iowa: March 13th**
 - ▶ Lunch Main Street
- ▶ **Prairie State College: March 16th**
 - ▶ After School Library
- ▶ **Nova Southeastern University: April 21st**
 - ▶ Lunch Main Street
- ▶ **St Mary's College: April 21st**
 - ▶ Lunch Main Street
- ▶ **University of Dayton: April 22nd**
 - ▶ After School Library

High School Course Selection/College Evaluation

▶ **What student should do...**

- ▶ Challenge yourself with course selection
- ▶ AP/Honors Courses for high achieving students
- ▶ Courses that align with interests

▶ **What Colleges look for..**

- ▶ AP/Honors vs Easy A's
- ▶ Grade Trending
- ▶ GPA and GPA recalculation
- ▶ Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
- ▶ Letters of Rec (if required)
- ▶ Activities and involvement
- ▶ Not just the 4.0 GPA!

College Application Process

August 1, 2026

- Complete the application through the college/university's admission webpage or the Common Application
- Many colleges/universities will create an account/portal for the applicant and important information will be sent through THAT account. Check this often!
- 3- 5 Applications
- **USE PERSONAL EMAIL!**
- **DO NOT USE LC EMAIL!**

College Application Process

- ▶ Average application fees range from \$30-\$100
(Students on free/reduced lunch may qualify for a waiver and should see their counselor)
- ▶ College Go Week - limited schools (No Purdue WL/IUB/Ball State)
- ▶ Complete and submit application
- ▶ Request teacher recommendations IF NEEDED
- ▶ **Request transcripts through Naviance NOT Parchment**
- ▶ Counselors complete additional required reports
- ▶ **BE PATIENT!!**

College Application Process

- ▶ Students send ACT or SAT scores **DIRECTLY** from the testing agency (ACT.org or collegeboard.org)
- ▶ If you want/need to send transcripts for any dual credits, they must be sent **BY** the college/university from which the credits were earned. (Ivy Tech, Vincennes, IUN, Purdue Northwest)
- ▶ **DO NOT SEND DUAL CREDIT UNTIL YOU DECIDE WHERE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING!**

ACT/SAT Prep and Exams

- ▶ SAT - College Board
- ▶ ACT - ACT.org
- ▶ ** Test Optional/Text Flexible
- ▶ Times to take exam
- ▶ Superscore
- ▶ Which one should I take?
- ▶ Prep work: Khan Academy/PSAT
 - ▶ 6hrs - 90 points
 - ▶ 20hrs - 115 points
 - ▶ (16,000 students)

ACT vs SAT

- ▶ <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>
- ▶ <https://blog.prepscholar.com/is-the-act-easier-than-the-sat>

When Do You Apply?

- ▶ Most colleges open applications on August 1,
- ▶ Deadlines are posted on admissions websites. It is your responsibility to check them!
- ▶ Purdue University: In order to be considered for merit-based scholarships and/or Early Action, student applications and all materials must be submitted by November 1st.
- ▶ Indiana University Bloomington: Priority deadline for maximum scholarship consideration is November 1st.

Direct Application vs Common Application

- ▶ Direct: Apply directly through website
- ▶ Common App: One application used by over 900 colleges and universities
 - ▶ For example: Purdue West Lafayette, Notre Dame, Indiana State University, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Indiana University.
- ▶ Butler and Valparaiso University use both the Common App and/or their own online application
- ▶ Common App and most applications will open August 1, 2026

The Common Application

- ▶ 5 lengthy student information sections
- ▶ Common App essay -
- ▶ Additional essays specific to schools to which the student is applying
- ▶ Counselor reports/evaluations
- ▶ Juniors can create Common App account now!

THE COMMON
APPLICATION

Common Application

- ▶ **DO NOT USE YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL ON ANY APPLICATIONS (COLLEGE OR SCHOLARSHIP).**
- ▶ Be smart with your email choice!
- ▶ **ALL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION THROUGH THE COMMON APP - ONLY REQUEST THROUGH NAVIANCE**
Exceptions: clergy, work supervisor etc ...then use their personal email.
- ▶ The exact email/name listed on the Common Application is used to match with Naviance.
 - ▶ Matching allows all the documents: transcripts, application, counselor secondary school report, recommendations, etc, to be “bundled” before sending.

Common App Essay Prompts 26-27

- ▶ 1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- ▶ 2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- ▶ 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- ▶ 4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- ▶ 5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- ▶ 6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- ▶ 7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

College Essays

- ▶ Watch Word Limits - Common App 650
- ▶ Personal Statements
- ▶ NO AI or ChatGPT
- ▶ PASSION

- ▶ Supplemental Essays
 - ▶ Number required varies
 - ▶ Give Examples!

Request Teacher Recommendations

- ▶ Good etiquette to personally ask the teacher for recommendation prior to requesting the it through Naviance.
- ▶ Give your recommender at least two weeks to write the letter.
- ▶ With Naviance, if a school only required ONE letter of recommendation, the first one submitted is the one that is sent to that university.
- ▶ Teachers cannot upload letters until approximately August 15th.
- ▶ Juniors can ask the teacher/admin this year but do not request until after August 1 on Naviance

Teacher Recommendations

- ▶ Prioritize teachers within intended major (math/science - engineering)
- ▶ Letters for competitive majors/schools should show “growth” over high school
- ▶ If the recommendation is for a scholarship that requires them to mail in their recommendation, provide the recommender with an envelope/stamp and address of where to send the letter.
 - ▶ If you don't need a letter,
 - ▶ **DON'T ASK FOR ONE!!**
- ▶ **You Cannot Read Your Letters of Rec!**

Counselor Recommendations

- ▶ Must have resume complete in Naviance -About Me tab
- ▶ Highlight academic accomplishments and any extra-curricular activities
- ▶ Work/Volunteer Experience Counts!
List it on Resume
- ▶ If letter is required, ask the counselor directly and give them a due date with minimum 2 weeks notice!

Transcripts

- ▶ Request through Naviance ONLY
- ▶ **DO NOT USE PARCHMENT** -Alumni Only
- ▶ Allow 4-6 weeks **MINIMUM** for colleges to post to student portal
- ▶ Match if using Common App
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JSKxqm2jDk>

Naviance: What it has to offer

- ▶ Students only!
- ▶ Student email and ID
- ▶ Login issues: email sbereda@lcscmail.com
- ▶ **WITHIN NAVIANCE**
- ▶ **SELF DISCOVERY:** Career Interest Profiler/Learning Style Inventory
- ▶ **COLLEGES:** Supermatch, Scattegrams, Scholarships, College Acceptance, Letters of Recommendation
- ▶ **CAREERS:** Roadtrip Nation, Explore Careers
- ▶ **PLANNER:** Calendar, track deadlines
- ▶ **RESUME:** Under About Me Tab

Important Information!!!

- ▶ Document requests (letters of rec, counselor recommendations, transcripts etc) need to be submitted no later than Wednesday, Oct. 14th to ensure they will be submitted by Nov 1 deadline. Fall Break is October 30th - November 3rd.
- ▶ All Transcript requests for colleges/universities need to be requested through Naviance.
- ▶ Login issues/Naviance questions: contact Mrs. Bereda at sbereda@lcscmail.com

Scholarships

- ▶ Naviance under Colleges Tab: Scholarship Search
- ▶ Google search
- ▶ Parents employer
- ▶ College website
- ▶ Legacy Foundation
- ▶ Dollars for Scholars

- ▶ **Check student emails on a regular basis!**
- ▶ *Scholarships
- ▶ *Deadlines
- ▶ *Scheduling
- ▶ *Events -Lunch and Learn May 13 and 14, College Application Bootcamp August 2026 TBD
- ▶ *News

Additional Resources

NCAA Eligibility Center

NAIA.org

Financial Aid Nights/Invest Ed

And remember....

- ▶ GRADES DO MATTER!!
 - ▶ Purdue WL 3.6-3.7 unweighted/recalculated
 - ▶ Indiana University Bloomington 3.7 weighted
 - ▶ Ball State 3.5 weighted
 - ▶ Purdue Northwest 3.2 recalculated
 - ▶ Indiana University Northwest 3.1 weighted
 - ▶ RESCINDED OFFER OF ADMISSION
-
- ▶ Applications AND essays are supposed to be done by the STUDENT!

Questions