



Looking Ahead to College

Lincoln Preparatory Academy
Office of College Counseling

A Preliminary College Planning Guide for 9th and 10th Graders

Welcome to second semester! I want to take this opportunity to provide a few College Counseling updates from my office as well as some pertinent information to aide our freshmen and sophomores to stay on track for their future plans and goals!

My Role – My number one job as College Counselor is to be your child’s advocate. I support both students and parents through this entire college application journey.

In particular, I:

- Work with parents of middle and high school students to discuss the philosophy of LPA and how it aligns with your students personal and academic goals
- Motivate students to continue striving towards academic and personal success enrichment
- Explore interests with students through career counseling, personality inventories, and summer enrichment
- Guide students through college admissions preparation through scheduling college visits to LPA (beginning when your student enters junior year), traveling to colleges and universities across the country promoting LPA students, attend numerous professional development workshops to stay current with college admissions trends, maintain strong rapport with College Admissions Representatives, SAT/ACT test preparation (junior year), resume writing, college preparation small group seminars for 9th and 10th graders, College 101 group seminars for juniors, College 201 seminars for seniors, individual college counseling meetings with juniors and seniors, parent workshops, essay writing, and host numerous Great Hearts network wide events throughout the year: Great Hearts College Symposium (junior year), Selective College Night, Barrett Day (for seniors) to name a few

Communication – Please find updates, news, and announcements from the College Counseling Office in the *Lincoln Prep Weekly Newsletter* which comes out every Friday. For more detailed updates, I will send out e-mails. Please make note that I am on campus all day Monday and Tuesday, and Friday mornings.

PSAT Review – PSAT review for 10A will be Tuesday, January 16, 9A will be Monday, January 22 and 9B will be Tuesday, January 23. As a reminder, this test was for practice and a way to see where each student’s strengths and possible areas for improvement may lie. Scores are not part of students’ official testing records. As outlined in my PSAT information letters that were published in the LPAs weekly newsletter back in August, September, and October there was a \$25 cost for the printing of score reports made by the College Board. If your student does not receive a hard copy score report and wishes to receive one, you may still utilize LPAs [PSAT Payment Portal](#) and I will order one for you. Please email me the receipt once you have paid and I will process it on my end.

Freshman and Sophomore Meetings – All freshmen and sophomores will participate in monthly college preparation seminars during their lyceum. Each monthly seminar will have a structured curriculum that will be followed. Some topics to be discussed will include Naviance, our college and career counseling computer based program, building high school resumes, summer programs and enrichment, and college

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research. These seminars are not intended to put additional pressure or work on students, but rather to help students get a head start when they begin their college application journey in the second semester of their junior year.

In addition to my 9th and 10th grade college preparation seminars, students have the opportunity to schedule an individual appointment with me. While this appointment will not involve specific college counseling, as that does not begin until junior year, I am happy to meet with any student to answer questions and help guide them in their college preparation journey. Several students have already signed up for appointments.

These meetings also serve as a way for me to get to know each 9th and 10th grade student individually. This can ease some feeling of nervousness and anxiety, and will also help facilitate the student-counselor relationship come second semester of junior year when individualized college counseling begins at Lincoln Preparatory Academy.

Getting Involved – Colleges and Universities love to see student involvement outside of the classroom. Whether its sports, arts, music, volunteering, working a part-time job, babysitting, helping out neighbors, students should find something that interests them and stick with it! Remember quality over quantity! Colleges and Universities like to see extra-curricular involvements where students are committed, rather than a large list of activities with little involvement. Colleges and Universities want to see our students active in their community, as it will show them that your son or daughter will be an active and involved student on their campus. We encourage them to give back to their community!

- Here are a few examples of clubs that are available at LPA: Archery, Choir, Wind Ensemble, Community Service, Chess Society, Yearbook, and Writers Workshop. Please visit the Lincoln Prep [website](#) for a complete list.

Summer Plans – Now is the time for our students to start looking for something to do this summer! Whether it's a part-time job, taking an art, music, or design class for fun, attending a summer enrichment program, spending extra time helping out grandparents around the house and yard, or volunteering, it's important summers are productive! Colleges do not want to see that students have been sitting on the couch all summer watching Netflix or playing video games all day. There are so many summer opportunities out there for high school students! Encourage your student to get online and do some research!

- Here are a few examples of summer endeavors our Great Heart students have done in the past: Shakespeare Intensive Class at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Naval Academy STEM programs in Annapolis, ASU Summer Engineering Program, Summer Volunteer at Phoenix Children's Hospital, World Youth Day Program in Krakow, Poland, FBI Academy Program in Chandler, Medical Volunteer at Tamale Hospital in Ghana, Africa, Chandler Police Explorers Summer Program, Volunteer Partner with Special Olympics in Orlando, Florida, Eagle Scout Project, course study in Psychology at Mesa CC, Pre College Art and Design Program at Carnegie Mellon, coursework on WWII at Hillsdale College in MI, and Public Relations Intern with ANGLES PR Firm in Phoenix.

Study Habits and Tutoring – Grades do matter! Beginning in 9th grade, semester grades become part of a student's academic record known as a transcript. Please note only semester grades are recorded, not

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quarter grades or deficiencies. Transcripts are sent to colleges as a crucial piece of the college application.

At this point, it is my hope that students:

- ✓ Come prepared for class each and every day
- ✓ Begin to build relationships and advocacy with teachers by using their own e-mail account to e-mail teachers with any questions they have about grades, assignments, or concepts they do not understand
- ✓ Learn how to become comfortable staying after class for a couple minutes when questions arise
- ✓ Utilize faculty tutoring hours and peer tutoring when necessary
- ✓ Continue to use the organizational and prioritization skills developed in middle school

Upcoming Events –

- ‘Looking Ahead to College Night’ for parents of student’s grades 8-10 to be held February 13th in the LPA gym from 6:30-8pm. Please register using the signup genius link.
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0E4EAFA729A2F49-looking
- ‘Paying for College Night’ for parents of student’s grades 6-10 to be held April 11th from 6:30-8pm. This event will be hosted by Laura Romer, Arizona State University Admissions and Financial Aid Specialist. There will be a signup genius link posted in the weekly newsletter as the date approaches.

Thank you for all of your support as I continue to help your sons and daughters through this college application process. Please reach out to me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cummings

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