

“NEXT STEPS”



Lincoln Christian School

Overview Resource for Maneuvering HIGH SCHOOL YEARS at LCS

(blue slides)

Thought Process from Mrs. Ford, School Counselor

(grey slides)

HELLO from Mrs. Ford & the School Counseling Program...

It's my privilege to serve Lincoln Christian School students & families as the School Counselor (aka "Guidance Counselor"). Please feel free to reach out as I like to think of my role as being a "connector." If you don't know who to ask, ASK ME! I'll work to point you in the right direction. As for what I actually "do," my roles vary, so I wanted to take this opportunity to list areas in which I can potentially be of help to you.

*Here to Help,
Mrs. Anita Ford*

Current components of the SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM:

(bold areas will be specifically addressed throughout this "NEXT STEPS" document)

- **Grade-level information/timelines/expectations (communicated with students as well as parents)**
- **Student learning plans/course requests/graduation requirement fulfillment/scheduling**
- **Personal & career exploration information, resources, and support**
- **Post-graduation planning information, resources, and support (college applications, scholarships, etc.)**
- **Registrar services (transcripts, permanent records, etc.)**
- Testing coordination & preparation resources (PSAT, ACT, and testing data)
- Student support services (academic accommodations/504/IEP data and support)
- Individualized social/emotional/spiritual support related to mission and vision of Lincoln Christian School



LINCOLN CHRISTIAN MISSION & VISION

MISSION

The mission of Lincoln Christian School is
to teach the Truth, through learning about God's world
in the light of God's Word

VISION

Every student will experience a life-changing
Christian education that intentionally builds
the Truth of the Gospel into
*every aspect of
intellectual, physical, social and spiritual life.*

LINCOLN CHRISTIAN “ENDS” STATEMENTS

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, students reach their God-given potential spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically, becoming transforming influences in the world for Jesus Christ.

- **SPIRITUALLY** - Students trust Jesus Christ as Savior and embrace their identity in Him.
(Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:3, 5-8, 16, Romans 3:23, 6:23; 5:8, Matthew 16:15-16, 1 John 2:15-17, John 15:5, Galatians 5:22-23)
 - Students abide in Christ.
 - Students articulate and defend a biblical worldview understanding how this defines their identity, values, beliefs and personal choices.
 - Students identify and utilize their unique spiritual gifts bearing fruit as part of the body of Christ.
 - Students are disciples of Christ and disciple others.
- **INTELLECTUALLY** - Students achieve their God-given academic and creative potential.
(Colossians 3:1-3, 3:23, Proverbs 1:7, 2 Timothy 2:15, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 12:4-28)
 - Students are measurably proficient in all academic disciplines.
 - Students think critically and discern truth.
 - Students develop their God-given talents and appreciate those of others.
- **SOCIALLY** - Students exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.
(Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 22:37-39; 28:19, Proverbs 27:17, Colossians 3:12-17, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
 - Students uphold the dignity and respect due everyone as God’s image bearers.
 - Students serve in their family, church and community.
 - Students boldly share the Gospel.
 - Students demonstrate a Christ-like attitude toward sportsmanship and competition.
- **PHYSICALLY** - Students steward their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20)
 - Students embrace biblical purity.
 - Students value physical discipline and nutritional health.

REVERSE ENGINEER!

- Remember—The days may go slowly, but the semesters and the years go quickly!
- Don't Forget—Specific post-high school options have specific requirements, so the BEST source of information is that specific institution! And they're businesses...so expect good "customer service"!
- Be curious—There are people and organizations that can help either broaden your thinking or narrow your focus.
- Reach out—
 - Ask Mrs. Ford for resources about college searches, career connections, etc.
 - Ask teachers about the path that led them to where they are today
 - Ask parents about strengths that they see in you
 - Ask yourself what truly "makes you tick"

LINCOLN CHRISTIAN GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS...

<p><u>Bible:</u> 4 years</p>	<p><u>English:</u> 4 years + 1 semester Speech</p> <p>Electives: Christian/Classic Literature, Themes in Literature, Creative Writing, Drama, Digital Communications, Yearbook (semester & year options)</p>	<p><u>Math:</u> 3 years -Algebra 1 -Geometry -Algebra 2</p> <p>Electives: Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics</p>	<p><u>Science:</u> 3 years -Physical Sci. -Biology -Chemistry or Physics or Biology 2/Anatomy</p> <p>Electives: Chemistry 2, Nutrition/Health/Exercise Science (semester)</p>	<p><u>Social Studies:</u> 3 years -World History -Am. History -Am. Government</p> <p>Electives: World Geography, Sociology, War of the Worlds/Critical Issues (semester options)</p>
<p><u>Foreign Language:</u> not required, but 2 years recommended -Spanish 1-4</p>	<p><u>Practical Arts:</u> 1 year -Careers & Consumerism (Junior required class starting with class of 2021; 1 semester)</p> <p>Electives: -Business Leadership, Accounting 1 & 2, Personal Finance, Careers, Media Tech, Foods, Digital Communications, YB, Medical Terminology (semester & year options)</p>	<p><u>Technology:</u> 1 semester -Info Tech</p> <p>Electives: -Media Tech (project-based; can include web & graphic design), Yearbook, Digital Communications (semester & year options) Options: Yearbook (year), Digital Communications year or semester 1)</p>	<p><u>Fine Arts:</u> 1 year -Vocal Music -Instrumental Music -Beginning Art -Advanced Art (varied curriculum; students may repeat)</p> <p>Options: Media Tech, Yearbook, & Digital Communications</p>	<p><u>Physical Education:</u> 1 year</p> <p>Options: -Lifetime Wellness & Activities -Strength & Conditioning - 4 yrs band = 1 yr PE</p>

- 2 COLLEGE VISITS + REFLECTION FORMS
- 2 JOB SHADOW EXPERIENCES + REFLECTION FORMS
- RESUME

Supported by School Counselor & through Careers & Consumerism class for Juniors

1 semester = 5 credits

Required + Electives (35 credits) = 240 credits total

SOME HIGH SCHOOL VOCAB

WEIGHTED

The difficulty level of the course merits possibility of creating more “weight” in the GPA/Class Rank

- Measured on the 5.0 GPA scale (see chart to right)
- Percentage earned in the class is increased by 10 percentage points to account for “weight” in class rank

HONORS

- Lincoln Christian courses that are designed to challenge critical thinkers where enrollment is based on a determined criteria and/or teacher recommendation.
- Honors courses are “weighted.”

DUAL CREDIT

- The course is offered by an instructor who is approved to teach college level content to high school students; a higher education institution grants college credit through their institution while the student also fulfills a high school requirement
- Most dual credit courses are also “weighted.”

Advanced Placement (AP)

- This means that an Advanced Placement exam (created by an organization called The College Board) may be taken as a means of potentially earning college credit for a high school class. The tests are rated on a scale of 1-5; many colleges grant credit for earning a 3 or above.
 - NOTE: NOT all colleges accept AP credit; carefully research if this option fits for your specific plans/goals <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/course-index-page>
 - Currently, AP courses are also “weighed.”

Letter Grade	Percentage	Standard Grade Point	Weighted Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.0	5.0
A	93-96	4.0	5.0
A-	90-92	4.0	5.0
B+	85-89	3.5	4.5
B	80-84	3.0	4.0
C+	75-79	2.5	3.5
C	70-74	2.0	3.0
D+	65-69	1.5	2.5
D	60-64	1.0	2.0
F	below 60	0.0	0.0

	Weighted	Dual Credit Option	AP Option
Honors English 10	Yes		
Honors English 11	Yes		
Honors English 12	Yes	Yes	
Pre-Calculus	Yes	Yes	
Calculus (and Calculus 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physics	Yes		
Chemistry 2	Yes		
Bible 10, 11, 12		Yes	

FRESHMAN YEAR

MINDSET

- “Begin with the end in mind!” – 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (Covey)
- Your high school transcript starts NOW! College applications/admissions your senior year utilize your “Six Semester Transcript”: 9th/10th/11th grade!
- Practice good HABITS (using a planner, reviewing notes every day instead of cramming for a test, etc.) & decide what gives you the results you want!
- Explore activities, leadership groups, class events, etc.).

EVENTS to ANTICIPATE

- Homecoming (Oct.)
- Winter Dinner (Jan.)
- Unite Nights (high school game nights, to be announced)
- Course Selection: Start planning for your high school learning! (Winter/Spring)

SOPHOMORE YEAR

MINDSET

- Some say that the sophomore is more “weighty” in regard to needed study skills, homework load, good habits, etc.
- Don’t forget... “Six Semester Transcript!”
College applications/admissions your senior year utilize GPA from 9th/10th/11th grade!
- Contribute (activities, leadership groups, class events, etc.).
- Show consistency in the basics while continuing to explore new interests.
- Consider dual credit, honors, National Honor Society options and their requirements.

EVENTS to ANTICIPATE

- Sophomore Pizza Lunch 😊
- Homecoming (Oct.)
- Winter Dinner (Jan.)
- Unite Nights (high school game nights, to be announced)
- Course Selection: Start solidifying your plan for your high school learning! (Winter/Spring)

SOPHOMORE YEAR

FALL:

- PSAT (October; optional—but good practice experience for standardized testing)

WINTER/SPRING:

- Explore post-high school options that might fit your interests
- Persevere! Many core, year-long academic classes for sophomores! Keep up the good work!

JUNIOR YEAR

MINDSET

- Again... “Six Semester Transcript!”
College applications/admissions are based on 9th/10th/11th grade!
- Invest time & mental energy in the ACT!
- Serve (activities, leadership groups, class events, etc.).
- Show consistency in the basics while continuing to explore interests.
- Make intentional decisions about dual credit, honors, NHS and their requirements.

EVENTS to ANTICIPATE

- Gym Cleaning 😊
- Prom Planning
- Homecoming (Oct.)
- Winter Dinner (Jan.)
- Prom (April)
- Unite Nights (high school game nights, to be announced)
- Course Selection: Finalize your plan for your high school learning! (Winter/Spring)

JUNIOR YEAR

FALL:

- Confirm course selections in relation to graduation requirements
- Be involved—gain experiences!
- National Honor Society (NHS) invitations will be distributed to those with a 3.6 GPA; application and selection process are based on scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Induction Ceremony follows for those selected
- PSAT (October; optional—but used for National Merit Scholarship determination)
- ACT (practice test Sept. at LCS; baseline national test Oct. or Dec., register at www.act.org for an LPS site)
- Research colleges/programs that fit your interests

WINTER/SPRING:

- Lincoln Christian ACT Prep + ACT! (January-April; April test offered at LCS)
- Parent “Next Steps”/Senior Year Planning Presentation (Spring PT Conferences)
- Participate in “Junior Day”: UNL Love Library, College Reps at LCS, Career Speakers, Financial Information
- Individual Junior Meetings with Mrs. Ford (including Grad Check/Course Requests for Senior year)
- Attend a College Fair
- Visit colleges of interest (best to see schools with students on campus to get the “feel” of the campus)

JUNIOR YEAR: ACT PREP PROGRAM

- ❖ **Welcome to YEAR 6 of our current ACT Prep Program for Juniors!**
- ❖ **This program is completely optional but highly recommended.**
- ❖ **It focuses on test-taking STRATEGIES.**
- ❖ **Investment: \$425** (includes FEATURES listed on next slide and an official ACT exam)

TIMING (tentative...may be new & improved):

- January: Sign Up (with Mrs. Ford; watch for communications via email)
- January-April: Practice Tests/Prep Sessions
- March/April: ACT Exam
- June: Refresher session prior to summer ACT exams

BENEFITS:

- Every LCS Class of 2021 student involved in this ACT prep program improved his/her ACT score from baseline.
- Several students improved their scores from “not accepted” at the school of their choice into the “accepted with scholarships” range.
- One student utilized the online resources (available for a full year) prior to retaking the ACT as a senior and incrementally raised college his scholarship package from \$12,000 to \$40,000!
- Lincoln Christian students averaged nearly 4 points higher than state and local averages

JUNIOR YEAR: ACT PREP PROGRAM, cont'd...

FEATURES:

- Facilitated by Lincoln Christian's own instructors who know the content and the students
- Reflects the most current ACT updates in student and teacher materials (We utilize the Sylvan Advantage Program, a \$700-1300 program at their learning center.)
- Prepares students equally for all subject areas (Math, Science, English, Reading)
- Focuses on preparing students with strategies for both curricular content and test pressures
- Empowers students with strategies that benefit life-long standardized testing situations
- Analyzes student data to impact Lincoln Christian students and teachers

PIECES:

- Full-Length Practice Tests (2)
- Prep Sessions/Direct Instruction (12 unique sessions; 10 within the school day, 2 in the evening)
- Text Resources
- Online Resources (personalized resources linked to practiced tests: feedback provided for every question of each practice test; generalized resources for vocabulary, strategies, etc.)
- Official ACT Exam (1): Hosted immediately following Prep Sessions; on site at Lincoln Christian for a home field advantage!
- "Refresher" Session: typically a few hours in early June; often summer ACT scores jump again due to fewer academic distractions!

JUNIOR YEAR, Careers & Consumerism Class

(1 semester, LCS graduation requirement)

Exploration of Self & Others

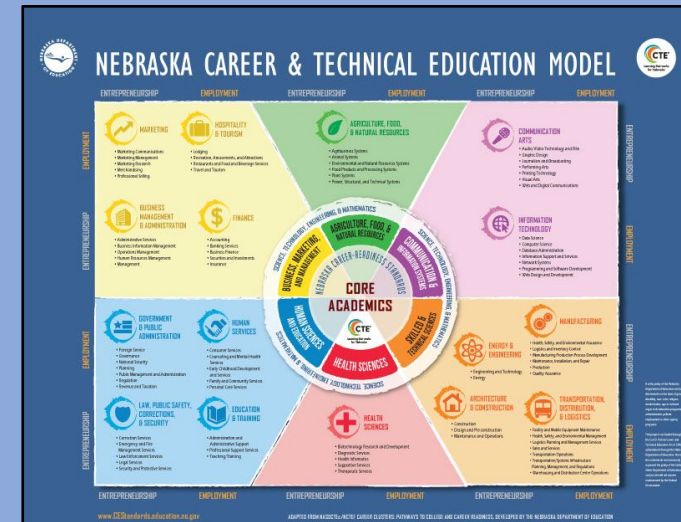
- Values, Self-Management, Intentional Living, Personalities, Inventories relating to Personal Development

Exploration of Career Pathways

- Speakers & Activities, Career Conversations, Job Shadow Experience

Preparation for Life

- Finances, Resume/Cover Letter Writing, Interview Skills, Personal Mission Statement, Biblical Decision Making



SENIOR YEAR

MINDSET

- Stay Consistent!
- Be in growth mode!
(Don't think you should "coast" into a university!
😊)
- Make memories by staying involved!
- Take ownership!
- Lead—self, class, school!

EVENTS to ANTICIPATE

- Senior Retreat (Aug./Sept.)
- Homecoming (Oct.)
- Unite Nights (high school game nights, to be announced)
- Winter Dinner (Jan.)
- Senior Prom (April)
- Senior Night Dinner (May)
- Awards Assembly (May)
- Senior Chapel (May)
- Senior Outing* (May)
- Graduation (May)
- Individual Graduation Parties*



*Not school sponsored

REMINDER: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(beyond your classes)

(Due May 1 of senior year; must be submitted prior to receiving diploma)

2 COLLEGE VISITS + REFLECTION FORMS (Click text for [College Visit Form](#))

- In-person, traditional visits are best for you to experience the environment of a campus.
- If approved in advance by Mrs. Ford, a zoom meeting/phone call “interview”/one-on-one conversation with a college admissions rep + a virtual tour will be accepted.
- Reflection Form can be completed based on either format.

2 JOB SHADOW EXPERIENCES + REFLECTION FORMS (Click text for [Job Shadow Form](#))

- If you completed an 8th grade LCS Job Shadow, that one counts!
- In-person job shadows are best to show you the environment of a workplace.
- If approved in advance by Mrs. Ford, a zoom meeting/phone call “interview”/one-on-one conversation with a college admissions rep + a virtual tour will be accepted.
- Reflection Form can be completed based on either format.

RESUME

- Completed in English 12 (fall)
- PAPER COPY of resume will be turned in to Mrs. Ford

SENIOR YEAR

FALL:

- Apply for Colleges
 - Complete application
 - Send Transcript—request from Mrs. Ford
 - Send ACT/SAT scores—request from ACT.org or CollegeBoard.org)
- Visit top colleges
 - See campus while students are present, meet instructors in areas of interest
- Create a Resume (September in English 12)
- Attend a College Fair
- Attend Individual Senior Meetings with Mrs. Ford (October)
- Create FSA ID & complete FAFSA with parents (October) (Important for ALL...if you don't qualify for grant dollars, college financial aid offices still use this information to determine scholarship dollars!)
- Engage in “Senior Day”: UNL Love Library, College Reps at LCS, Alumni Career Panel, “Apply to College” Event, Financial Aid Program (Anticipated for October)
- Listen for announcements of college reps making lunch visits!
- Utilize Education Quest for FAFSA support and other resources
 - [Education Quest Foundation](#)
 - [High School Timeline Checklist](#)
 - [Junior/Senior Timeline](#)
 - [How to Plan for College](#)
 - [How to Pay for College](#)
- Create an account for Scholarship Quest and utilize links to reputable NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP searches
 - [Scholarship Quest](#)

SENIOR YEAR

FALL/WINTER:

- Make “Early Decision” decisions (typically November)
- Seek out Education Quest regarding FAFSA help and financial aid options
- Retake ACT as desired for admission and scholarship consideration (Sept./Oct./Dec; register at www.act.org for an LPS site)
- Accept/Decline Scholarships

WINTER/SPRING:

- Scholarships! (watch for local scholarship lists from Mrs. Ford + continue to use Scholarship Quest and other resources for national scholarships)
- Watch for financial aid award notifications!
- Deadline for UNL Personal Statement (Feb. 1) and other scholarship programs
- Individual Senior Meetings with Mrs. Ford (March)
- Make final college decisions (May 1 is called “National College Decision Day”)
- May 1: LCS Deadline for College Visits, Job Shadows, Resume, and proof of completion for online classes used for graduation credit
- Accept/Decline Scholarships
- ENJOY YOUR GRADUATION EVENTS!!!

Thought Process from Mrs. Ford...

Some FAVORITE Conversation Topics

- HOW do you want to LIVE? (lifestyle, finances-who's paying for what after high school, etc.)
- WHERE do you want to spend your TIME? (work?, family?, etc.)
- WHAT and WHOM do you want to IMPACT? (talents, strengths, interests, \$)
- WHO do you want to BE? (character)

A little twist on...

*“What do you want to do
when you grow up?!”*

WHERE do you want to spend your TIME?

(post-high school options)

How will the environment you choose support your goals for your future...

- Physically (habits, associations, etc.)
- Socially/Personally (the “college experience”?!?)
- Intellectually (and therefore professionally??)
- Spiritually (lead or be led?, depth or surface?, liberal or conservative?)

WHERE do you want to spend your TIME?

(post-high school options)

BE A LEARNER WHEREVER YOU ARE!

If it's college...

- 2 years or 4 years?
- Hot or Cold?
- Near or Far?
- Big or Small?
- Involved or (merely) Present?

If it's NOT college...

- **BE HONEST!** Do you REALLY want to jump into the workforce or military or ??? while you decide what's next? **TELL SOMEONE!**

WHO or WHAT do you want to IMPACT?
HOW do you want to LIVE?

(self & career exploration)

- Take the time to reflect
- Do the work of analysis
- Know YOU and what God put in you!
- ASK people what they see in you!

WHO or WHAT do you want to IMPACT? HOW do you want to LIVE?

(self & career exploration)

- **Kuder Navigator:** <https://navigator.kuder.com/>

- Activation Code: N4347647MRW

- Username: Password:

- Interests Assessment

- Skills Assessment

- Work Values Inventory

These inventories electronically filter into
Job ideas

Majors that fit the job idea

Schools that fit the major

HOW do you want to LIVE?

(Example...establish your mindset about debt! If the goal is to limit loans, one tool is scholarship resources.)

For “INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS” (given by the college):

- Maintain GPA
- Increase ACT
- Show consistency

HOW do you want to LIVE?

(Example...establish your mindset about debt! If the goal is to limit loans, one tool is scholarship resources.)

For “EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS” (given by various organizations):

- Check the [SENIOR UPDATES + SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES](#) document (click on link) LOCAL scholarship listing (mostly semester 2).
- Create ScholarshipQuest account www.educationquest.org (search ScholarshipQuest)
 - The system then electronically filters a list of scholarships for which you “fit” based on your academics, activities, interests, background, etc.
 - This site also directs you to reputable NATIONAL scholarship sites for your use! (available NOW!)

WHO do you want to BE?

(a pep talk about CHARACTER)

- Decide: Active vs. Passive role in your own life (not “decision by indecision”)
- Ask important questions of people you trust
- Wrestle the amazing “YOU”!
- Be QUIET—
 find a way to hear how God is leading you
- Be FREE! 😊

INVITE & INITIATE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS...

(impact thought processes for decision-making with open communication and TRUST!)

If you need a place to start... 😊

- HOW do you want to LIVE? (lifestyle, finances-who's paying for what after high school, etc.)
- WHERE do you want to spend your TIME? (work?, family?, etc.)
- WHAT and WHOM do you want to IMPACT? (talents, strengths, interests, \$)
- WHO do you want to BE? (character)

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD.

"They are plans for good and not for disaster,
to give you a future and a hope.

In those days when you pray, I will listen.

If you look for Me wholeheartedly,
you will find Me."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

My Prayer for Lincoln Christian Students...

I ASK

—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—

to make you

intelligent and **discerning**

in knowing Him personally,

your eyes **focused** and **clear**,

so that you can...

see exactly what it is that He is calling you to do!

ADAPTED FROM

EPHESIANS 1:17B

THE MESSAGE