

# Graduation 'Collage'

Lutheran High Westland Guidance News Feb 2005 Tim Gieschen, Guidance Director  
"If you are worried about what the future holds, trust HIM who holds the future." tgieschen@lhsa.com



## MI Merit Award

Students must earn a 1 or 2 in all 4 tests to qualify for the \$2500 (\$1000 out of MI) scholarship.

1. Fall retake test scores have been given to seniors.
2. Seniors may retake MEAP April 4 and April 5 at LHWL with the juniors.
3. Students need to certify the award online when the final choice of school is made (*before Nov 15*) [www.michigan.gov/meritaward](http://www.michigan.gov/meritaward). Certification requires your PIN number that was mailed with your award letter. Certification tells the Treasury Department which school should receive your check.
4. You have up to 4 years to use your award if you do not certify for 2005-06.
5. Typically, a \$1250 payment is made each semester of freshman year. Funds are sent directly to the college.
6. If you go out of state, some students have been able to use the \$1500 difference to take summer college classes in MI.
7. The extra \$500 offered for 7th grade MEAP results –is pending, awaiting Legislative funding (*that means it probably will not be approved*)

### To retrieve a PIN or check award status:

Call toll-free: 1-888-4GRANTS

### Write to:

Michigan Merit Award  
P.O. Box 30462  
Lansing MI 48909-7962

## MI Competitive Scholarship

Usually only 2 or 3 LHWL students earn money from this award. It is based on need and ACT scores.

1. Qualify with a Sum score of 90 on ACT
2. You must demonstrate financial need to get money. File your FAFSA by Feb 15.

## Commencement Friday June 3 7:30 pm



Speaker: TBD

1. Pass your required classes. Don't get 2 F's in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. If you don't pass, you don't graduate, and you will not participate in the ceremony.
2. Admission is by ticket only. At graduation practice in late May, each senior will be given **10 chair** tickets and **6 bleacher** tickets.
3. Students with extra tickets should return them to Mr. Schwecke. Families needing more tickets may request (sschwecke@lhsa.com) up to 4 extra bleacher tickets from Mr. Schwecke.
4. Josten's announcement packets will be given to students at school in late April. Any remaining balance must be paid.
5. Cap and Gowns will be given to students at graduation rehearsal during senior exams.
6. The school office usually has a limited number of extra graduation announcements for single sale. (If you need to replace one you ordered due to a mistake OR if you wish to purchase one for a memory book)
7. If you will be printing your own announcements, here is the text:

The Senior Class of  
Lutheran High School Westland  
announces its  
Commencement Service on  
Friday evening, June third at  
Seven-thirty in the evening  
in the  
High School Gymnasium  
Admission by ticket only

8. Class Verse: Psalm 86:2 **"Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God."**

## Senior Exams

IF...

- Seniors do not have a senior skip day
- Seniors do not have a senior prank
- Seniors finish the year with a cooperative and positive attitude

THEN...

- Seniors will take exams May 25-27 and be finished with school before Memorial Day.
- This class will be remembered by students and faculty in a positive and respectful way

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**Only 2 dates remain for ACT testing.** Registration forms are in the Guidance

Office or register online @ [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Test date	Register by	COST	\$28
Sat April 9 (@ LHWL)	Fri March 4		
Sat June 11 (@ LHWL)	Fri May 6		

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## Summer School

Considered taking a summer class at a local University or Henry Ford or Schoolcraft to get a head start on college credits. Forms are available from Mr. Gieschen.

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## Academic Awards Night Wednesday May 11 7:00 pm

Senior scholarships will be presented.

- MI Merit Scholarship
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Individual College Scholarships
- Senior Awards

**Especially if you will be receiving an award, make arrangements to attend.**

1. If you receive a scholarship award, please give a copy of the letter or the certificate to Mr. Gieschen. *Colleges do NOT automatically inform the Guidance Office.*
2. If you have awards from more than one college, we only present the ones you will be using.

## FINANCIAL AID



1. Your **FAFSA** application for government financial aid should be submitted ASAP. Forms are available in the guidance office or file online [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you file online, you will need to file to get a PIN number first at [www.fafsa.pin.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.pin.ed.gov).
2. File by Feb 14 to qualify for State of MI Aid.
3. You will need student AND parent information from your 2004 tax form to complete the FAFSA. If you cannot complete your taxes, you can file a FAFSA with estimated figures, but the actual figures are preferred.
4. Families should receive their **SAR** (Student Aid Report with FAFSA results) in 2-3 weeks if filing online or 4-6 weeks if by paper. Look at the upper right corner of page 1 to find the FC or EFC. This is the family contribution (in dollars) you will be expected to make.
5. Students should receive an Award Letter from each school you have included on the FAFSA. These award letters usually have deadlines for acceptance. If you can't meet a deadline, ask for an extension. You have until May 1 to make a final commitment.
6. After you have decided on a particular school, write to the school(s) you did not select and decline admission and award offers.
7. Questions about financial aid can be directed to the Student Aid Info Ctr 1-800-433-3243

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## Decision Day – May 1

Many students do not make their final college choice until after the award letters are sent in March/April. You should be able to ask college to wait until May 1 for your decision, BUT YOU NEED TO ASK FOR THE EXTENSION.

If they require a housing or enrollment deposit – check to see if it is refundable. Especially for housing, it is advisable to send in a deposit early to secure your choice of dorm.