

Senior Year 'Collage'

Lutheran High Westland Guidance News

Aug 2007

Tim Gieschen, Guidance Director

"If you are worried about what the future holds, trust HIM who holds the future." tgieschen@lhsa.com

MI MERIT EXAM (MME) and the MI PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

The MME includes the ACT, WORKKEYS, and MEAP Math, Science, and Social Studies.

1. Results from the **ACT and WORKKEYS** sections are on the enclosed transcript for your review.
2. Results from the **MEAP Math, Science, and Social Studies** are enclosed in this mailing.
3. **MI Promise Scholarship:** The state has not released the MME scores needed to earn this up to \$4000 Scholarship. Seniors should receive a notification letter in Aug or Sept which will show if the student qualified for the scholarship or if the student needs to retake the MME.
4. **MME Retakes (Oct 27, Oct 30, Oct 31):**
 - a. **ACT:** Some students will be issued payment vouchers to retake the ACT on Sat Oct 27 (same day as Cross Country Regionals and the Conference Volleyball Tournament). Students may also retake the ACT in Sept or Dec to qualify – **but at their own expense.**
 - b. **Workkeys** Students may retake needed sections (you don't need to take the entire test) on **Oct 30** (Testing Day).
 - c. **MI Math, Science, Social Studies** Students may retake needed sections **Oct 30** (Testing Day).
 - d. Students may also retest a 3rd time March 11-13 along with the juniors.

College Representatives Admission representatives will be at LHW to meet with interested students in Sept, Oct, and Nov. Students are responsible for any missed class work.

Individual appointments Seniors may meet with Mr. Gieschen during September and October for application help, or college and career counseling. Appointments should be scheduled during Study Halls (Periods 3,7,8) or before or after school.

Get Set for College Financial Seminar
Monday Jan 14, 2008 7:00pm Parents will receive FAFSA information.

ACT / SAT

Students wishing to improve their admission or scholarship chances may retake the test.



1. Register online (\$30) @ www.actstudent.org You are encouraged to set up a Student Web Account. This year, students will immediately confirm your test date and site and be able to print you admission ticket. Paper registration packets are available in the guidance office if online registration is not possible.
2. Optional writing test (\$14.50) – some colleges (U of M, MI State) require the writing test. Check www.actstudent.org for a list of colleges.

ACT Retakes

<u>Test dates</u>	<u>Register by</u>
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Sat Sept 15(@ LHWL)	Fri Aug 10
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Sat Oct 27 (@ LHWL)	Fri Sept 21
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OCT 27 is the official MME retake date – payment vouchers can be used

Sat Dec 8	Fri Nov 2
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Sat Feb 9	Fri Jan 4
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Sat April 12 (@ LHWL)	Fri March 7
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Sat June 14 (@ LHWL)	Fri May 9
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ACT TEST PREP

1. **Test Prep Courses:** flyers from local agencies offering courses are in the Guidance office. Fees range from \$65 to \$2000.
2. CD or self-study book from a local bookstore
3. **TESTGEAR:** A free online course, funded by the state, gives students up to 30 hours of ACT training. Create a free account by clicking the link on the www.lhwl.lhsa.com homepage.
4. Free ACT practice tests are available in the Guidance Office and @ www.actstudent.org and @ www.princetonreview.com.

TRANSCRIPT

Check your transcript for accuracy. **Note your 3 year (6 semester) cumulative GPA, class rank, and ACT composite score** - you may need this information to complete applications.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

1. **VISIT:** Visit at least 2 campuses in September or October with your parents.
2. **ONLINE APPS** Colleges prefer you to apply online – it is faster and reduces errors. If you apply online, you must **request (in writing) that Mr. Gieschen send your transcript** directly to the college. Most students will apply to 2 or 3 schools.
3. **DEADLINES** Apply during September, October, or November. The more selective the school, the earlier you should apply. Some have early decision deadlines as early as October 15.
4. **FEES** You spend \$30-\$60 for each application. Some schools charge less for online applications.
5. **COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS** Most applications have a section for the counselor to complete (online apps ask you to print a page). I complete my section, enclose your transcript, and mail it all together. Allow 3 days to process.
6. **ESSAYS** Only a few colleges require an essay. If you write it – make it good! See Mr. Gieschen for printed guidelines.
7. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** If your college/scholarship application requires a letter, choose teacher(s) or a coach that knows you well. Give teachers at least 2 weeks notice, give them a stamped addressed envelop and any specific guidelines for what you are applying for.
8. **RECORDS RELEASE** All tuition payments must be current before transcripts are sent.


COMMENCEMENT

Friday June 6 7:00 pm



1. **Participation** Only graduating seniors will participate in the service. Seniors who fail a required class, who do not have 26 credits (reduced for transfers) or who earn 2 or more semester F's during senior year will not participate in Service.
2. **Jostens:** Every senior **MUST** order a Cap and Gown (paid by the school) from the Josten's rep in October. That is also when you **MAY** order formal graduation announcements and senior memorabilia (at your cost)
3. **Tickets:** Admission is by ticket only. Each graduate gets **10 chair** and **6 bleacher** tickets.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

1. Your **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be submitted in **late January or early February**. File online www.fafsa.ed.gov. Before you file online, you will need to file to get a PIN number at www.fafsa.pin.ed.gov. 
2. You will need student AND parent information from your 2007 tax form to complete the FAFSA.
3. Families should receive their **SAR** (Student Aid Report) immediately if filing online.
4. Students should receive an Award Letter from each school you have included on the FAFSA. Decision deadline is May 1.
5. Some schools also require you to file the **PROFILE** form to get a better picture of a family's financial assets.
6. **Scholarships** Check the Guidance section of www.lhwl.lhsa.com periodically to see current scholarship info.

MI COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP

- 1) Don't get too excited if you get a letter from Lansing congratulating you on your ACT score. Annually only 4 or 5 WL students earn money from this scholarship because the award is also based on financial need.
- 2) An ACT sum score of 90 or better (add English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning) qualifies a student for consideration (75% of the class). Filing a FAFSA by Feb 15 is required. Taking the ACT in or before December is required.

Senior grades Colleges will evaluate applicants based on their GPA, test scores, activities, and the strength of your academic classes – including senior year. Some schools will ask for a 7-semester transcript in January. All schools ask for a final transcript in June. Colleges can rescind your acceptance if you have bad senior grades. Mathematically, one good/bad year cannot affect three years of work significantly. Your GPA will likely not change at all or only change a few tenths.