

CAPER NOTES

This newsletter will be available every month online at www.lcmrschools.com. It will contain information about scholarships as well as other information important to seniors and their parents. Most of the local scholarships will be offered after the first of the year. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a copy of the application and to return it completed to the guidance office.

As always students and parents are invited to visit with the Guidance Counselors:

Senior assignment as follows:

Ms. White	All Freshmen
Mr. Courtney	A - E
Ms. Markovitz	F - K
Ms. Nelson	L - Pr
Ms. Novitskie	Pro - Z

IMPORTANT

WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR THE SAT/ACT, YOU MUST LIST OUR HIGH SCHOOL CODE OR SCORES WILL NOT BE SENT TO LCMRHS AND THEREFORE WILL NOT BE LISTED ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT.

**LCMRHS HIGH SCHOOL CODE:
310210**

The testing schedule for the 2011 - 12 school year is listed below.

SAT I & SAT II SUBJECT TESTS

Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 1, 2011	September 9, 2011
November 5, 2011*	October 7, 2011
December 3, 2011	November 8, 2011
January 8, 2012*	December 30, 2011
March 10, 2012	February 10, 2012
May 5, 2012	April 6, 2012
June 2, 2012*	May 8, 2012

*test given at LCMRHS

The cost of the SAT I is \$49.00; the SAT II Subject Tests range varies depending on the test. Late registration dates are available for an additional \$26.00.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

Seniors who plan to attend a four-year college and have not taken a college admissions test need to do so very soon. Those who have tested may choose to retake either test in order to try for a higher score. The registration packets for the SAT I, SAT II Subject, and ACT tests are now available in the Guidance Office or you can register online at www.collegeboard.com/sat or www.act.org. You may check the college catalogs or talk with your counselor if you are unsure which test(s) to take. The high school code number for Lower Cape May Regional High School is **310210**. Students planning to attend a community college will not need to take the SAT or the ACT.

ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011
December 10, 2011*	November 4, 2011
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012

*test given at LCMRHS

The cost of the ACT without the writing component is \$34.00 and with the writing component is \$49.50. Please check the registration packet for test site locations.

ASVAB TESTING

There are opportunities available to young men and women who can qualify for today's ARMED FORCES. Each branch of the military offers programs of training and technical schooling as well as an excellent college scholarship program. Any senior interested in taking the vocational test for the armed services needs to sign up for the test in the Guidance Office.

The test is free and will be administered at LCMRHS on **November 15th**.

ADMISSIONS: EARLY DECISION OPTION

If you are considering early decision for admission, check immediately with your college of choice for their specific requirements. These deadlines are rapidly approaching and you must plan now if this option is important to you.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Now is when you should be in contact with colleges, securing their applications, filling out their applications, and submitting the different kinds of paperwork required. All colleges have deadlines, some in the fall and others early in the new year. Check your catalogs and don't be caught by a passed deadline. **It is your responsibility to determine where you want to apply and what the specific requirements are.**

Information is available in the Counselors' Office to assist you.

Note: It is important that you give teachers and/or counselors 2-3 weeks notice if you want them to write a letter of recommendation. Please plan ahead so you won't miss any deadlines.

COMMON APPLICATION

The Common College Application is available through the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Students need only to complete this application once when applying to any of the participating independent colleges and universities who utilize this form. The list of schools using the common application is available in the Guidance Office.



***** We now have a partnership with Common App and Naviance that allows us to send out transcripts and letters of recommendation electronically. If you are applying to a Common App school, please let your guidance counselor know.**

ATTENTION SENIOR BOYS

You need to register with Selective Service. It is not the Army, it's not the draft, no one's going to your house-it's just one of the things a man's gotta do. If you are 18, you have to register within 30 days of your 18th birthday. It's the law! If you are 17, you can submit registration information and when you're 18, you'll be registered automatically. Registering keeps you eligible for Federal college loans, grants, and student aid in most states. You can register on-line at **www.sss.gov**, you can fill out a registration card at any U.S. Post Office or you can send back the registration card you may have received in the mail. If you have any questions, check with your Guidance Counselor.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK AT?

Admissions officers consider these factors in roughly the following order of importance:

1. Grade Point Average/Difficulty in Curriculum
2. SAT I & SAT II scores
3. Class Rank
4. Application essays
5. Extracurricular activities
6. Recommendations
7. Interviews
8. Intangibles

Of course, every college is different. The larger the school, the less time it has to spend with your application (sometimes less than five minutes). Big state schools rarely reach number three on this list. Small schools may look past weak grades or test scores if they see something special about you.

COLLEGE VISITS AT LCMR

The following schools (next page) will be visiting LCMRHS on the days and at the times listed. There could be additions to this list after the newsletter was sent out so check the bulletin board in Guidance. The bulletin board has the sign-up sheets for the school meetings, but you can also sign up for a visit through NAVIANCE. Sign up and you will receive a pass on the day of the school's visit. This is your opportunity to meet with a representative from the school and to ask any questions you might have.

REMEMBER SCHOOLS ARE BEING ADDED TO THIS LIST DAILY SO KEEP CHECKING THE BOARD AND LISTENING TO THE ACCOUNCEMENTS.

October

10/3	NJIT	10:00 am
10/19	University of Scranton	10:00 am
10/20	UTI	9:00 am
10/21	Widener College	1:00 pm
10/25	Caldwell College	1:00 pm

November

11/2	Nova South Eastern U	1:00 pm
11/7	Montclair University	10:00 am
11/17	Rowan University	9:30 am
11/17	William Patterson	1:00 pm

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE
COLLEGE NIGHT 2011
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
COLLEGE GYMNASIUM

National College Fair in Atlantic City
Thursday, November 3, 2011
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
At the Atlantic City Convention Center

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

As scholarship information is received in the Counselors' Office, it will be publicized through the "Caper Notes" and/or announcements. It is important to pay close attention to information on eligibility criteria, deadlines, etc. If you are interested in any of these scholarships, please contact the Counselors' Office for applications and/or additional information.

IT IS THE STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO:

1. READ THIS NEWSLETTER,
2. OBTAIN THE APPLICATION,
3. FILL OUT THE APPLICATION CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY
4. ATTACH ANY REQUESTED DOCUMENTS OR REQUEST IN WRITING THAT THE DOCUMENTATION BE ATTACHED BY THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
5. RETURN THE APPLICATION TO GUIDANCE PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE SET BY THE GUIDANCE OFFICE.

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship:
\$1000 awarded to a senior with a GPA of 2.8 or higher who demonstrates leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience. Involvement in community service required. Deadline is **November 28, 2011.**

Richard C. Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship:
\$2500 awarded to a senior with a GPA of at least a 2.0 and plans to attend a trade or vocational school after graduation. Deadline is **December 19, 2011.**

Mensa Foundation Scholarship Competition:
Applicants complete an essay that describes his or her career, vocational, or academic goals. Scholarship amounts vary. Deadline is **January 9, 2012.**

SENIORS WHO HAVE ACCUMULATED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS (BOTH SCHOOL RELATED AND NON-SCHOOL RELATED) SHOULD SEE Ms. Markovitz IMMEDIATELY.

Most universities offer scholarships for students planning to attend that school. You should contact the Financial Aid office at each of the schools that you are interested in attending.

College Application Reminders

1. Register and take the SAT or ACT as quickly as possible, if needed. **NOW!**
2. After investigation, narrow your college list to a manageable number. **NOW!**
3. Write, call, fax, or go on-line with each college to request information and applications for admissions, scholarships, financial aid, housing, etc. **NOW!**
4. Complete and submit application for admissions well in advance of deadlines. Do the same for housing, scholarships, and financial aid. **SOON!**
5. Attend the **Financial Aid Meeting on January 11, 2012** at LCMRHS. The **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** will be distributed at the meeting and will be available in the Guidance Office following the meeting. This form is to be mailed on or after January 1, 2012. (Note: some private schools use the CSS Profile application also. Follow your school's instructions)

Remember: The best source of information about a particular college is their own catalog. Also, the best source of financial aid information is the Financial Aid office of the college to which you are applying.

Tips for a Killer Essay

With more colleges asking unique essay questions, the student's job of writing an interesting essay has become more challenging and more time consuming. Those students applying to multiple colleges are no longer able to simply rehash the standard question for each school. Here are seven tips to guide you through the evolving world of the college essay.

1. Treat the essay seriously, but be creative and original.
2. Allow yourself at least a month to think about, write, review, and revise your essay.
3. Outline your ideas first, so you know where you're going.
4. Make sure you answer the question completely, providing specific examples to back up your points.
5. Use your own voice, and don't just respond with what you think a college would like to hear.
6. Get a second opinion on your first draft from a friend, family member, or teacher.
7. Proofread carefully, and submit a neatly typed version.

Test Strategy

•**Get Familiar:** Learn the content and format of the test

•**Practice, practice, practice!!**

•**Get your rest:** Get plenty of sleep the night before the test, and leave yourself enough time to get to the test site. Arrive at least 30 minutes before the exam and bring necessary materials to the test site: admission ticket, photo identification, several pre-sharpened pencils with good erasers, and a calculator.

•**During the test remember to:**

- Read the directions and questions carefully
- Pace yourself
- Answer easy questions first
- Use logical reasoning and process of elimination for tougher questions
- Review your work
- Be precise in marking your answer document
- Erase wrong answers completely

•**The most important advice:**

Stay cool, calm, and collected. Don't let the test stress you out!

www.kaplanpracticetest.com
www.review.com
www.number2.com
www.collegeboard.com>satprep
www.act.org/aap/index.html

SAT vs. ACT

The road to college can be a confusing and hectic one. Choosing the right admissions test to take—SAT or ACT—doesn't have to be. While most colleges across the country accept scores from either test, the SAT and ACT are significantly different, measuring different skills. Check with your guidance counselor and preferred colleges, then use the information below to decide which test is right for you.

SAT

- No science section
- No trigonometry section
- Vocabulary emphasized
- Non multiple-choice questions included
- Guess penalty
- No English grammar
- Math accounts for 50% of your score
- Questions go from easy to hard in most sections
- All of your SAT scores reported to colleges

ACT

- Science reasoning section
- Math sections include trigonometry
- Vocabulary less important
- Entirely multiple choice
- No guessing penalty
- English grammar tested
- Math accounts for 25% of your score
- Easy and hard questions mixed within sections
- Report scores only from the test dates you choose