**Lee County Senior Handbook**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have reached a milestone in your school career –

you are a

**LCHS, LEC, or SLHS SENIOR!**

In this **SENIOR** Handbook, you will find information about...

**S**urviving the Senior Year

**E**ntering the Workforce or the Military

**N**avigating the College Application Process

**I**mproving your SAT/ACT scores and GPA

**O**btaining Money for College

**R**esources you may need throughout the year

Plan to write down information in your **SENIOR** Handbook as the presenter provides it to you, or you find the information yourself. This **SENIOR** Handbook will be a valuable tool for you to use as you move toward graduation, June 2013 and on to life after high school. This booklet was compiled by Sherry S. Andrews, Counseling Department Chair at Lee County High School.

Print your name here:

If your **SENIOR** Handbook is misplaced, we’ll be able to identify you and return it.

**SURVIVING SENIOR YEAR**

 ***Pay Attention To Your ABC’s.***

**ATTENDANCE –** Attend EVERY class, EVERY day, and be ON TIME.

**BEHAVIOR –** Treat EVERYONE with respect. Follow the Rules and Regulations.

Do all your Class work, Homework and Special Projects.

**COMMUNICATE** – with your Teachers, your Guidance Counselor, and your PARENTS!!!

Keep the lines of communication WIDE OPEN! Be polite! Be appreciative!

 ***AVOID Senioritis!***

Keep your eyes on the prize – your diploma – and don’t allow yourself to be infected with that dreaded disease: **Senioritis**! ***You know the symptoms - laziness, not doing school work, “don’t care” attitude, skipping classes or whole days of school, just generally feeling overwhelmed***. If you feel yourself coming down with any of the symptoms of Senioritis, make an appointment with your School Counselor immediately and get a “shot” of encouragement.

 ***Time Management***

**“You have so much to do, and so little time**.” Start from the very beginning of the school year to plan your time wisely. Use your Agenda Book to write down homework assignments, college application deadlines, SAT/ACT test dates, project due-dates, and other important dates to remember. If you have a job, write down your work schedule as soon as you get it so you can plan homework time and ask for time off, if you need it. Time flies – make the most of it!

**ENTERING THE WORKFORCE OR THE MILITARY**

***During High School***

It’s understandable that many students want or need jobs during the senior year to pay for senior expenses like yearbooks, proms, photos, and graduation announcements – or to save for college – or to pay for a car and insurance - or to save to get an apartment after graduation – or simply to help with family expenses. REMEMBER – School must be your top priority this year. To paraphrase a slogan from Ford Motor Company: “**School is** **JOB ONE**!” If you do get a job this year, be sure to talk to your employer about your school priorities and make sure he/she understands that school comes first. Employers support a well-educated, well-trained workforce and will support you in your effort to maintain good grades while working. Give your employer plenty of notice if you need time off because of school commitments, and always keep the lines of communication open.

***After High School***

Some students decide to go straight into the workforce following graduation from high school. If this is your plan, start right now to develop your resume. Consult with your School Counselor or teachers in the Career and Technical Education department about what information should be included, and how to format the document. Ask trusted teachers or other adults in your life, who are not relatives, if they would be willing to serve as references for you on job applications. Write their names and contact information in the “Resources” section of your SENIOR Handbook. Where do you find job leads? The classified section of the newspaper is one place to start. If there is a particular business where you would like to work, dress for success, visit, and ask for an application for employment. Check in the school Career Center for job postings.

***College Fair***

Each year, there is a College Fair for juniors and seniors. A number of colleges send representatives to the school (Dennis Wicker Civic Center) to talk about opportunities with their school. Be sure to dress for success when you attend the College Fair. Our College Day is now a **College Night** scheduled for 6:15pm to 7:30pm on September 26th, 2012. Parents are invited to attend in the Dennis Wicker Civic Center Main Hall on the campus of Central Carolina Community College, which is directly across from Lee County High School.

**Senior Parent Night**

**Same night/same location as College Fair – Wednesday, September 26, 2012/Dennis Wicker Civic Center Auditorium – 5:15 to 6:15 – All Three high schools – parents should plan to attend.**

**Other Local College Fairs**

Sunday, September 16th -2pm to 4pm NCSU McKimmon Center

Monday, September 17th -6:30 to 8pm Elon University Alumni Gym

Wednesday, September -19th 6:30 to 8:30 UNC-Chapel Hill Dean Smith Center

Sunday, September 30th -1 to 4 pm Durham Northgate Mall

Tuesday, October 2nd -5 to 8 pm Greensboro Coliseum Complex

**College Application Week**

We will host **College Application Week November 12th-16th**. During school hours, the Counseling Department will help seniors fill out college applications to all 110 colleges and universities in North Carolina online. Many schools waive the college application fee during this week. Please create an account with CFNC.org prior to this event if you would like to participate. More information will be shared closer to the event.

***What About the U.S. Military?***

Recruiters from the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, plus the National Guard, all visit high schools regularly to share information about career opportunities with students. You can get basic information from them when they visit the school. You will want to include a parent or other adult family member in the discussions about potential service in the military. Recruiters are often willing to meet with students and their families in their homes or at the recruiting center. If you make an appointment with a military recruiter during school hours, it must be during your lunch. If you do not want to meet with a recruiter and you tell him/her so and they continue to call or press you for a meeting, please inform your counselor. Also, Lee County provides an “Opt Out” Form for all students who do not want to be contacted by military recruiters.

**NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS**

***Selecting a College or University***

Many factors influence the decision about what college or university you want to attend. Consider cost, choice of major, school location, campus setting, extracurricular activities available – like sports and music, distance from home, etc. You should also carefully and realistically examine the entrance requirements for the schools you select. How do you measure up? It’s a good idea to narrow your list down to at least five schools. Two schools should be a sure thing – you meet or exceed all the entrance requirements. Another should be a stretch – you meet the minimum entrance requirements, but know the school is very selective – a dream school. The fourth and fifth choices should be somewhere in the middle.

1. Determine the type of college you want to attend: small, large; private, public; commuter, residential; 2-year, 4-year. Think about the environment and class size you feel will be most conducive to your learning.
2. Decide how far from home you are willing to go to school: home each weekend or home once a month; can you afford to fly home; warm climate or cold?
3. **TALK TO YOUR PARENTS; THIS IS A JOINT DECISION!** Are your expectations about college the same or are they different; how much money will they be able to contribute to your college costs; will they go with you to visit various college campuses?
4. What are your academic and extracurricular interests: what major will you pursue; do you want to play a sport in college; do you want to participate in the college newspaper or yearbook staffs?
5. Explore your opportunities: attend the school’s college fair; research on the internet; talk to friends who have attended various colleges.
6. Request information on your colleges by going online: study the admission criteria, major availability, financial assistance.
7. Make college visits: tour, attend classes, talk with admissions counselor, talk with financial aid offices, visit a coach.
8. Prepare for the college interview: know the college, why you want to attend, dress appropriately.
9. Complete online applications two weeks prior to the first deadline: know application deadlines, only send in neat applications, make sure the guidance office has several weeks to help you with your applications.
10. Choose an admission offer: keep your grades up because no acceptance is final until the college has received the final transcript at the conclusion of your senior year; you are also responsible for letting colleges know when you have changed your high school schedule in the second semester.

***Applying to College***

Once you’ve decided where you want to apply, explore the application process. Most schools now have online applications, and they want you to apply in this manner. You may wish to print a copy of the blank application, fill it out on paper and then transfer the information to the online form. (This practice is what is recommended.) If you choose to apply online, be sure to print a copy of your application BEFORE you hit the “send” button! Of course, schools also accept applications submitted through the mail. The counselor’s office has copies of applications for area colleges and universities, or you may print an application from the schools’ website or CFNC.org. Always, use blue or black ink and write or print neatly. Make a copy of your application before you mail it. Don’t forget to include the application fee.

Some schools now accept the common application – most schools prefer their own application.

***Transcripts***

Your college application is not complete until the college receives an official copy of your high school transcript. A transcript is sent at the time of application and at the conclusion of your senior year. Your transcript is a record of all the classes you have taken in high school, the grades you earned, your cumulative grade point average, and your school testing data. Your transcript is considered “official” if it goes directly from the high school to the college admissions office in a sealed envelope (DO NOT open the sealed transcript!) along with your application. It is your responsibility to mail all applications and transcripts!

Or – Use the process for electronically delivering your transcript to a college through CFNC.org. \*\*Currently, to obtain an official transcript, you must fill out a transcript request form (available in the Guidance Office) and submit it to counseling secretary. The transcripts during your senior year are free (and for 6 months after graduation); however, once the six months term is over each transcript requested will cost $3.00. *\*\*It is important to allow processing time of at least one week (five business days)* for each transcript request. \*Please Note the following: If your college application has a section that your counselor must fill out, then the counselor will automatically send a transcript with that form. Therefore, you will not need to request a transcript for that application! Additionally, during second semester, the counseling office will have each senior complete a senior intent form, which names the college/university that you have chosen to attend in the Fall of 2013. At the end of your senior year, the counseling office will automatically send a final transcript to the college/university that you listed.

***Recommendations***

Some colleges and universities require recommendations from your Guidance Counselor, one or more teachers, or other adults who know you and your potential well. Be aware that many students will be asking the same people to write recommendations. Ask early, well ahead of application deadlines…at least two weeks. If the recommendation should be sent directly to the college, provide a stamped, addressed envelop to the person writing the recommendation. (Exception: your Guidance Counselor. His/her recommendation will be included with the official transcript). If the recommendation is to be included with your application, ask the writer to seal the envelope and sign across the flap**. DO NOT open it!** Recommendations are considered to be confidential information. **See end of booklet for more information concerning recommendations.**

***Essays***

Some colleges and universities require you to write an essay as part of the application process. Don’t procrastinate on this! Unless the instructions indicate, you should NOT handwrite your essay; type it on a computer. Do not forget to use spell-check! Write your essay with strong emphasis on your intellectual and creative interests, your personal strengths, and what is special about you. Ask your English teacher, school counselor, or other trusted adult to proofread your essay. Keep a copy of your essay. By the way, if the application says optional essay, do it!!!!

***Deadlines***

**Beat** deadlines, don’t just meet them. Remember that your School Counselor has to process applications for dozens of other seniors, too, in addition to completing other job responsibilities. Plan to submit applications, transcript request forms, requests for recommendations, etc., at least three weeks before the application deadline(s)…a month before would be even better. Don’t even think of running to the office on the day an application is due, with your transcript request form in hand, needing a recommendation!!! When you beat the application deadlines, the ball is in the college’s court – you simply sit back and wait for your acceptance letters to arrive. **The counseling office recommends getting all of your applications submitted prior to October 1st, and no later than October 15th**, which is three to four weeks prior most college deadlines of Novemeber 1st. Use an agenda to keep up with dates!!!!!

 ***NCAA Clearinghouse***

If you are an athlete who wants to play sports in college, you should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse online at **www.eligibilitycenter.org**. There are some significant changes in the registration process and eligibility requirements. Check with your Coach or your School Counselor if you have questions. Registration is currently $65.00 (can be paid by credit card or debit card) and you must print off two sheets of paper that must be given to your school counselor. This process should be taken care of no later than the beginning of your senior year. You must send your SAT/ACT scores. The SAT/ACT clearinghouse code is: 9999.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

**Your Personal Email Address**

Some of your current email addresses are **INAPPROPRIATE** to use as you apply for college and scholarships. Please set-up a new email address to use your senior year to list on your high school resumes, college applications, and scholarship applications. You can keep your current email address for personal use, but it should not be used for college-related items. **Bad emails are: bigdaddy@..., sexymomma@..., These are NOT APPROPRIATE!**

**Senior Transcripts: Senior Transcripts will be updated by October 1. Any transcript requested prior to October 1 is not updated for the the 2012-13 school year. Please be patient – go ahead and complete applications but request transcripts for 10/01/2012.**

**What Do Colleges Look For in Potential Students?**

Meeting minimum course requirements does not automatically gain you admission to a college or university. Students most competitive for admission will exceed these minimum standards. If you go to CFNC.org then click on *Plan* → *For College* → *Explore Postsecondary Schools*, you can browse every school in NC and view various facts, including average student’s GPA & SAT/ACT in the current freshman class.

**In addition to the minimum requirements, the College/University admission committee will consider the following:**

a. The difficulty of the coursework you have taken (this includes senior year)\

b. The grades you make (Through the end of junior year – unless waitlisted then they want 1st semester grades too!

c. GPA and Class Rank
d. Your standardized test scores (SAT and/or ACT – Colleges/Universities convert ACT scores to SAT score – guidance counselors have the conversion chart)
e. Your extracurricular, school or community activities, talents, interests, work experience or life experiences - Most colleges do not evaluate the number of activities you are involved in but are more concerned with the level of commitment you have demonstrated for those in which you are involved.

f. Personal essay - even if it says optional you should do it

g. Recommendations – not all need recommendations – ask your counselor – need no more than three!!

**Three Major Terms to know for College Admissions:**

**Early Action** – best plan – just gives you an early answer

**Early Decision** – If you get accepted, you are signing a contract that you will go to that school and you are withdrawing all other college applications.

**Regular Decision** – in the pile with all the rest - decision is later

***College Application Checklist (make as many copies of this page as you need)***

This form will help you keep track of your college application process and help you beat those deadlines! We’ve included three copies of this checklist. Feel free to make copies of this page if you need more.

***College***

***Address***

***Website***

***Phone Email***

***Application method (circle one) On-line Mail***

***Application Deadline***

***Date Application Submitted***

***Date Transcript Request Submitted***

***Recommendation(s) Required? Yes No***

***Requested Recommendations from…***

 ***Received Mailed***

*Name of person date date*

 ***Received Mailed***

*Name of person date date*

 ***Received Mailed***

*Name of person date date*

 ***Received Mailed***

*Name of person date date*

***Essay Required? Yes No***

***Notes***

**IMPROVING YOUR SAT SCORES AND GPA**

One of the best ways to improve your SAT Scores is to improve your GPA – get good grades! If you are studying hard and doing well in school, you should do well on the SAT/ACT tests. But there are some strategies to improving your scores. SAT/ACT scores have become a more important part of the application process than three years ago. Visit the following websites for assistance with these tests: collegeboard.com, act.org, ncvps.org.

 ***Improving Your GPA***

College and universities will be making an initial admission decision based on your cumulative grade point average (GPA) from the end of your junior year or the end of the first semester of senior year. It is very important to maintain good grades and a rigorous course schedule through the end of your senior year. College admissions officers don’t like to see students slacking off during the senior year, because they know the course work will be harder at the college level. **Colleges can also retract an offer of admission if your grades drop during second semester of your senior year.** In other words, they can deny a student’s previous acceptance. You should work very hard to get the best grades possible in the most advanced courses possible. Colleges like to see A’s and B’s on transcripts!

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If you make schedule changes after you have sent in an application and transcript, it is your responsibility to notify the college or university of the change(s). 2nd Semester schedule changes will not occur until the counselor receives verification from a college admissions counselor that the change will be allowed. If you do not notify them, they may see that as a breech of contract and deny your admittance.**

[***www.collegeboard.com***](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Visit the College Board website and check out the free SAT Tips and Practice Tests online. There is a wealth of information, including online registration for SAT tests, at this website.

 ***Computer Programs***

The Media Center computers in the school have self-guided programs to help you improve your SAT test-taking skills and familiarize yourself with the format of the SAT test. Check in the Media Center to find out how to access these computer programs.

 ***Books and CD’s***

There are many books and CD’s on the market that are geared toward improving SAT scores. Learning good test-taking strategies, familiarizing yourself with the format of the test, and actually taking practice tests are some techniques you may use to improve your scores. Knowing how to take the test when you walk into the test center is crucial!

***SAT Testing Schedule 2012-2013 www.collegeboard.com***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test Dates** | **Tests Offered** |
|  |  | **U.S. Regular****Postmarked Deadline** | **U.S. Late Postmarked Deadline(**[**fee applies**](http://www.collegeboard.com/prof/counselors/tests/sat/dates_fees/addl_fees.html) **$27.00 additional)** |
| October 6, 2012\*Offered at Lee County HS | SAT & Subject Tests | September 7, 2012 | September 21, 2012 |
| November 3, 2012 | SAT & Subject Tests | October 4, 2012 | October 19, 2012 |
| December 1, 2012\*Offered at Lee County HS | SAT & Subject Tests | November 1, 2012 | November 16, 2012 |
| January 26, 2013 | SAT & Subject Tests | December 28, 2012 | January 11, 2013 |
| March 9, 2013\*Offered at Lee County HS | SAT only | February 8, 2013 | February 22, 2013 |
| May 4, 2013\*Offered at Southern Lee HS | SAT & Subject Tests | April 5, 2013 | April 19, 2013 |
| June 1, 2013 | SAT & Subject Tests | May 2, 2013 | May 17, 2013 |

# *SAT Fees 2012-2013*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test** | **Fees** |
| **SAT Reasoning Test**  | $50.00 |
| **SAT Subject Tests**Basic registration feeLanguage Tests with ListeningAll other Subject Tests  | $23.00add $23.00add $12.00 |
| **Registration Services** (add to total test fees) |  |
| **Late registration fee** | $27.00 |
| **Re-registration by telephone** | $15.00 |
| **Standby/Waitlist testing fee** | $44.00 |
| **Change test, test date, or test center fee** | $26.00 |
|  **Fees for Receiving Scores**  |  |
| **Scores by Web and Official Score report mailed** | Free |
| **Scores by telephone** | $15.00 |
| **Extra score reports – beyond the 4 Free** | $11.00 |
| **Rush Order (per order)** |  $31.00 |
| **Archived Score Report (older per order)** |  $30.00 |
|  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***At this point, seniors should have at least two Junior year scores and should plan to take at least one senior year score. Colleges will take the best Math score and best Critical Reading score from any test taken. The writing score is NOT used for admission – it is used for English placement. If a student hasn’t taken an SAT or ACT, he/she needs to take two this Fall!*** ***REMEMBER! SAT isn’t the only test accepted by colleges. If a student has struggled with testing before, it might be better if they try the ACT Test. WHY? ACT is an achievement test and a student can answer all questions without penalty for a wrong answer! Students attending a 2 year college or community college do not need to take an SAT even if they plan to go on to a 4 year college.******ACT Testing Schedule 2012-2013 www.act.org***  |  |  |
|  **Test Date** | **Registration Deadline** | ***(***[***Late Fee Required***](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/actfees.html)***- $22.00)*** |
| September 8, 2012 | August 17, 2012 | August 18 - 24, 2012 |
| \*October 27, 2012 **@LCHS** | September 11, 2012 | September 22 – October 5, 2012 |
| \*December 8, 2012 **@LCHS** | November 2, 2012 | November 3 - 16, 2012 |
| February 9, 2013 | January 11, 2013 | January 12 – 18, 2013 |
| \*April 13, 2013 **@LCHS** | March 8, 2013 | March 9 - 22, 2013 |
| June 8, 2013 | May 3, 2013 | May 4 - 17, 2013 |

**2012–2013 ACT Fees**

All fees are **nonrefundable** unless otherwise noted.

**$50.50 Registration fee ACT Plus Writing**

Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four colleges requested at registration.

**+ $11.00 each 5th and 6th college choices**

Requested as part of registration; refundable if you do not test.

Find out how much it costs to [send your scores](http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/costs.html) after you've tested.

**+ $22.00 Late fee**

Stand by testing +43.00

Test date and test center Change each $21.00

Viewing Scores online is FREE

**Lee County High School Code is: 343518**

**Lee Early College Code is: 343510**

**Southern Lee High School Code is: 343524**

**for both the SAT & ACT ! This code is also known as the CEEB Code on college applications.**

**\*Waivers for Testing/College Applications**

You may qualify to get waivers for tests like the SAT and ACT if you have any of the following:

* Medicaid
* Reduced/Free lunch
* AFDC

Bring proof that you qualify for one of the above-listed programs to Ms. Riley in the counseling office, and she will gladly provide you with the information for such waivers. If you do qualify for the testing waiver, then you automatically qualify for “4” fee waivers for college applications.

**\*NOTE: Two Year College Folks!** You will need to take the placement test at your respective college. There is no need for you to take the SAT/ACT unless you are applying to a 4-year college.

**College Visitation Forms**

Each senior gets **one** College Day to use to explore the colleges where he/she is interested in attending or to take the ASVAB test if you plan to go into the military. This absence does not count against you. It does not matter when you take the college day. However, please call the college to make an appointment first and then bring a written note to attendance from your parent/guardian authorizing permission for you to miss school on the date of your appointment for the purpose of visiting a college campus. Pick up a college day form from attendance and return your College Day form to **Attendance before 8:00 am** the next school day. You are responsible for making up all missed work according to each teacher’s specifications.

Seniors should make use of other days in the school calendar to make college visits. These days are: October 17th Early Release: November 6, 2012 – Teacher Workday; November 12, 2012 and November 21, 2012 – Student Holidays; January 18, 2013 – Teacher Workday; January 21st, 22nd Student Holiday and Teacher Workday; February 15th, 2013 – Early Release Day. These dates make excellent days to visit colleges without missing school. Plan! Plan early! Plan Now!

**A Few College Open House Dates which have been announced:**

**GO TO THE COLLEGE WEBSITE & REGISTER!**

**16 Public Colleges in the UNC SYSTEM -**

**Appalachian State University -** Open House is Sept. 22nd

**East Carolina University -** Open House is Nov. 10th

**Elizabeth City State University –** Open House is Oct. 27th

**Fayetteville State University** – not announced - check website frequently

**North Carolina A & T State University** – not announced – check website frequently

**North Carolina Central University** – Open House is: Sept. 13th, 17th, 19th, 22nd, and 23rd

**North Carolina State University’s** Open House is Oct. 13th

 **NCSU Ag Institute** – Many visitation dates. You must register 2 weeks in advance. See their website for more info. **UNC-Asheville -**  Open House is Sept. 28th and Oct. 13th

**UNC-Chapel Hill** Tours by appointment

**UNC-Charlotte -** Open House is Oct. 20h & Nov. 10th

 **UNC-Greensboro** – Open House is Oct. 20th

**UNC-Pembroke -** Open House is Nov 17th

**UNC-School of the Arts –** Sept. 28 Filmmaking; Oct. 5 Dance & Visual Arts; Oct. 26 Design & Production; Nov. 2 Drama; & Nov. 16 Music

**UNC-Wilmington –** Open House is Sept. 29th

**Western Carolina University –** Open HouseisSept. 15th and Nov 10th

**Private North Carolina Colleges and Universities -**

**Barton College -** Open House is Nov 17th

**Belmont-Abbey College -** Open House is Sept. 22nd

**Brevard College -** Open House is Oct. 1st, Oct. 27th, Oct. 29th, Nov. 10th, and Nov. 12th

**Bennett College –** Individual Tours Offered

**Campbell University -** Open House is Oct. 6th, Oct. 26th, and Nov. 12th

**Catawba College -** Open House is Sept 22nd, Nov. 3rd

**Chowan University -** Open House is Oct. 13th, Nov. 10th, and Dec. 8th

**Davidson College -** Open House is Sept 22nd and Oct 21st

**Duke University -**  Call for tour reservations

**Elon University –** Open House is Oct. 27th, and Nov. 17th

**Gardner-Webb University –** Not announced – check website frequently

**Greensboro College** – Sept. 15th

**Guilford College -** Open House is Oct. 1st, Oct. 26th, Nov. 3rd, Nov. 10th

 **High Point University’s** Open House is Sept . 22nd, Oct. 8th, Nov. 3rd

**Johnson C. Smith –** Call to set up tour

**Johnson & Wales University -** Open House is Sept. 22nd

 **Lees-McRae College** – Sept. 29th , Nov. 17th

 **Lenior-Rhyne University –** Open House is Nov 12th

**Livingstone College –** Individual Tours offered

**Louisburg College** (Junior College) – Open House Dates to be announced

**Mars Hill College –** Open House is Sept. 15th

 **Meredith College -** Open House is Sept. 22nd, Oct. 29th

 **Methodist University** is open every Sat. for visits

 **Montreat College -**  Individual Tours by appointment

**Mount Olive College –**  Open House is Nov. 12th

**Pfeiffer University –** Open House is Nov. 12th

**Queens University** – Open House is Oct. 13th, Nov. 10th

**Saint Andrews Presbyterian College -** Open House is Oct. 20th, Nov. 17th

**Shaw University –** Individual Tours offered

**St. Augustine –** Individual Tours offered

**Wake Forest University –** Reservations are required for campus visits

**Warren Wilson College -** Open House is Nov. 10th

**William Peace University** – Oct. 27th, Nov. 12th

**Wingate University** -Individual Tours offered

**OBTAINING MONEY FOR COLLEGE or OTHER EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL**

Rising tuition costs dictate that most students will need to get some sort of financial aid to pay for their education beyond high school. Unless your family just won the lottery, you will need to apply for financial aid and/or scholarships in order to pay for college.

***What is Financial Aid?***

Financial aid is simply money that comes from someplace other than your family’s pockets or bank accounts to pay for your education. It can come in several forms.

**GRANTS** – usually need-based; family and student income is often considered; you are not required to pay back a grant.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** – usually awarded for excellence – in academics, athletics, the arts; you are not required to pay back a scholarship, but you may have to maintain a certain grade point average to keep the scholarship or renew it.

**LOANS** – this is money you or your family borrows. Loans must be paid back by the person taking out the loan. If it is the student, repayment usually begins after graduation from college.

Financial aid comes from a variety of sources: the federal government, the state government, colleges and universities, civic groups, churches, individuals, etc.

***FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid***

The federal government offers money to help students pay for college. To access it, you must fill out a FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form is available on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) – and can be submitted online or by mail. FAFSA forms should not be submitted until after January 1st of the year you plan to attend college and prior to March 1. Be sure to familiarize yourself with this process, because the FAFSA is your KEY to obtaining grant or loan money to pay for college. Do **NOT** pay for a service of this nature! You can do this! At this time, you and a parent must obtain a FAFSA pin number. Go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to receive your pins, and then place the numbers in a place that you can go to year after year because this will be your number each year you are in college.

**Financial Aid Night**

The Counseling Department will host a financial aid night on Monday, December 3rd to help parents and students understand the financial aid process. This program will be at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center at 6:30pm in the auditorium.

**FAFSA Day – 2/16/2013**

On Saturday, February 16, 2013 North Carolina’s high school seniors and their families will have the opportunity to get free assistance completing and electronically submitting their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. Central Carolina Community College will host this event from 9 am-12 noon. **Registration for this event is strongly encouraged just type in FAFSA Day on the web and CFNC will come up on the screen. Registration begins in October 2012. The meeting, if prepared by taking the items listed below and completing the FAFSA online prior to the meeting, will take approximately 30 minutes.**

**Take the following with you to your meeting:**

1. **Social Security Numbers – parents and student**
2. **FAFSA Pin numbers – parents and student**
3. **Student’s drivers license**
4. **If not a US Citizen – your Alien Registration Number**
5. **Federal Tax information such as 2011 and/or 2012 tax returns, 2013 w2s for student and parents**
6. **Records about untaxed income: social security benefits, Temporary assistance for needy families, non-educational veterans benefits, child support received**
7. **Balances for cash, checking, and saving accounts**
8. **Value of investments, business, and farm assets**

***Scholarships***

The Counselor’s office maintains a list of available scholarships, applications and contact information. Be sure to follow the instructions for applying carefully, and beat the deadlines. Most scholarships will require an official copy of your transcript. Some require recommendations (select these individuals carefully, and many require that you write an essay (have someone check this paper over for you).

Another valuable tool for scholarships is Fastweb, which is available online at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). This source is time consuming, but is well worth the effort. Parents need to have the emails sent to them so that they can filter which scholarships they want their senior to apply for – don’t just go for the big ones, which is what most do. Look at the $200.00 and $500.00 dollar scholarships as well.

**Scholarship INFO at each high school in Lee County…**

\*At Lee County High School: Check the Scholarship Newsletter, “The Buzz,” that is regularly updated as scholarships come into the guidance office. The Buzz is distributed to all teachers to post in all classrooms, and it is available online at <http://www.lee.k12.nc.us/schools/lchs/index.html> or call Mrs. Dietrich at LCHS.

\*At Lee Early College Contact: Check the website at http://www.leeearlycollege.com/ for regular updates or call Mrs. Murray at LEC.

\*At Southern Lee High School: Check the website at http://schoolwires.net/guidance for all scholarship info which is updated regularly and check the student newspaper published every three weeks or call guidance at SLHS.

**School RESOURCES at Lee County High School:**

My School Counselor is: ~ **Mrs. Victoria Dietrich** ~ Students with Last Names ~ **A - H**

 ~ **Ms. Denise Riley** ~ Students with Last Names ~ **I - R**

 ~ **Ms. Sherry Andrews** ~Students with Last Names ~ **S - Z**

 ~ **Ms. Rosana Medan** ~ **ESL Students grades 9-12**

 ~ **Ms. Allison Poole** ~ **Career Development Coord. 9-12**

My Guidance Counselor’s email is: vdietrich.ls@lee.k12.nc.us

 driley.ls@lee.k12.nc.us

 sandrews.ls@lee.k12.nc.us

 rmedan.ls@lee.k12.nc.us

 apoole.ls@lee.k12.nc.us

My High School mailing address is: **Lee County High School**

 **1708 Nash Street**

 **Sanford, NC 27330**

My Guidance Department phone number is: **919-776-7541 ext. 4206**

My Guidance Department FAX number is: **919-718-7173**

My school CEEB school code is: **343518**

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**School RESOURCES at Lee Early College:**

My School Counselor is: ~ **Ms. Corina Murray – All LEC Students**

My Guidance Counselor’s email is: **cmurray.lec@lee.k12.nc.us**

My High School mailing address is: **Lee Early College**

 **1105 Kelly Drive**

 **Sanford, NC 27330**

My Guidance Department phone number is: **919-888-4502 ext. 101**

My Guidance Department FAX number is: **919-888-4502**

My school CEEB school code is: **343510**

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**School RESOURCES at Southern Lee High School:**

My School Counselor is: ~ **Vacant Position ~** Students with Last Names ~ **A - H**

 ~ **Ms. Rachel Dial ~** Students with Last Names ~ **I - R**

~ **Mr. Gary Hart ~** Students with Last Names ~ **S - Z** ~ **Ms. Rosana Medan** ~ **ESL Students grades 9-12**

 ~ **Mr. Trevor Bradian**  ~ **Career Development Coord 9-12**

My Guidance Counselor’s email is: ghart.sl@lee.k12.nc.us

 rdial.sl@lee.k12.nc.us

 Vacant position

 rmedan.ls@lee.k12.nc.us

 tbradian.sl@lee.k12.nc.us

My High School mailing address is: **Southern Lee High School**

 **2301 Tramway Road**

 **Sanford, NC 27332**

My Guidance Department phone number is: **919-718-2400 ext. 2404**

My Guidance Department FAX number is: **919-718-2410**

My school CEEB school code is: **343524**

**SAMPLE RESUME for recommenders and colleges/universities**

**Susie Senior Success SS###-##-####(optional but useful)**

**101 College Drive**

**Sanford, NC 27330**

**susiessuccess@mindspring.net**

**Colleges Applying for: I need the recommendations by 09/28/2011.**

High Point University

Guilford College

Queens College

NCSU

UNC-P

**Degree:** English/History with Secondary Education and minor in Coaching

**GPA Weighted: 4.368**

**GPA Unweighted: 3.937**

**Class Rank: 12/334**

**Highest SAT Scores:**

Critical Reading - 530

Math - 550

Writing - 500

**Highest ACT Scores:**

English - 24

Math - 25

Reading - 22

Science - 23

Writing - 20

Composite - 22

**9th Grade**

**Academics:**

A Honor Roll each quarter

Perfect Attendance

**Clubs and Organizations:**

Science Club (Vice President)

Key Club,

**Athletics:**

Varsity Volleyball (Most Improved)

JV Basketball (Captain)

**Community Involvement:**

Brick City Volleyball 16U (Captain)

Sanford Lighting Softball 16U (Captain)

Member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church and Youth Group

**10th Grade:**

**Academics:**

A Honor Roll each quarter

Perfect Attendance

Science Award

Math Award

**Clubs and Organizations:**

Science Club (Vice President)

Student Government - Sophomore Class Representative

Yearbook Staff

**Athletics:**

Varsity Volleyball (MVP)

Varsity Basketball

Varsity Softball (MVP)

**Community Involvement:**

Brick City Volleyball 18U (Captain)

Sanford Lighting Softball 18U (Captain)

Member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church and Youth Group

Volunteer at PTA Thrift Shop

**Grade 11:**

**Academics:**

A Honor Roll each quarter

Perfect Attendance

Science Award

National Honor Society

Creative Writing Award

Marshal at Graduation Events

**Clubs and Organizations:**

Science Club (Vice President)

Key Club (President)

FCA

**Athletics:**

Varsity Volleyball (Captain, MVP, All County, All Conference)

Varsity Basketball

Varsity Softball (Captain, MVP, All County, All Conference)

**Community Involvement:**

Brick City Volleyball 18U (Captain)

Sanford Lighting Softball 18U (Captain)

Member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church and Youth Group

Youth Group Leader

Volunteer at local school tutoring two days a week in math and science

**Grade 12:**

**Academics:**

A Honor Roll each quarter

Perfect Attendance

Science Award

National Honor Society

Peer Tutor in math and science

**Clubs and Organizations:**

Science Club (Vice President)

Key Club (President)

FCA

**Athletics:**

Varsity Volleyball (Captain)

Varsity Basketball

Varsity Softball (Captain)

**Community Involvement:**

Brick City Volleyball 18U (Captain)

Sanford Lighting Softball 18U (Captain)

Member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church and Youth Group

Youth Group Leader

Volunteer at local school tutoring two days a week in math and science

Volunteer at PTA Thrift Shop

Volunteer at Hillhaven Nursing Home

***References and Recommendations***

1. *No more than three recommendations are needed and some do not need any.*
2. *Choose your recommenders carefully. You want someone who will say nice things about you.*
3. *When you ask for a recommendation, have the following prepared on one sheet of paper:*
	* *give the address of institution or scholarship committee and who it should be addressed to*
	* *date in which it needs to be postmarked and/or returned*
	* *give the recommender at least two weeks notice*
	* *have a list of school and community activities, honors, awards, and employment typed by year to give the recommender for the last four years with your name and SS# for identifying information.*

*\*See attached sample.*

1. *Ask the recommender to include the following information about you;*
	* *GPA and class rank*
	* *overall attitude toward learning*
	* *character and morals*
	* *uniqueness - What makes you special?*
2. *Write a thank you note to each recommender.*

**Teachers** who have agreed to write recommendations for me are:

1.

*(Mr. Mrs. Ms.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name Subject*

*Address City State Zip*

Phone Email

2.

*(Mr. Mrs. Ms.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name Subject*

*Address City State Zip*

Phone Email

3.

*(Mr. Mrs. Ms.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name Subject*

*Address City State Zip*

Phone Email

**The Seasons of the Senior Year**

**Senior Timeline 2012-13:**

**Phase 1 – The summer Pre-Senior Year**

 -Visit lots of colleges Public and Private; 2yr and 4yr

 -Have a face to face with college admissions office and financial aid office

 -Create a list of 5 to 10 colleges you are considering

 -Begin fastweb.com (fill out survey)

 -Work on a student resume – yearly accomplishments and activities (example in handbook)

**Phase 2 – The Fall of the Senior Year**

 -Sign up to take the October SAT and/or the ACT (also in November and December)

 -Get Fee Waivers if you qualify school counselor (LCHS: Riley; SLHS: Hart; LEC: Murray)

 -Attend College Night on September 26th, 2012 6pm to 7:30pm at Dennis Wicker Civic Center

 -Get a FAFSA pin number for financial aid for both you and a parent at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

 -Begin the college application process (apply to at least 5 colleges) and try to complete by

 October 15th; except for colleges that you can apply to free during college application

 week in November (list available on cfnc.org – October 1st)

 -Begin the scholarship search through fastweb.com

 -Register for NCAA clearinghouse if you are going to try to play a college sport at

 eligibilitycenter.org

 -Use your college day and other days available to students such as teacher workdays to

 visit colleges (see handbook)

 -Attend Open Houses at colleges (see handbook)

**Phase 3 – The Winter of the Senior Year**

 -SAT II Testing (January) if required by college such as NCSU and UNC-Chapel Hill

 -Parents and students need to complete 2012 tax forms early January

 -Attend FAFSA Day at CCCC on Saturday, Feb. 16th (see handbook)

 -Fill our FAFSA online prior to March 1, 2013 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

 -Continue Scholarship hunting

**Phase 4- The Spring of the Senior Year**

 -Local scholarships are out – see your school’s counselor

 -Make a college decision by May 1st and send enrollment deposit into college

**Phase 5 – The Second Summer of the Senior Year**

 -Gather immunization info from doctors to send to college

 -Fill out health forms

 -Attend college orientations, Register for college classes

 -Parents set a budget for college dorm supplies and go buy

 -Pick a meal plan

 -Set a monthly budget for spending money while at college

 -Finalize financial aid package with college and pay bill by deadline

**\*\*Also, remember at age 18 you should register for the Selective Service at** [**www.sss.gov**](http://www.sss.gov)