

Senior Handbook

Class of 2019



Hatton High School

Hatton High School

6909 AL HWY 101
Town Creek, AL 35672
Phone 256-685-4010
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Administration

Anthony Inman, Principal
Sonya Kilpatrick, Asst. Principal

ainman@lawrenceal.org
smkilpatrick@lawrenceal.org

Guidance Office

John Hill, Guidance Counselor

johnhill@lawrenceal.org

School website: <https://www.lawrenceal.org/Domain/12>

- Announcements posted on a regular basis
- Guidance page includes senior handouts and diploma information
- INOW Home link to student grades and attendance

INOW Home access: <http://inow-lawrenceco.asc.edu/informationnow>

- First registration box: username is parent; password is STIhome.
- INOW sign on page: use student's username and password
- A parent user guide is posted on the school website.

Helpful College and Financial Aid Resources

***NOTE: These services are all free. Never pay for financial aid searches or college/scholarship search sites!!!!**

www.alcareerinfo.org provides college scholarship, financial aid, and career information

stars.troy.edu prepares a transfer contract for students who will transfer to a 4-year college from a 2-year

college. It guarantees that your credits will be applied toward your degree when you transfer.

www.scholarships.com provides scholarship lists year-round

www.fastweb.com creates a personalized student account to scholarship information

www.college.gov provides general college information for any college in US

www.alstudentaid.com provides college / financial information for Alabama colleges

www.fafsa.ed.gov official website to apply for financial aid

www.onetonline.org, www.careerkey.com, and www.mymajors.com provide a college search and degree information

Diploma Plan for Class of 2019

Alabama High School Diploma

Graduation Requirements	Course Pathways	
English Language Arts <i>4 credits required</i>	<u>Pathway 1</u> English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	<u>Pathway 2</u> Pre-AP English 9 Pre-AP English 10 AP English Language Composition AP English Literature Composition
Mathematics <i>4 credits required: must include completion of Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II</i>	<u>Pathway 1</u> Algebra I Geometry Algebraic Connections Algebra II Algebra w/Finance	<u>Pathway 2</u> Pre-AP Algebra I Pre-AP Geometry Pre-AP Algebra II with Trigonometry PreAP-Calculus (or skip to AP if senior year) <u>5th year Math options:</u> AP Calculus OR AP Computer Science OR Statistics OR College Math course (will not count toward GPA)
Science <i>4 credits required: must include a Biological science, a Physical Science, and 2 additional sciences</i>	<u>Pathway 1</u> Biology Chemistry Anatomy Environmental	<u>Pathway 2</u> Pre-AP Biology Pre-AP Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology
Social Studies <i>4 credits required; must include World, 2 credits US, ½ credit Gov, and ½ credit Econ</i>	World History US History I OR Pre-AP US History US History II OR AP US History Government (1 semester) and Economics (1 semester)	
Other Required Courses	<p style="text-align: center;">Health (half-credit course)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>LIFE PE*</u> (Lifetime Fitness Education)—one credit (all-year course) *One JROTC credit may be used to meet this requirement</p> <p><u>Career Preparedness Course</u> (one credit) Includes elements of Computer Application, Career / Academic Planning, and Financial Literacy. Also encompasses the online learning requirement. (May show on your transcript as Comp App .5 from 8th grade, and Career Prep-B .5 from 9th grade).</p>	

	<p><u>Career Tech and / or Foreign Language and /or Arts Education (at least 3 credits)</u> Students choose at least 3 courses (3 credits) from among these areas. Any combination from these areas is accepted, but students are encouraged to complete at least 2 courses in sequence.</p>
Electives	Electives are chosen each year to compliment college and career goals
TOTAL CREDITS	26 required for Graduation

Course Weight Policy August 2014 and following:

Pre-AP Courses: Numeric Grade +5 calculated toward Numeric GPA (.5 added to 4.0 scale)
AP Courses: Numeric Grade +10 calculated toward Numeric GPA (1.0 added to 4.0 scale)

Course Weight Policy prior to August 2014:

Pre-AP Courses Numeric Grade multiplied by 1.1 toward Numeric GPA
AP Courses Numeric Grade multiplied by 1.2 toward Numeric GPA

Graduation Honors: based on GPA at end of first semester of 12th grade

Cum Laude: 95.0 – 97.9
Magna Cum Laude: 98.0 – 100.9
Summa Cum Laude: 101+

Final Class Rank is determined by the numeric weighted core GPA through first semester of 12th grade.

Senior Year Timeline

Summer

- Call/ Schedule visits with prospective colleges
- Explore online college information about size, location, cost of tuition, programs of study, admission requirements, scholarship opportunities, and deadlines for admission/scholarship applications

August – October

- Check transcripts to make sure you are on track to earn enough credits to graduate
- Take the ACT in September and /or October*
- College Fair at Northwest Shoals (August)
- Complete admission applications to at least 2 colleges (online or hard copy)*
- Request transcripts to be sent through www.parchment.com
- Complete scholarship applications (for colleges to which you are applying for admission, and to other foundations/external scholarships)
- Register with the NCAA if you are playing collegiate sports (eligibilitycenter.org)*
- Create an FSA ID for student and parent at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Complete the 2019-20 FAFSA (Opens in Oct) using 2017 tax info at www.fafsa.ed.gov

November – December

- Complete all applications for admission* and continue scholarship applications
- Scholarship deadlines for AL, UAH, UAB, USA, Montevallo, UNA....
- ASVAB test for students interested in military entrance
- Semester Exams (December)

January-February

- Continue scholarship applications
- Scholarship deadlines for AUB, Alabama State, UWA, Wallace, Jacksonville State, Beville State, Shelton State, A&M, Northwest Shoals, Calhoun
- ACT Workkeys Assessment

March – May

- Check with your college financial aid and admissions office to ensure your paperwork is complete
- Take College Placement tests if entering junior college without ACT for placement
- Continue Scholarship Applications
- AP Exams and Final Exams
- Awards Day
- Graduation

*ACT and College Admission fee waivers are available for students on Free/Reduced lunch and/or Talent Search. See Mr. Hill or Talent Search Representative.

*Parchment fee waivers are available for students on Free/Reduced lunch. See Mr. Hill.

WHAT TYPES OF COLLEGES EXIST?

More than half of all recent high school graduates in the United States pursue some type of post-secondary education. There is a wide range of higher education options in the United States. For this reason, your child is likely to find a college that is well suited to his or her needs.

There are two basic types of post-secondary education institutions:

Community (Junior) Colleges and Four-Year Colleges/ Universities

Community / Junior Colleges

Many kinds of colleges offer programs that are less than four years in length. Most of these schools offer education and training programs that are two years in length or shorter. The programs often lead to a license, a certificate, an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree, an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, or an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree.

Some programs at two-year colleges can lead to a Bachelor's degree in an academic discipline. These academic programs are comparable to the first two years of a general academic program offered by a four-year college or university. Students can transfer their "2-year" credits toward a 4-year degree program at a university.

Many junior and community colleges offer technical/occupational training, as well as academic courses. For example, many cardiovascular technicians, medical laboratory technicians, and computer technicians receive their education and training at junior colleges, community colleges, and/or technical colleges.

Many junior, community, and technical colleges offer technical programs in cooperation with local businesses, industry, public service agencies, or other organizations. Some of these programs are formally connected to education programs that students start in high school; they are often referred to as "tech-prep" or "school-to-career" programs. These programs often provide students with an opportunity to learn new skills by working for a local employer and by taking high school courses that link with courses offered at local colleges (examples: Health Care/ CNA/ Internships toward a nursing degree).

Two-year colleges such as community colleges often operate under an “open admissions” policy that can vary from school to school. At some institutions, “open admissions” means that anyone who has a high school diploma or GED certificate can enroll. At other schools, anyone over 18 years of age can enroll or, in some cases, anyone deemed able to benefit from the programs at the schools can enroll.

WHAT TYPES OF COLLEGES EXIST? Continued

Application requirements at colleges with two-year programs and shorter programs may include a high school transcript – a list of all the courses you took and grades earned in four years of high school – and college entrance examination scores as well. Some schools have programs that allow “open admissions,” while other programs in the same school – particularly in scientific or technical subjects – may have further admission requirements. Since requirements vary widely, it is important to check into schools and programs individually.

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

These schools usually offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree (usually completed in four years). Some universities also offer graduate and professional degrees (degrees higher than a bachelor’s level).

Students who wish to pursue a general academic program usually choose a four-year college or university. Such a program lays the foundation for more advanced studies and professional work. Four-year colleges and universities offer bachelor’s degrees (the B.A. and B.S.) in most areas in the arts and sciences, such as Education, Business, Nursing, Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Pre-Professional Programs (Pre-Medicine, Pre-Law).

When a student earns a bachelor’s degree it means that he or she has passed examinations in a broad range of courses and has studied one or two subject areas in greater depth. These one or two subject areas are called a student’s “major” area(s) of study or area(s) of concentration. A bachelor’s degree is usually required before a student can begin studying for a graduate degree. A graduate degree is usually earned through two or more years of advanced studies beyond four years of college. This might be a master’s or a doctoral degree in a particular field or a specialized degree required in certain professions such as law, social work, architecture, or medicine.

_(What Types of Colleges Exist – Taken from the National Association for College Admission Counseling –
“*Preparing Your Child for College*”)

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Most students apply to at least three colleges; five or six would give you all the options you need. As you narrow your choices, we suggest that you consider the criteria listed below and create a “Plan A,” “Plan B,” and a “Plan C” for your plans for college.

Academic Programs and Curriculum

- Does the college have the major you are considering?
- Does the college offer credit for high school courses?
- Are there co-op and/or intern programs in my field?
- How many courses or credits are needed to earn the degree you want?
- Can you finish your program in two / four years?
- What percentage of this college’s graduates are placed in my field of study?

Academic Competitiveness

- How do your academic credentials compare to the freshmen profile?
- Have you taken an academically challenging program in high school?
- What is the average GPA, SAT or ACT score of freshmen entering that college?
- Do you meet their admission requirements?** ACT, GPA, Courses in High School

Location

- Distance from home – how far from family and friends?
- Transportation costs?
- Rural vs. urban environment?
- Climate /Weather

Type of School

- Public vs. private?
- Do you want a certain type of college or university? (arts, military, single sex or historically black)
- Do you prefer a small, medium or large enrollment?

Student Body and Student Life

Coed or single sex?

What kind of extracurricular activities are there?

What special services are available – counseling, tutoring, health care?

Do most students live in dormitories or commute? Freshmen required to live on campus?

What percentage of freshmen return as sophomores?

Comfort level – do students have similar goals as you?

What percentage of the student body goes to law, medical or graduate schools?

What percentage get jobs after graduation?

Cost

Is there financial aid available?

Do they have work study programs?

Will there be out-of-state fees?

www.alcareerinfo.org provides college scholarship, financial aid, and career information

www.mymajors.com provides information about degree programs (majors/minors)

education.yahoo.net is a search tool for degrees, colleges, and careers

www.oneonline.org provides college and degree searches

CAMPUS VISITS

It would be unfair – to yourself and to the college – to judge a school just on the basis of its catalogue or a brochure. Visiting or revisiting a college campus will help you make the “right” choice for you. While we realize that it can be very costly to visit all the colleges before you apply, it is essential to visit the colleges after you have been accepted and before you make your final decision. If you cannot visit a college or university before you apply, we suggest you check their website thoroughly to be sure they offer everything you need in a college. We also suggest that when you call the admissions office, request to have an upper classman call you, so you can ask them pertinent questions. Most students are usually open and honest. Also remember, we live in the vicinity of many colleges. Taking tours of local campuses can give you a good idea of what you like and dislike in a prospective college. It will help you be more discerning in your choices. *Seniors are allowed pre-approved visits to colleges on school days. Schedule the visit ahead of time, inform your teachers, and bring back a letter from the visit day as your excuse for the day.

BEFORE YOUR TRIP

1. Call the admissions office and inquire about campus tours and admission talks. There usually are set days and times.
2. If time permits, arrange an overnight stay in the dorm.

6. Pick up back copies of the campus newspaper. They are very revealing about the issues affecting the student body.
7. Pick up last year’s course offerings. While

3. Inquire about an interview with an admissions counselor. Some schools will not interview at all. If you do get an appointment, be prepared to ask questions. Come with your resume and an unofficial transcript, which you can obtain from your counselor.

4. Arrange an interview in the financial aid office. Ask lots of questions. Inquire about their financial aid application process, tuition payment plans and work-study programs.

WHILE ON CAMPUS

1. Take a tour and hear an admission presentation.

2. Walk around on your own and talk to students. You may feel bashful, but chances are they are flattered to tell you about their school.

3. Eat a meal on campus.

4. If you have a strong inclination toward a course of study, visit that department.

Interview a faculty person. If you are in the science department, check out the labs.

What research is going on? Can lower classmen participate?

5. Find the student placement office.

Browse

through the bulletins. Where do students

find jobs after graduation? How?

many schools list hundreds of courses in

their catalogue, it is important to find out

what they actually offered. Can you get all

the courses you need within four years?

AFTER YOU LEAVE

1. Write down as much information about your visit as you can remember. Include names of people you met.

2. Record your personal impressions of the school – both negative and positive. Did people seem friendly? Stressed? (Exam time does not count.) Did you like the dorms? Was it easy to get around?

3. Jot down some comparisons with other colleges. Such as “I like this better at College A than at B because . . .” The more careful notes you take now, the better prepared you will be when it comes time to make a decision.

4. When you get home, set up a college file. One folder or file per school. You can invest in a cheap “egg crate,” which is an essential in most dorm rooms anyway. Every time you receive information from that college, put it in the file. Keep everything together.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Many colleges (and scholarship foundations) ask you to supplement your application with letters of recommendation. It is your responsibility to determine what letters, if any, are required.

Colleges may specify that recommendations come from:

- Teachers in academic subjects who can speak to your academic strengths.
- Coaches and teachers who can attest to your athletic or artistic talent.
- Counselors who can address your personal strengths, accomplishments, and special circumstances which might impact on an admission decision; or others, such as club sponsors, religious leaders, employers, who can give evidence of your character and leadership ability.

You should choose a person who knows you well enough to write a letter of recommendation which will cite your strengths and abilities. Allow the person sufficient time to write a thoughtful letter (3-5 working days). It is helpful to share your resume in order to provide background information about you. **It is appropriate to send a thank you note to anyone writing a letter of recommendation.**

YOUR RESUME:

Your resume reflects the educational, leadership, and extracurricular investments you have made from 9th -12th grade. A good resume is helpful when filling out scholarship applications, and often is required as an attachment to an application.

Resumes are also helpful when requesting letters of recommendation; teachers appreciate the details as a reference to use when describing your accomplishments in a letter.

Your resume is not only valuable now; it will “follow” you even into college and your career. Keep it saved on a flashdrive so you can review and edit it each year. You will use your resume again in college, whether applying for a club or interviewing for a job. It will grow with you over time and can save precious time when you get ready to pursue other things in life!

A sample resume is provided here; however, there are many different formats you can use.

****Tips:** Use headers and phrases, not complete sentences or “I” statements

List activities in order of most recent

Only list activities from 9th-12th grade

Use action verbs in past tense

1-2 pages max: be concise, but try to include everything in a neat and organized way

Sample Resume (For College/ Scholarship purposes)

John Smith

100 Hornet Street
Town Creek, AL 35673
AllieG@myemail.com
(256) 123-4567

OBJECTIVE

To pursue a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a Certification in Special Education

EDUCATION

High School Diploma, Hatton High School, *Cum Laude*

May 2016

Lawrence County Center of Technology

Business Technology 11, 9

Health Care Foundations 10

ACT Composite: 24 (October 2014)

AP Exams: English Language Composition (score:3)

Biology (score:3)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES / LEADERSHIP

National Honor Society 12, 11

· Treasurer 12

Junior Civitan Club 12, 11, 10, 9

Student Ambassador 12, 11

Cross Country Team 12, 11, 10, 9

· Team Captain 12

· All-County 12, 11

Peer Tutor 12, 11

Spirit Club 12, 11, 10, 9

Fellowship of Christian Athletes 12, 11, 10, 9

Youth Leadership Lawrence 10

FCCLA 9

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Leading Ladies, Hatton Church of Christ 12, 11, 10, 9

· Monthly nursing home visits

· Monthly cards to elderly

· Annual coat drive

· Volunteer work with widows

· Vacation Bible School volunteer

Junior Civitan Club 12, 11, 10, 9

· Built wheelchair ramp for disabled community member

· Participated in canned food drive

· Volunteered at Relay for Life

Special Olympics Volunteer 12, 11

Read Across America: Moulton Elementary School 12, 11

· Volunteered as a reader for elementary students

WORK EXPERIENCE

Server, Oh' Bryan's Steakhouse
Child Care provider (summer)

June 2014 to present
June – July 2013, 2014,

John Wayne Smith

**123 AL HWY 101
Town Creek, AL 35673
(256) 555-2222
johnsmith@yahoo.com**

Objective

To obtain employment in an industrial field, applying my special training in welding, industrial maintenance, and construction

Education

Hatton High School—Alabama High School Diploma May 2016
· GPA 3.5

Lawrence County Center of Technology

- 3 years of Welding classes
- 1 year of Industrial Maintenance Classes
- 1 year of Building Construction (Ag)

Special Skills

Good attendance, fast learner, good team member, dependable, trustworthy
Trained in use of tig welding machinery
Highly skilled in use of welding torch and arc welding
Efficient in use of plasma cutter
Trained in shop safety and clean-up

Achievements

2nd place in County Skills USA Welding Competition (11th grade)
1st place in District Welding Competition (12th grade)
Membership in Welder's Union

Work Experience

Foodland—Stock worker (September 2014 to present)
Lawn Care (Summers of 2012-2015)

References

Brian Tidwell, Welding Instructor
Michael Owens, Foodland Manager

Types of Financial Aid

Collegiate Scholarships (awarded by the college)

- Academic (ACT, GPA, Rank)
- Athletic (see your coach to help with this)
- Leadership (resume)
- Career Tech (2-year programs)
- Band / Music (often require tryouts)
- Dance (often require tryouts)
- ROTC
- Need based / Foundational (Alumni Foundations, etc)

Foundational Scholarships: awarded by groups outside of college

- Memorial Scholarships (Terry, Graham, Martin)
- Business Foundations (Coca-Cola, Compass Bank, Logicore, Parents' work (i.e.Nucor)
- Community Groups (Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame, Kappa Kappa Iota, LCEA)

Pell Grants: awarded through the FAFSA; “free money” that is not paid back

Student Loans: usually facilitated through the college

College Payment Plans: some colleges offer monthly payment plans

Financial Aid Terms to Know:

Financial aid package: The combination of gift aid, loans and work-study that a student receives.

Comprehensive fee: The total cost of tuition, room, board and student fees charged by a college or university. In addition, other expenses (such as transportation and books) are added to the comprehensive fee to determine the cost of attendance at a college.

Need analysis: Using information provided on the FAFSA form and on other forms a college or university might require, the income and assets of both the parents and the student are analyzed. Many variables that affect a family's financial situation are considered, such as the number of people in the household, number of children in college, state of residence, age of the parents, and the types of assets and savings. Upon completion of the FAFSA, you can view an SAR (Student Aid Report).

Expected family contribution (EFC): The amount that the family, including the student, could reasonably be expected to contribute toward the cost of college education. This is determined by need analysis on the FAFSA.

Financial need: The difference between the estimated family contribution and the estimated cost of attendance at a college or university. The amount of financial need is the basis for awarding need-based aid.

Need-based aid: Financial aid awarded on the basis of the financial need shown by a family, as determined by need analysis.

Merit-based aid: Financial aid awarded on the basis of factors other than financial need. This usually consists of scholarships awarded for academic performance or for special talents, such as artistic or athletic ability.

Financial Aid Web Resources

- www.fafsa.ed.gov: the official website for applying for federal student financial aid
 - www.finaid.org: explanations of different types of financial aid, glossary of terms, calculators for estimating college costs and financial aid.
 - www.studentaid.ed.gov : site for U.S. Department of Education; has resources and suggestions for every step of the process, downloadable federal student aid publications, links to information about financial aid programs in each state.
 - www.nasfaa.org/ParentsStudents : Web site for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, features on-line financial aid brochures (some in Spanish), worksheets, and checklists.
 - www.fastweb.com : Searchable database of more than 600,000 scholarships
 - www.scholarships.com: searchable database of scholarships
 - College-financial-aid-advice.com provides scholarship listings
 - www.alstudentaid.com provides college/financial information for Alabama colleges

***Never pay for scholarship searches! All these are free resources.**

Tips for Navigating the Financial Aid Process:

Û Read each college's brochures carefully to find out which form(s) to submit and when to apply for financial aid.

Û Fill out all forms accurately and completely. Mistakes and incomplete information on financial aid forms can cause delays or even ineligibility.

Û Make sure you don't miss important deadlines, as the dates might vary from college to college.

Û Keep a copy of every financial aid form and supporting document that you send out. Also keep copies of any correspondence and notes of conversations you have with financial aid officers.

Û Beware of scholarship scams. If you have to pay money to get a scholarship, it's probably a scam.

Û Reapply every year. Most financial aid awards are not automatically renewed.

Questions to ask colleges:

- 1) What kind of financial assistance does the college offer: need-based, merit-based, or both?
- 2) Can the college provide an early estimate of what our financial aid award might be?
- 3) What forms are needed in order to apply?
- 4) When are financial aid applications due?
- 5) What costs are taken into account by the financial aid office? Tuition, room, board, transportation? How about additional expenses like books, fees, computers and personal expenses?
- 6) When will we be notified about the amount of assistance we can expect?
- 7) Does the institution have an appeal process to review special circumstances?
- 8) Is there a commitment for financial assistance after the first year?
- 9) How and when do we apply for financial assistance after the first year?
- 10) What if we do not qualify for need-based aid? Are there alternative financing options?
- 11) What grant, loans, and work study opportunities are offered by the college itself?
- 12) What is the average student loan indebtedness of the college's graduates?
- 13) Is there a restriction to the length of time that financial assistance will continue?
- 14) How long does it typically take a student to graduate from this college?
- 15) What impact do scholarships from outside sources have on other financial aid?
- 16) Can we apply financial aid toward an off-campus study program, either in the U.S. or another country?
- 17) What happens if our family's financial situation changes substantially during the school year?
- 18) Are there any payment options available (such as monthly or quarterly)?

FAFSA

You must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal student aid for college or career school and for most state and institutional aid. All FAFSA application processes are online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is a "universal" form that all colleges use to determine your eligibility for aid. Some colleges even require completion of the FAFSA before awarding academic scholarships, so EVERY college-bound student should complete the FAFSA (and be mindful of colleges' deadlines to do so).

Financial Aid offices use information from the FAFSA to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student aid from grants, loans, and work-study programs. Also, foundation scholarship committees often review financial aid information to determine scholarship candidacy. So be sure to fill out the FAFSA, even if you think you won't qualify for a pell grant.

Before beginning the FAFSA, you (student AND parent) will apply for federal student aid ID (FSA ID). The FSA ID will allow you to sign your FAFSA electronically and to correct your processed FAFSA information online. Do not share your FSA ID with anyone! This is your personal access to FAFSA.

The following information is required to complete the FAFSA:

- Student and Parent Social Security number
- Driver's license number
- Federal tax information or tax return forms for previous year.
 - An academic year for financial aid runs from fall to summer (August to July). If you will begin college in the fall, you will use 2016 tax information to fill out the 2018-19 FAFSA. (always use the previous year's tax info).
 - If you plan to begin college in the summer of 2018, you will also complete the 2017-18 FAFSA also using 2015 tax return information (since the FAFSA-year runs August to July, summer terms fall under the previous year's FAFSA application).

Other tips:

1. Be aware of FAFSA deadlines outlined by your college.
2. Use the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet (available at www.fafsa.ed.gov) to help collect the information you will need to fill out the FAFSA online.
3. List recipients (colleges) on your FAFSA to make sure the colleges receive your financial aid status information. You can also forward your FAFSA information to other colleges on a later date if you change your college plans.
4. Follow up on your FAFSA. Your application will be processed and you will receive a Student Aid Report. Review your SAR for any necessary corrections and updates. 7-10 days after submitting your FAFSA, contact the financial aid office of your college to verify that they have received the information.

LOCAL HELP with FAFSA: During the month of October, we will host a Financial Aid Assistance Night to offer assistance with filling out the FAFSA.

OTHER HELP with FAFSA: College Financial Aid offices; North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence (NACEE)- 350-6478; 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

THE PARENTS' ROLE

IN THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS

The application period is a time of anxiety for your son or daughter. Help your child by seeing that he/she follows the procedures properly and meets all deadlines. Be an active participant in the exploration process and offer your guidance as your child weighs information and creates the list of schools to which he or she will apply. Be certain that your daughter or son completes all admission requirements in accordance with required deadlines. With your child, file all required financial aid forms by the deadline. Colleges may require one or more of the following financial aid and related forms.

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), required by all colleges for applicants for need-based aid and/or loans from state and federal sources. There is no charge to submit the FAFSA.
- The college's own financial aid form, which is returned directly to the college and for which there is no fee.
- Financial records as requested by the college, most often copies of the parents' and student's federal income tax returns.

The college application process can be time consuming and detract from routine student responsibilities. Make sure that your daughter or son keeps up with all schoolwork and maintains good study habits during this active time. Encourage patience, persistence and good humor at all times.

If your son or daughter has applied to a range of different types of schools, your child will have a choice if he/she selected well. Should a negative response be received, provide consolation and support. When good news is received, seize the time to praise and congratulate your child. It will be a very happy time for everyone. You now have a college freshman in the family!

Tips for Parents of Seniors:

- ü REGULARLY check up on attendance and grades (INOW, email teachers, etc)
- ü Communicate EVERY DAY about how they are doing with school, assignments, and/ or college plans. Encourage them and communicate your expectations for their future.
- ü Help your senior take care of him or herself (sleep, eating, de-stress, healthy choices)
- ü Begin (if you haven't already) teaching your senior about money management and credit
- ü Help organize your senior's time and materials
 - Keep an event calendar for deadlines, homework, tests, work, special events, etc
 - Break down long term goals into short term goals
 - Provide a regular time and place for quiet study time and college planning time

NCAA REQUIREMENTS

A high school student who plans on playing a sport at a Division I or II college must register through the NCAA and must meet specific academic requirements as set forth by the NCAA.

To register with the NCAA Clearinghouse, fill go to www.eligibilitycenter.org. There is a registration fee; however, the fee can be waived if you are on Free or Reduced lunch or in Talent Search. Let Mrs. Martin or Mrs. Rainey know if you have requested a waiver online.

Also use the website to view [Eligibility Requirements](#) for Division I and Division II sports. GPA and ACT scores are considered for eligibility, along with required number of core courses. Make sure that when you take the ACT, you list NCAA (code 9999) as a score recipient.

Website: www.eligibilitycenter.org

Customer Service: 877-262-1492

24-hour Voice Response: 877-861-3003

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

2018-2019 Testing Dates

The ACT Test is a college placement test for 4 year colleges. 2 and 4 year colleges also use ACT test scores to determine eligibility for scholarships.

- Register at www.actstudent.org. HHS School Code 012-650.
- The cost of the ACT is \$46 (\$62.50 for Plus Writing). Additional fees are included if you register past the deadline. Students on free or reduced lunch or who are in Talent Search are allowed two test fee waivers for the ACT during their Junior and Senior Year. See Mr. Hill for a fee waiver.

Test Date
September 8, 2018
October 27, 2018
December 8, 2018
February 9, 2019
April 13, 2019
June 8, 2019

ü Check your colleges' scholarship deadline dates! Many colleges have December 1 deadlines, which means the October test will be your last chance to qualify for ACT-based scholarships!

ü Also make sure you take the Writing portion of the test if required by your college.

ü You MUST upload a PHOTO on the registration site.

ü You MUST have your picture ID and Admission ticket to test!

ACT WorkKeys (Seniors): Winter 2018-19

This is an assessment that all Seniors in Alabama will take. It assesses work skills and helps formulate a career plan for Seniors. Many employers use WorkKeys scores to determine job placement and salary range.

AP Exams: May 2019

Students in AP courses will take AP Exams at the end of the year. College credit can be earned by designated scores on the AP Exams.

Test Preparation Resources:

- www.actstudent.org (practice tests)
- ACT Classes offered locally (Lawrence County High School)
- It's a Test Thing-Individual or Group Classes (Decatur): Jacob Hogan (256-684-2789)
- www.march2success.com
- www.homeworkalabama.org free online tutoring
- Score Plus workshops for ACT: scoreplusacademics.com (256-740-9536)
- Lentz ACT workshops: www.lentzeducational.com (256-394-1712)
- learninglynks.com: ACT tutoring in the Decatur area (256-355-3606)
- All Pencils Down: test prep courses www.allpencilsdown.com (205-998-5791)

College Admissions / Scholarship reminders:

1. Narrow college search to 3-5 colleges and apply for admission to at least 2 colleges.
2. Go to parchment.com and create an account; transcripts are requested, processed, and sent to colleges electronically through this site. The cost is \$3.25 per transcript.*
 - a. *If you are on free/reduced lunch, you get 4 free transcripts mailed. Notify us when you've created your account so we can approve you for 4 free transcripts. Do this BEFORE requesting transcripts.
3. Apply for collegiate and foundational scholarships, either online or hard copies. Be mindful of deadlines and complete ALL requirements for consideration (i.e. essay, transcripts sent, resume, recommendation letters, etc).
4. Pay attention to all senior handouts—there will be scholarships available throughout the year from various sources, and it is UP TO YOU to follow the directions on the handouts! Keep a folder of all scholarship / college materials and visit it at least once per week.
5. Fill out your FAFSA using your 2016 tax returns (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Important Reminders for our Students and Parents:

GRADES, AVERAGES, and CREDITS:

The school year is divided into two semesters: first semester is August – December, and second semester is January – May. Within each semester there are three six-week grading periods. Students earn half credits at the end of each semester (3.5 + 3.5= 7). First semester grades have NO bearing on second semester grades; they operate independently (they do not average together at the end of the year). Therefore, students must pass both first and second semester of their required courses to gain the correct amount of credits. The first and second semester averages are listed separately on the transcripts, each reflecting half-credits/ grades earned for each course.

Term 1

1st nine weeks 45%

2nd nine weeks 45%

1st SEMESTER AVERAGE (half-credits) Transcript

Exam 10%

Term 2

3rd nine weeks 45%

4th six weeks 45%

2nd SEMESTER AVERAGE (half-credits) Transcript

Exam 10%

Your Semester Average is the grade that goes on your permanent transcript and determines your pass/fail status for the course. Even if a nine-weeks grade is below passing, the pass/fail determination is based on the semester average. Failed semester averages can be recovered through after-school credit recovery and summer school.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to be present, on time, and prepared to learn each day.

Notes: Doctor's Notes, Court Notes, or Parent Notes (up to 5 Parent notes allowed per semester) for absences MUST be turned in to Ms. Kimbrough within 3 days of returning to school. After returning from an absence, you are allowed 3 days to complete missed work. Students who do not turn in work within 3 days (excused or unexcused) will receive a zero for the assignments missed. If you know you will be absent for an extended time (surgery, pre-approved trip, etc) it is YOUR responsibility to contact your teachers ahead of time (or via email) to discuss staying on task while you are absent. *Students and parents are summoned to truancy court when excessive unexcused absences are accrued for the year.

Board policy: 6 or more unexcused absences in one semester = failure of all core classes for that semester, regardless of numeric grade. If you fail a core class, you no longer meet graduation requirements, and are not eligible for graduation. A first semester failure can be recovered during 2nd semester. A 2nd semester core failure would result in retention (no graduation ceremonies) and would require summer school to complete requirements necessary to earn a diploma.

SENIORS

We will have monthly senior meetings, usually the first Friday of the month. At these meetings, we usually have a guest from a college and/or military branch to speak to you. You will receive a handout that list important announcements and upcoming scholarships. It is important that you pay close attention to the information on these handouts, especially the deadlines for scholarships. Please keep a folder of these handouts, as well as other important senior information.

You will receive handouts in class from time to time. Read over all of the senior handouts carefully; most of the information will only be given to you once!

The handouts will indicate how to apply for certain scholarships. If the handout indicates a website, use the internet in the library, guidance office, or at home to locate and download/complete the application. If the handout indicates that the scholarship is available in the Guidance Office, you may help yourself to the scholarship file cart in the Guidance Office. If there are no copies in the scholarship cart, the original may be copied out of the "Scholarship Originals" notebook on top of the desk. ALWAYS return the original to the notebook!

PARENTS

Each time I distribute senior handouts, I will post the handout on the school website. Please contact me by phone or email if you have questions or need help with any of your child's college and scholarship efforts.

John Hill, Guidance Counselor
johnhill@lawrenceal.org
256-685-4012