

## Sophomore Information

### Fall, 2009

Sophomore year is a great time to regroup, focus on having a successful high school experience, and start to think about post-high school planning. Studying, getting good grades, and reading are really the best things that you can do NOW to prepare for whatever steps will come after graduation from LHS in 2012.

Testing – Sophomores take the PLAN test on the September test date. The PLAN is designed to mirror the ACT in content and in time, but with questions that are geared to skills that a high school sophomore should have. The PLAN score report will give a predicted ACT score, but the PLAN score is not reflected on the transcript. The PLAN is simply a check point to see the strengths and weaknesses that students may have. If weaknesses are identified, there is plenty of time to get extra help in reading, English, science, or mathematics before the PSAT/ACT test in the spring of junior year.

Some sophomores may choose to take the PSAT in October. The PSAT is generally a test for juniors as a practice for the SAT text, and also as a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program. This test is optional, and is given during the school day.

Drivers Education – If students choose to take Drivers Education from an outside agency, please submit proof of completion (a certificate from the driving school showing 30 hours of classroom) to the guidance counselor upon completion. Drivers Education is a graduation requirement, and the course is reflected on the student transcript. Students who need Behind the Wheel training will work with their PE teachers and sign up for a 6 week unit during the PE block.

Work – If students are looking to get a part time job, there is a job board in the PPS Office, between the deans' and the nurse's office. If a student is not 16, he/she can still work, but under certain conditions and hours. Any 15 year old student who wants to work needs to apply for, and get a job FIRST, and then a work permit can be obtained from Mrs. Phillips at the front desk of the PPS Office.

Other things for sophomores to do:

- Get involved in school activities. From interscholastic sports / activities to playing musical chairs at the Homecoming assembly, do something to make LHS *your* school. Students can join certain clubs throughout the school year, and it is never too late to get involved.
- Participate in community service projects. Work through the park district, local churches, the CSFE program, or any community agency to help Lemont or the world be a better place. Colleges and scholarship organizations are always looking for students who give back to the community.
- Talk to upperclassmen / college students about options after high school. Visit college websites to see what the entrance requirements are for incoming freshmen. If there is a college that you're desperate to attend, see if there are summer camp programs that are available to you.