



LCHS Freshmen Survival Guide

Welcome to Lanier County High, Class of 2025!

We would like to extend warm welcome to all freshmen students and their parents. The start of high school can be an anxious time for students and their parents. There is excitement of a new beginning, the chance to meet new friends, have more class options and become more independent right alongside the stress of the unknown. Our goal for all freshmen is a commitment to excellence and on-time graduation.

Our faculty and staff set high standards for our students and work collaboratively to provide a productive, positive learning environment with an emphasis on academic success and safety.

In partnership with students, parents, and our community, we strive to work as a team to insure that many opportunities exist for all students to attain a high level of success.

The move to ninth grade is a crucial time in students' lives and academic careers. Students will be faced with greater academic expectations and more opportunities to build independence.

Our faculty and staff are ready and willing to assist parents and students throughout the year with any concerns or issues that arise. We hope this survival guide will help to minimize worries and maximize the learning opportunity that is available. Have a great year!



Class of 2025

Lanier County High School

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Ten Steps for Success in High School



1. Always put forth your best effort! A good attitude goes a long way.
2. Work hard and don't be afraid to ask questions! The road to success is never easy.
3. Don't give up! You will face difficult and challenging times during your high school years. Too many assignments, too many extracurricular activities, and problems with friends or family can all be overwhelming. Ask for help from the many resources available to you at LCHS. We will help you through the rough times so that you will succeed.
4. Challenge yourself! Set high goals for yourself that are reasonable to attain. Don't take the easy way out.
5. Grades from your freshman year count! They are one-third of what colleges will see on your high school transcript when you apply for acceptance. Attendance and discipline records are just as important and indicate character and responsibility to prospective colleges and employers.
6. Make use of resources! Get to know your guidance counselor, advisement teacher, classroom teachers and other members of the faculty and staff. Don't wait until you have a problem to get to know them.
7. Get involved! There are many extracurricular activities to explore. The more effort you put into your high school experience, the greater your rewards at the end of your four years.
8. Stay focused! How much you learn and how well you apply yourself in the next four years will have a significant influence on your life in the future.
9. Make good choices! In high school there will be more opportunities for you to make choices. Sometimes we make good choices and sometimes we make poor choices. As long as you learn from the poor choices and do not make the same mistakes twice, you can be successful.

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10. Take ownership! Now that you are at LCHS, you will have more freedom. However, with this freedom comes with more responsibility.

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In other words...

- Do your best in all you do.
- Work hard and ask questions.
- When the going gets tough, the tough get going.
- Set high goals.
- Everything counts! Get off to a good start day one.
- Use resources available to you.
- Get involved. Try something new.
- Build a foundation now for your future.
- Learn from your mistakes.
- Freedom = Responsibility

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Keys to Academic Success in High School

Time management is the most important tool to insure academic success in high school. The following tips will reduce stress and make your high school years much more enjoyable:

- Attendance is CRITICAL. Maintain regular attendance and limit check-outs.
- Make a “To Do” list every day. Prioritize your list by placing the most important items at the top of the list and do them first.
- Take time to think and plan wisely. If you can get a reading assignment done while riding the bus home from school or riding in a carpool, you’ll get two things done at one time and have more time available when you get home.
- Work smarter, not harder. Figure out what time of day you are the most productive and able to do your best work. Use that time to complete assignments and study.
- Set up a study area that minimizes distractions. Put away or move away from cell phones, computers, etc. that could distract you and waste your study time.
- Don’t worry and don’t procrastinate - it’s wasted time! If you have a large assignment or project and just don’t know where to start, try breaking it down into smaller sections or tasks and do them one at a time. Eventually the assignment will come together and you’ll be finished.
- Eat healthy and always get a good night’s sleep. Running on empty will make the day seem longer and your tasks more difficult. Making

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smart food choices will give you sustained energy and boost your brain power.

- Try to get at least 60 minutes of exercise daily as it will keep your body healthy, boost your mood, energy, and focus.

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Homework and Study Tips

Homework is an important part of high school but it doesn't have to be the worst part if you choose not to let it be. If you have a method that works for you, use it daily. If you don't have one, put one in place the first week of school. If you need help coming up with a plan, ask a friend, teacher, or guidance counselor.

Studying is not the same as homework. Studying is rereading, re-thinking, and re-organizing, all in order to learn the material.

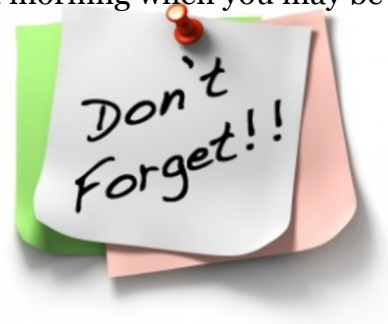
- ✓ Use a calendar or agenda to write down the day's assignments. Develop the habit of writing down "none" if there isn't an assignment so you won't be guessing at the end of the day.
- ✓ Know what is expected of you by copying assignments carefully, reading the directions before you leave class, and asking questions if you do not understand the assignment.
- ✓ Estimate the time it will take to complete each assignment and deal with the most difficult assignment first before you become tired.
- ✓ Organize information in a way that works for you. People have different learning styles. Some have to write information down to learn and retain it (pictures, charts, flash cards) while others like to read information aloud. Do what works best for you.
- ✓ Have a different notebook for each class with pockets to help you stay organized, or better yet, a three-ring binder for all your classes.
- ✓ If you do not have written homework, spend time studying your notes, reading the textbook or giving yourself practice quizzes so that when test time arrives, review is all that is required.
- ✓ Think of school attendance and homework as your job. Successful adults treat their jobs as one of their top priorities, and you need to do the same.

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To achieve you must be...

ORGANIZED

- ❖ Write down all homework assignments in an agenda or calendar. If you don't have homework, write down "none" so there's no question of whether you have work due or not for that class.
- ❖ Record test dates or project due dates on a calendar and refer to your calendar daily. There are calendar apps available that will send reminders to you.
- ❖ Keep track of all work and check off your work as it is completed. File your completed work in your binder as soon as it is completed so that it isn't forgotten.
- ❖ Have a binder for each class divided into appropriate sections. Use a different color binder for each class. Or have one binder for all classes with the binder divided into different sections, one per class. Color code the dividers - a different color for each class. If your textbooks are different colors, match the textbook color to the binder or divider. Label your binders or dividers clearly with the subject name.
- ❖ If you use a locker, always keep it neat and organized so that you can find your textbooks, supplies, etc. with a quick glance.
- ❖ Set up a study area that minimizes distractions. Put away or move away from cell phones, computers, etc. that could distract you and waste your study time. Have appropriate school supplies (pens, pencils, notebook paper, etc.) that you may need so that you don't interrupt your studying if you need to replenish any supplies.
- ❖ Once you are finished studying for the night, pack your book bag with all binders, textbooks and supplies. Don't wait until the next morning when you may be in a rush to leave the house.



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If you are having trouble in class...

Don't wait to ask for help. At the first sign of trouble:

- ✓ Make an appointment to meet with your teacher. Let him/her know what your issues are and ask his/her advice on what you can do to improve.
- ✓ If you are having trouble understanding the material when it is presented in class, ask questions. If you are having trouble understanding, chances are that someone else is having the same problem.
- ✓ Attendance is crucial to succeeding in class. Be on time and in class every day.
- ✓ Be prepared for class by bringing any materials you need.
- ✓ Pay attention, listen, and take notes in class. Review your notes daily.
- ✓ Do your homework, each and every day. A failing grade on a homework assignment will hurt your average for the class or a 100 on a homework assignment could save you from a failing grade for the class.
- ✓ Always have the name and telephone number of someone in class who is a good student. If you're absent, call him/her to find out what you missed and get homework assignments.
- ✓ Ask for help before or after school from your teacher.

Remember, having good attendance and time management skills will reduce STRESS!

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Destination...

GRADUATION!



What do I need to graduate?

LCCHS Promotion Requirements (Grades 9-12)

- 9th to 10 Grade 6 units
- 10th to 11th Grade 12 units
- 11th to 12th Grade 18 units
- To exit 12th Grade 24 units

All HS courses not requiring a Georgia Milestones EOC Assessment will be administered a locally developed final exam for each respective course. The local final exam score will count as 20% of the course average in the place of the Georgia Milestones EOC Assessment score if Georgia Milestones scores are not available.

Graduation Requirements

All students must meet attendance requirements of the State of Georgia and Lanier County Policy JBD, perform with a passing score on the state assessment requirements as referenced in Rule 160-3-1.07 and attain units of credit as requirements for graduating from high schools that receive public funds.

See the chart below for specific curriculum unit requirements. Students must earn a minimum of 24 units as specified by the course requirements. It is strongly recommended that all students complete a CTAE Career Pathway. Completion of diploma requirements does not necessarily qualify students for the HOPE Scholarship Program.

Areas of Study	Units Required
English/Language Arts	4 Units Must include: 9 th Grade Literature and American Literature
Mathematics	4 Units Must include: Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Algebra Plus one additional Math course
Science	4 Units Must include 3: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Environmental Science Plus 1 additional Science course
Social Studies	4 Units Must include: World History, US History, Government and Economics
CTAE and/or Modern Language and/or Fine Arts	3 Units (any combination) *Students planning to attend a four-year post-secondary institution must take 2 units of the same modern language. *Students are also encouraged to complete at least one CTAE Pathway
Electives	5 Units
Total Units (Minimum)	Graduates must have a total of 24 Units in appropriate categories to be eligible for a Georgia High School Diploma

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Courses requiring an End of Course Assessment:

Typically taken in:	Subject Area:
9 th Grade	✓ Algebra I
10 th Grade	✓ Biology ✓ Lit/Comp II
11 th Grade	✓ US History
12 th Grade	

End-of-course tests account for 20% of the overall course grade.

Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students ***need substantial academic support*** to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.

Developing Learners demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students ***need additional academic support*** to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.

Proficient Learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students ***are prepared*** for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.

Distinguished Learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students ***are well-prepared for the next grade level or course and are well-prepared*** for college and career readiness.

Beginning- Level 1	0-67
Developing-Level 2	68-79
★ Proficient- Level 3	80-91
★ Distinguished-Level 4	92-100

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Important Dates

Progress Report 1	September 7
First Semester Mid-Terms	Blocks 1&3- Oct 5 Blocks 2&4- Oct 6
Report Card Conferences	October 14 4:30-6:30 pm
Progress Report 2	November 9
First Semester EOC	December 6-10
First Semester Final Exams	Review Day- Dec 14 Blocks 1&3- Dec 15 Blocks 2&4- Dec 16
Progress Report 3	February 8
Second Semester Mid-Terms	Blocks 1&3- March 8 Blocks 2&4- March 9
Report Card Conferences	March 15 4:30-6:30 pm
Progress Report 4	April 26
Second Semester EOC	May 2-6
Second Semester Final Exams	Seniors- May 16 Review Day- May 17 Blocks 1&3- May 18 Blocks 2&4- May 19

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Plan Ahead

A two- or four-year college degree is becoming more and more important for unlocking the doors to economic and educational opportunity in America today. Getting a college education requires a lot of time, effort, and careful planning by parents and students, but it provides knowledge and skills students will use for the rest of their lives to help them succeed in whatever they undertake.

Action Plan for Freshmen

As a freshman, take the time to start learning about the process for applying to secondary institutions.

- ❑ Talk with your guidance counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule to insure that you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college.
- ❑ Get involved with extracurricular activities.
- ❑ If you are having difficulty in any of your classes, ask for help from your teachers or guidance counselor.
- ❑ Look into dual enrollment opportunities.
- ❑ Start building your high school resume.

Action Plan for Sophomores

When reviewing your record, colleges take into consideration both your GPA and the amount of effort required to earn it. If you were not automatically placed in advanced classes, think about asking to be placed in them. Look for a great summer opportunity - job, internship or volunteer position.

Begin thinking about a financial plan for covering the costs of a college education. Check the websites of colleges that you are interested in to get an estimate of tuition costs. Don't forget to include the cost of books, room and board, etc. in your planning. There are many online resources that can help you fund your education.

- ❑ Meet with your guidance counselor to insure that you are on target with your core academic requirements and that you are enrolled in any academically challenging classes that you qualify for.

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- ❑ If you are involved in extracurricular activities, consider taking on a leadership role. If you haven't gotten involved in any extracurricular activities, now's the time to get involved.
- ❑ Consider taking dual enrollment courses or Work-based learning opportunities when you register for courses for your Junior year.
- ❑ Get a summer job and save money for your college expenses.

Action Plan for Juniors

Junior year is the time for serious college planning. The time you spend this year will more than pay off next year. Consider researching potential college majors. Identify your interests or consider taking a career assessment test.

- ❑ Take the PSAT in October. Prepare for the PSAT by getting PSAT tips and a free practice test.
- ❑ Start your college search. Make lists of your abilities, preferences, interests, and personal qualities. Determine which colleges specialize in your areas of interest and offer majors that you are considering.
- ❑ Begin thinking about Financial Aid. Talk with your counselor about your college plans.

Action Plan for Seniors

Prepare to complete college applications. Narrow your list of colleges to five and visit the campuses of each. Sit in on classes. Get an application and financial aid form from each.

- ❑ Stay active in your extracurricular and community service activities.
- ❑ Set up a master calendar that shows all deadlines for college applications, financial aid, testing, fees and high school deadlines for transcript requests, etc.
- ❑ Decide if you are applying for early action or early decision as this may require taking the SAT or ACT early as well as having an earlier application deadline.
- ❑ Register for the ACT and/or SAT.
- ❑ Research financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible.
- ❑ When completing your applications, pay attention to details. An incomplete application is a waste of your time and the college admission office. If an essay is required, make sure that someone else proofs your draft.
- ❑ Once you receive the decision from your colleges, consider all of your options including financial aid. Once your decision is made, let each school if you have accepted their offer as soon as possible.

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