



**NexGen Learning at
Lago Vista ISD**

**COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT
DECEMBER 7, 2016**

WELCOME TO COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT!

- Introductions
- Agenda
 - Graduation Requirements/Plans
 - Rank/GPA
 - Advanced Coursework
 - College Entrance Exams
 - PSAT Scores & Awesome Prep Resources
 - College Planning Timeline
 - Resources

GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL

To earn a diploma in LVISD, you must:

- Earn 28 credits
- Pass required courses specified by graduation plan
- Pass STAAR EOC tests: English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, Biology, US History

WHAT IS A CREDIT?

- One credit = 1 full year in a class
- One half credit = 1 semester of a class
- To earn a credit:
 - Semesters averaged must be 70% or greater
 - Must attend 90% of days allotted each year for course credit
- Must earn required number of credits to be promoted from one grade to the next and to graduate.

GRADUATION PLANS

Students have 2 main options:

- Foundation High School Plan (FHSP)
Plus Endorsement
- Distinguished Achievement Plan
(DAP)

3rd option (FHSP Only) doesn't meet most eligibility requirements for four-year colleges and universities.

FHSP PLUS ENDORSEMENT

4 credits	English Language Arts
4 credits	Mathematics
4 credits	Science
3 credits	Social Studies
1 credit	PE or PE Substitute
1 credit	Fine Arts
2 credits	Foreign Language (LOTE)
.5-1 credit	Speech*
.5 credit	Health/LNW*
.5 credit	Personal Financial Literacy (Money Matters)*
4 credits	Electives in a coherent sequence (Endorsement)

**Local Requirement*

ENDORSEMENTS?

- Think of it as a major...except in HS.
- Personalized learning plan in line with a student's interests and goals.
- Selected upon entering 9th grade
- May be changed at any time with parent approval by working through the campus counselor.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PLAN (DAP)

- All requirements of FHSP Plus Endorsement AND
 - Algebra II
- All students enter high school under the DAP Plan with an Endorsement
- DAP is required to be eligible for automatic admission into state universities if they graduate in the top 10% of their class*

**The University of Texas has more stringent admissions requirements.*

PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Outstanding performance in:

- Bilingualism and biliteracy;
- In a dual credit course, on an AP or IB exam;
- On certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance exams; or
- Earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate.



Sprinkles

on the

Cupcake!

GPA AND RANK

A → 4

D → 1

B → 3

F → 0

C → 2



GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

- Calculated average letter grades earned
- Colleges use this to measure your overall performance in high school
- LVISD uses a weighted GPA scale
 - Advanced classes (AP, Dual Credit, OnRamps) receive extra weight
- Strong Coursework + Good Grades = Higher GPA
- Higher GPA = Better chance of getting into college of your choice!

CLASS RANK

- All students ranked in order of GPA
- Determined by averaging all semester grades earned in eligible classes
- Eligible high school courses from middle school are included
- #1 = Valedictorian
- #2 = Salutatorian
- Top 10% = Automatic Admissions

TOP 10% COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Ranked in the top 10% of their graduating class
- Eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas...
except for the University of Texas
- Admission does not guarantee acceptance into a particular college of study or department

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS



PRE-AP

- Prepare students for success in college level course work in high school and beyond.
- Are **more academically challenging** and require **more independent learning**
- Frequently have **summer assignments**
- Weighted HS credit
- Are NOT “all or nothing”
- Students develop academic readiness at different rates and may not be ready for Pre-AP at the same time as their friends or classmates.
- **Review entry and exit guidelines in the course guide!**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

- For students who wish to pursue **college-level** studies while in high school
- Frequently have **summer assignments**
- Weighted HS credit
- Additional weight for taking AP exam
- May earn **college credit** based on score on AP test (generally 3 or higher)
- **Review entry and exit guidelines in the course guide!**

DUAL CREDIT

- Enroll in college courses while in high school
- Credit counts toward high school graduation and **earns regular college credit AND saves money!**
- Weighted HS credit
- LVISD offers multiple options:
 - OnRamps through UT-Austin, ACC Dual Credit, & TXVSN.
- Have eligibility requirements (TSI).
- Check with prospective colleges to determine if a course will count!
- **Review entry and exit guidelines in the course guide!**

GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE



COLLEGE

STEVE-LOVELACE.COM

COLLEGE VISITS

- Juniors and seniors are allowed **two college visit days** per year.
- Principal must give prior approval.
- “College Day” permission form available in the office.
- Students need to provide verification of the college visit.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- Standardized tests are required for entry into most colleges/universities.
- Three primary exams:
 - Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) – *Texas Only*
 - Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
 - American College Test (ACT)

TSIA

- Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, students must demonstrate readiness or “**meet TSI**” in English & Math
- May take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment
- SAT/ACT also allow students to “meet TSI”
- **Meeting TSI is required before a student enrolls in a dual-credit course**
- State law allows students to exempt TSI for dual credit purposes only –
 - Level 2 final recommended score English II EOC
 - 435 on the ACT-Aspire English test; 431 on the ACT-Aspire Math
 - PSAT/NMSQT - but scores still haven’t been determined.

SAT/ACT

- Many colleges **require** either ACT or the SAT for admission.
- These exams are usually taken at the **end of the junior year**.
- Preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT are the **PSAT and ACT-Aspire** .

LVISD AND PSAT

PSAT/NMSQT[®]
Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

WHY THE PSAT?

- Students take for free in 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. (Thank you LVISDEF!)
- Identify academic strengths and weaknesses.
- Practice for the SAT that will have an impact on their college application process.
- [FREE personalized SAT & college planning tools online.](#)

NATIONAL MERIT

- PSAT/NMSQT qualifies 11th graders for the **National Merit Scholarship Program**
- Complicated process – determined after test and is based on Selection Index
- Must answer four questions “correctly” to be entered
- Two levels of recognition:
 - Commended - top 3% nationally
 - Semifinalist - top 1% by state
- One word - **SCHOLARSHIPS**

NATIONAL MERIT — 4 QUESTIONS

- Student answer document **must** indicate that he/she:
 - Is in 11th grade
 - Is planning to graduate on time
 - Is planning to enroll in a full-time college no later than the fall after graduation, and
 - Is a US citizen or lawful resident who intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

NATIONAL MERIT — SELECTION INDEX

- To calculate, double the sum of of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.
- In 2016, the national Selection Index score for National Merit Commended was **209**.
- In 2016, the Selection Index score for National Merit Semifinalists was **220** in Texas.
- It's important to remember that being in the top 99% of ALL test takers is not the same as being at the top of the students who qualify to enter the program...**it's a higher bar**.

CHANGES TO PSAT/SAT IN 2015

- The score range is **1520** (not 1600!)
 - Range of 160 to 760 for both the Math and Reading/Writing sections.
- Reading and Writing sections are combined into **one overall score**.

CHANGES TO REMEMBER

Words in Context: No more obscure and seemingly random words, commonly called “**SAT WORDS**”. Now students will encounter relevant words and phrases that derive their meanings from the contexts in which they are used.

CHANGES TO REMEMBER

No Penalty for Guessing: The redesigned tests remove the penalty for guessing that has been used to score the SAT in the past.



FALL 2016 PSAT 8/9

(CURRENT 8TH GRADERS)

8th Grade – Lago Vista Middle School

103 Test Takers

16 Test Takers - Top 90% Nationally (16%)

1 Test Taker - Top 99% Nationally!!!

District Mean Total Score = **863**

State Mean Total Score = **805 (+58 points)**

National Mean Total Score = **814 (+49 points)**

Total Score Range: 240-1440

FALL 2016 PSAT 8/9

(CURRENT 9TH GRADERS)

9th Grade – Lago Vista High School

87 Test Takers

14 Test Takers - Top 90% Nationally (16%)

2 Test Takers - Top 99% Nationally!!!

District Mean Total Score = **904**

State Mean Total Score = **856 (+48 points)**

National Mean Total Score = **870 (+34 points)**

Total Score Range: 240-1440

FALL 2016 PSAT/NMSQT (CURRENT 10TH GRADERS)

10th Grade – Lago Vista High School

77 Test Takers

5 Test Takers - Top 90% Nationally (6%)

District Mean Total Score = **934**

State Mean Total Score = **908 (+26 points)**

National Mean Total Score = **938 (-4 points)**

Total Score Range: 320-1520

FALL 2016 PSAT/NMSQT (CURRENT 11TH GRADERS)

11th Grade – Lago Vista High School

107 Test Takers

11 Test Takers - Top 90% Nationally (10%)

1 Test Taker - Top 99% Nationally!!!

District Mean Total Score = **993**

State Mean Total Score = **970 (+23 points)**

National Mean Total Score = **1019 (-26 points)**

Total Score Range: 320-1520

BEST EFFORT IS IMPORTANT

1. Money for College

- On PSAT NMSQT, students should say “Yes” to Student Search Service

2. National Merit Scholarship Program

3. Learn What Students Need to Improve

- Let scores reflect what students really know
- Use the tools to improve

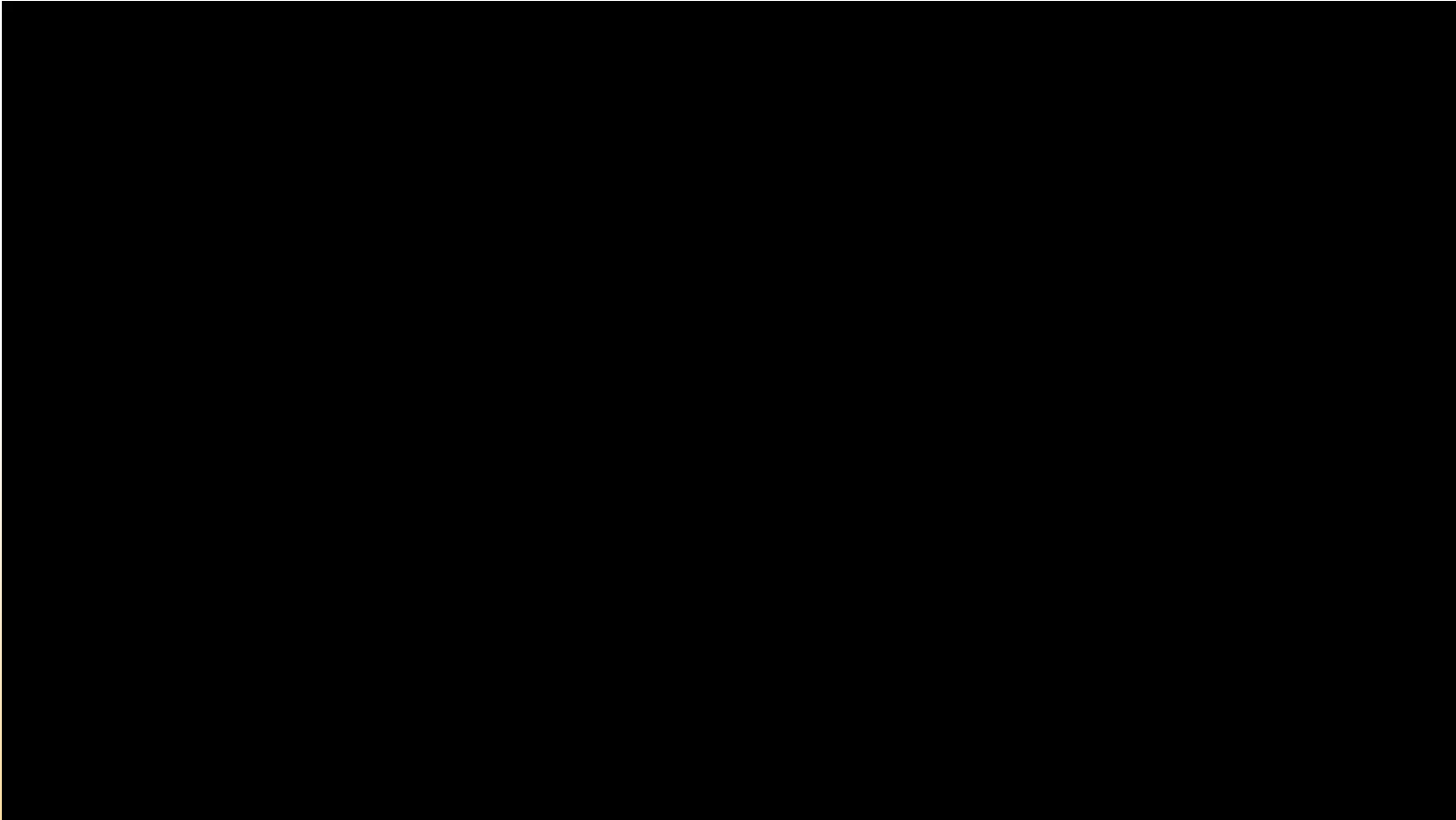
4. Don't let students close doors before they decide if you want to go through them!

KHAN ACADEMY & BIG FUTURE ACCESS

Using the **FREE** access provided by College Board, students can access:

- An online score report
- A **customized SAT study plan** with free access to Khan Academy
- Parents – You can create an account and link it to **“coach” your student!**
- **Access to Big Future** - an interactive majors, college, and career exploration program
- Feedback on readiness for **AP courses**
- Access to **scholarship** information

KHAN ACADEMY & BIG FUTURE ACCESS



STUDENTS HAVE FOUR EASY STEPS!

1. Create a College Board Account.

www.collegeboard.org

2. Set up a College Board/Khan Academy Account.

www.satpractice.org

3. Link your scores.

4. Add a coach. All you need is their email.

CONFIDENCE



PAYING FOR COLLEGE



FINANCIAL AID

- **Loans:** You pay back/must qualify
- **Grants:** You do not pay back/must qualify
- **Work Study:** Employment through the university/must qualify
- **FAFSA:** Apply starting October 1st of your Senior year—parents/students must have tax info ready. **Sign up early for your FAFSA ID.**

TEXAS GRANT

The TEXAS Grant, in combination with other aid, **will pay your tuition and fees** at Texas' public colleges and universities. You are eligible if you...

- are a Texas resident;
- have not been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance;
- complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and demonstrate financial need.

BOTTOM LINE: WHAT COLLEGES WANT TO KNOW

- What is your **academic history** and **GPA**?
- Did you take **challenging classes** in high school and a **strong senior year schedule**?
- How do your **ACT/SAT scores** compare with other students' scores?
- What **honors and awards** have you received?
- What **extracurricular activities/volunteer activities** are you involved in?
- What does your **college essay** say about your writing ability and about you?
- What do **recommendations** say about you?

RESOURCES

- <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- <https://tccns.org/>
- www.eligibilitycenter.org
- <http://comparecollegetx.com/>
- www.satpractice.org
- <https://www.applytexas.org>
- <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- <https://collegeboard.roadtripnation.com/>

HARD WORK PAYS OFF...START NOW!

