It’s Your Senior Year!!! Now what???
Think about what will happen after graduation. Where will you be one year from now?

1. Research
a. Careers- Occupational Outlook Handbook- [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)
b. Schools & Scholarships- Fastweb- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
 College Board- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
 Mapping Your Future- [www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org)
 Government web site- [www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool](http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool).

 c. Preview Days/Tours- 2 per year are excused; You must turn in a form (located in the office) signed by all teachers at least 2 days prior to your absence. You will also need to bring back proof of your attendance in order for your absence to be excused. Also, see virtual tours- ecampustours.com.
d. Financial Aid - [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) - Beware of scholarship scams. If they ask you for money, **Beware**.
2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). NOT [www.fafsa.com](http://www.fafsa.com)
a. This is the application available to you after October 1 that requires financial information from you and your parents. This is the application required to secure a federal Pell Grant, Stafford Loan, Perkins Loan, the Arkansas Academic Challenge, and work study program eligibility. IT’S VERY IMPORTANT! This year’s seniors may use 2016 federal income taxes to file. The FAFSA web site is [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), NOT [www.fafsa.com](http://www.fafsa.com). That last site will charge you.
b. Some money is first come first serve. The deadline for Arkansas is June 1st for many grants and scholarships based on the FAFSA.
c. For questions you may call 1-800-4-FED-AID.
d. Go to [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to put in financial information now and get an idea of what federal programs you may be eligible for.
3. Types of financial aid
a. grants- money you receive but do not pay back (Pell grants)
b. loans- money you must pay back (Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, PLUS loans, etc.)
c. scholarships- money you receive because you have earned it
 1. academic- usually based on your GPA, your curriculum, and your ACT/SAT score
 2. performance- you audition or try out in fine arts, athletics, etc. You receive money based on your continued performance.
 3. character- you exemplify a positive character trait and have evidence to prove it

 (Local scholarship applications will be available in the spring)

d. work study- you have a job on the college campus, usually less than 20 hours at minimum wage. However, you do not pay taxes on this money.

 e. go to [www.adhe.edu](http://www.adhe.edu) and complete the Youniversal Application (open October 1)

which covers the Academic Challenge/Lottery Scholarship along with other types of state aid.

1. What YOU need to do- It’s up to you…
a. COME SEE ME!!!!- I am here to help you. Email- scarlett.golleher@lonokeschools.org.
b. Get organized-
 1. Have a folder with all your college materials in it.
 2. Know your deadlines and have a calendar that you check regularly.
 3. Develop a resume of your accomplishments, honors, classes, work experience, etc. and keep it on a computer. Update it as the year progresses. Make sure it includes everything you have done from the ninth grade on. It should legible and very neat and orderly. You may use the ACT Profile program to do this.

c. Take the ACT or SAT. Know which test your prospective school requires. See [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Students who receive free or reduced lunches may use a fee waiver twice to take the test. See me for a form.
d. Visit schools. Check their web sites for preview days. Call and make a reservation for a tour. Be prepared with thorough questions. Use the College Application Tracker

e. TAKE CARE OF YOUR GPA.
f. Males 18 and older must register with the Selective Service in order to be eligible for federal aid. [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).
g. If you intend to play athletics in college, you must register with the NCAA. You can do this on paper or at the web site, [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). The cost is $80. Students who are eligible for an ACT fee waiver are also eligible for an NCAA Clearinghouse fee waiver. Also, you must have your ACT scores sent directly from ACT to the NCAA. The code number is 9999.
h. Letters of Recommendation- Give a copy of your resume to the person you ask to write the letter at least two weeks before you need the letter. Do not use a relative as a reference. Use someone who knows your character and your work ethic. A Letter of Recommendation form is available on our Counselor page.
i. Get involved, especially in the area of community service. Show that you are a well-rounded, engaged, interesting person.
j. Establish an email account (not your school email) to use for school and post-secondary correspondence. It should be an account that you access regularly, and that has a name that indicates you are a responsible, mature person. CHECK IT ON A REGULAR BASIS.

1. Students with Disabilities- Colleges and universities should have a disabilities coordinator. If you have a disability that significantly affects your life, you should be sure to contact this person at the school for help. A representative for the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services office will be here to interview anyone who might be eligible for help.
2. Some schools require you to complete the College Board Profile form. Make sure to find out if your school(s) do and complete that information on time. Registrations will be accepted beginning Oct. 1. For more information or help, contact help@cssprofile.org, or call toll free 800.239.5888.
3. [www.essayedge.com](http://www.essayedge.com) and College Essay Guy are great websites for help with writing admission and scholarship essays.
4. Senior year has many, many expenses and it’s easy to get caught up in all the memorabilia offered to you for sale. Talk with your parents about your budget and what you really need, really want, and are able to pay for. You’re going to have graduation invitations, cap and gown, yearbooks, pictures, admissions fees, etc. Plan ahead!
5. Check our Lonoke High School Counselor page: Go to <https://www.lonokeschools.org/>, Click on Schools, then Lonoke High School, then scroll down to Counselors.
6. Go to tasseltime.com Login: lonoke; password: jackrabbits . Click on the headings for Scholarships/Databases and complete several of the applications. Also check individual scholarships, ACT, Careers/etc . There is so much good information on this website.