

# Now that I have my schedule, what's next??

## Don't Stress!!!



Welcome to Lakota West! After hearing all of the horror stories, high school can seem like a very scary place. But no worries, it's actually a lot of FUN! To start off, here are some key tips to remember:



- **Stay Organized!** Each student is administered a planner on the first day of school that is also used as a hall pass. Using your planner daily will help you stay on top of assignments.
- Yes, this is high school; yes, you will probably have more work. No, it is not impossible!  
**You will survive!**

- Your teachers do not live at school and they do not bite. Don't be afraid to ask a teacher for help, they will be more than happy to give it to you.
- If you ever need any additional information or forms, check out [lakotaonline.com](http://lakotaonline.com) or [lakotawesthigh.com](http://lakotawesthigh.com) for all the latest news.
- **Home Access Center (HAC)** will be your most important too. Teachers can update grades, assignments, and documents, as well as your schedule and attendance.

### **Talking to Your Counselor**

Guidance Counselors are a very useful resource to get help with classes, college, standardized tests, or anything else you may need assistance with. Feel free to sign up in **the Guidance Office** for an appointment with your counselor. Or, if you just have a quick question, **email** is an effective method for finding information without taking time out of class.

### **Extracurricular Activities and Sports**

Each and every student is encouraged to participate in clubs or sports outside of the classroom! Not only is it a good way to beef up college applications, but fun at the same time. If you can't find a club that interests you, then go ahead and make one! Listen to **morning announcements** and look for posters placed around the school for information about when/where clubs meet. Sports are more competitive and involved. Again, listen to the morning announcements or visit [westfirebirds.com](http://westfirebirds.com) for more information about West sports.

### **School Rules & Academic Policies**

Many of our school rules and academic policies/guidelines can be found in three locations. **The Student Planner**, which all students receive at the beginning of the year, has a wealth of information regarding Graduation Requirements, Grading Scale, Bell Schedules, School Calendar and Honors Diploma requirements can be found on the school's **webpage** and in the **Course of Study Book** that is also found online.

### **Talking to Your Teachers**

There are a few different ways to contact your teacher. **Emails are the best way.** Your best approach is to make an appointment so both your and the teacher are available.

### **Website, Txtwire, Twitter, & Parent Email**

There are several ways the school communicates with home.

- A **Parent Email** is sent out weekly to keep parents informed of upcoming activities and school related news. (sign up for emails at [www.lakotaonline.com/emailsSignup.cfm](http://www.lakotaonline.com/emailsSignup.cfm))
- **Txtwire** will send pertinent information to your and your parent's phone. (Text WEST to 91011)
- You can follow Lakota West on Twitter (Firebirdtweets)
- And visit the web site at [Lakotawesthigh.com](http://Lakotawesthigh.com).

### **Lunch**

All students have 30 minutes to eat lunch. The Diner is set up in a food court style. There are a variety of options for students. They can purchase a complete lunch, supplements for their lunch, or bring a lunch from home. Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch. Purchasing lunch from outside vendors is not acceptable.

### **Available Classes and Electives**

Prior to each school year, every student will have the option to sign up for desired classes. A full list can be found on [lakotawesthigh.com](http://lakotawesthigh.com). Electives are required in order to graduate; feel free to branch out and try something new! Please note that all elective requests are not guaranteed, but your counselor will do the best they can to work with your schedule.

### **Naviance & HAC**

There are two programs that will provide both student and parent with a wealth of information. Naviance is an essential program that will help students move through the college application/admission process. This starts early, so be ready to register your freshmen year. **HAC (Home Access Center)** is the avenue for parents and students to track their academic progress. In addition, many teachers use this to post assignments and other class related information. We also use HAC to register for classes for the next school year. *There are user names and passwords associated with both programs so please keep these available.*

### **Preparing for College**

Every student will take the PSAT as a junior, but it is the student's responsibility to sign up to take the SAT and/or ACT. The most important key for college preparation will be the online navigation system **Naviance**; not only will Naviance be a crucial tool for submitting transcripts and recommendations, but it is also an excellent place to start in your search for a college.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How can I replace a lost planner?**

Planners are a mandatory survival tool; new ones can be purchased in the office for a fee of \$4.

### **What about driving to school?**

Students at the Main Campus only can purchase parking passes in the Student Services Annex for a fee of \$40. Freshman students are not permitted to drive to school. Keep in mind that a parking pass is a **privilege** and can be revoked by the school at any time.

### **What if I'm going to be absent?**

A parent/guardian should call the attendance line or send an email on the day of absence (Freshman Campus: 682-4235 or [LWFSAttendance@lakotaonline.com](mailto:LWFSAttendance@lakotaonline.com) or the Main Campus: 682-4115 or [LWHSAttendance@lakotaonline.com](mailto:LWHSAttendance@lakotaonline.com)). In the event of an extended absence, be sure to get all work **ahead** of time.

### **What if I have trouble with my locker?**

Each student will be assigned their own personal locker and combination, both of which should not be shared. If there is a problem with a malfunctioning locker, go to the front office and they will contact a custodian for assistance.

### **How can my parents get involved?**

Lakota West offers many parent organizations, including the PTO, Athletic Boosters, Upbeat Club (band), Overtones (choir), and the Theatre parent group. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer at various school events, such as the craft fair and After Prom.

