

# Junior Jumpstart

*Presented by:*

**Liz Brainard**

**LEAF Advisory Director**

On the left side of the slide, there are decorative green elements: a large circle at the top, a dark green leaf shape in the middle, and a large circle at the bottom. The text "What is LEAF?" is written in a bold, dark green, serif font.

## What is LEAF?

- Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Foundation
- Non-profit that offers College & Career Access Services across Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, and Portage Counties
- Lakeland Office and in Schools
- [leaf-ohio.org](http://leaf-ohio.org)

A large, stylized green leaf graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the title. It consists of two overlapping leaf shapes, one in a medium green and the other in a lighter green.

# Agenda

- Timeline for planning visits, applications, financial aid, and scholarships
- Scheduling campus visits and building a visit list
- Definition and descriptions of financial aid
- ACT/SAT Testing Prep and Tips
- College Athletics
- Online resources





# Timeline: 11th Grade

- Strong academic year
- Be in contact with school counselor; select senior schedule with potential postsecondary major in mind
- Seek leadership roles in your areas of passion
- Prepare for and take ACT/SAT
- Document all honors and activities; you will need this frequently in your senior year





# Timeline: 11th Grade *(continued)*

- Visit schools
  - Four year, two year, trade schools all have visit options available
- Contact college coaches if pursuing athletics
- Discuss college costs as a family
  - Check Net Price Calculators
  - What can you afford to pay?
- Think of people who can write letters of recommendation and even ask them at the end of 11th grade year





# Campus Visits

- Organize list of colleges or schools where you would like to visit/apply:
  - Four-year Colleges and Universities
  - Two-year Community Colleges/Branch Campuses
  - Trade Schools
- Types of Visits
  - Individual Tours - Ask what's available
  - Group Days/Visits
- Schedule Campus Visits - All done online
  - [Lakeland](#), [KSU Geauga](#)
  - [Akron](#), [CWRU](#), [OSU](#)
    - Best time is when school is in session



# Campus Visit Tips

- Ask About Visit Options
  - Can you sit in on a class? Talk to financial aid? Speak to advisor or professor? Make the most of your visits.
- Ask Questions
  - Ask tour guide, but don't be afraid to ask students what they think about the school, campus, and programs.
- Be Aware You are Being Shown the Best
- Consider Visiting More than Once if You Like a School



In the top left corner, there are two stylized leaves. One is a large, solid green leaf, and the other is a smaller, lighter green leaf positioned slightly above and to the right of the first one.

# Gather Information Online

- Your High School Tools: Naviance, Scoir, SchoolLinks
- Ohio Career Information Systems ([OCIS](#))
  - Username: LEAF
  - Password: 4OCISLeaf2016
  - School Sort
- US News & World Report
  - [Best Engineering Programs in Ohio](#)
- College Websites
  - [OSU](#)







# Timeline: Summer before 12th Grade

- Do what you love. Or just do something!
  - Work
  - Volunteer
  - Investigate summer opportunities
- College Essay Draft (Common App for prompts)
- Retake ACT/SAT
- Visit Schools if have not done so
- Finalize list of schools to apply





# Timeline: Fall of 12th Grade

- Create Common App Account
- Confirm Recommendation Letters
- Apply to colleges by November 1.
- Admission Deadlines: Check to see if these are offered at the college/university
  - Early Action
  - Early Decision
  - Regular Decision
  - Rolling Admission



A green leaf graphic with a white vein, positioned to the left of the title.

# Timeline: 12th Grade Continued

- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1
- Look and apply for scholarships all year
  - Peak local scholarship season is January until Mid-March
- Wait until receiving all Financial Aid Offers before deciding which school to attend
- Pay deposit by May 1st to accept FAO





# What is Financial Aid?

- How a student pays for postsecondary education
  - Grants and Scholarships (“gift aid”)
  - Loans and Work-Study (“self-help”)
- FA comes from federal, state, institutional & outside sources.
- Reality: FA NOT keeping up with the rising costs of a postsecondary education.





# The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)


- Filing the FAFSA is the first step in applying for financial aid in **October of Senior Year**
  - A few colleges also require the CSS Profile (found at [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)), which is a more inclusive financial aid application, and also available in October of senior year.
- The FAFSA is required for most federal, state, and institutional aid.
- The processed FAFSA yields a Student Aid Index (SAI) which the college uses in a federal formula to award aid.
- File the FAFSA online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

# Scholarship Search

- Institutional Scholarships  
*(usually fall deadlines)*
  - Academic/Merit-based
    - Admissions Office
  - Need-based/Endowed
    - Financial Aid Office
- Outside Scholarships  
*(November - May of senior year)*
  - Local organizations
  - Scholarship websites
  - Workplace

Three green leaves of varying sizes are arranged in a cluster on the left side of the slide. The largest leaf is at the bottom, with two smaller leaves above it.

# ACT/SAT Test Prep Agenda

- Should you take it?
    - ~80% of colleges no longer require test scores though could still give you an advantage in scholarships or admissions with a particular test score
  - Take advantage of Test Prep
  - Retake ACT/SAT in Summer before Senior Year
  - Utilize online resources and tips
- 
- Two green leaves of varying sizes are arranged in a cluster on the bottom right side of the slide. The larger leaf is on the right, with a smaller leaf to its left.

# ACT/SAT Preparation



- Work hard in school
- Read regularly
- Prepare with a test prep program at least two months in advance
- Familiarize yourself with the format/timing of the test
- Look for a program that offers diagnostic testing and one-to-one tutoring tailored to your individual needs



# ACT/SAT Preparation

A circular graphic with a teal background and a white border. Inside the circle, the text "WHEN TEST DAY ARRIVES" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**WHEN  
TEST DAY  
ARRIVES**

- Get plenty of sleep
- Take a shower and complete your normal morning routine
- Eat a good breakfast and stay hydrated
- Wear comfortable clothes and dress in layers
- Know the driving route to your testing site
- Bring you calculator and make sure it's charged
- Bring several sharpened pencils
- Bring a small snack and a water bottle
- Stay calm

# Free Online Resources

- [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)
- [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
- [number2.com](http://number2.com)
- [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)
- [vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com)
- [kaptest.com](http://kaptest.com)



# College Athletics

- What level can you play or want to play?
  - Conversation with coach/club coach
  - Weigh pros and cons
  - NCAA DI, D2, D3, NAIA, NJCAA
- Create athletic resume and contact college coaches via email or recruiting forms as a Junior
- Fill out [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) if pursuing NCAA D1 or D2
- Focus on what you want to accomplish long term, not short term



# Online Resources



## Career Research

- [Ohiomeansjobs.org](http://Ohiomeansjobs.org)
- [Onetonline.org](http://Onetonline.org)

## College Research

- [portal.ocis.intocareers.org](http://portal.ocis.intocareers.org)  
Username: LEAF  
Password: 4OCISLeaf2016
- [highered.ohio.gov](http://highered.ohio.gov)
- [princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com)
- [opuac.org](http://opuac.org) (public Ohio schools)
- [aicuo.edu](http://aicuo.edu) (private Ohio schools)

## Financial Aid Information

- [finaid.org](http://finaid.org)
- [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)
- [highered.ohio.gov](http://highered.ohio.gov)
- Net price calculators on every college website
- [savingforcollege.com](http://savingforcollege.com)

## Scholarship Search

- [leaf-ohio.org](http://leaf-ohio.org) (regional)
- [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) (national)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) (national)

A large, stylized leaf graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide. It is composed of several overlapping leaf shapes in various shades of green, from light lime green to dark forest green. The leaves are arranged in a way that suggests growth and movement.

# Questions?

[www.leaf-ohio.org](http://www.leaf-ohio.org)



# LEAF Contacts

Liz Brainard

*Lake Catholic*

[lbrainard@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:lbrainard@leaf-ohio.org)

Magen Corbett

*Beachwood, Perry*

[mcorbett@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:mcorbett@leaf-ohio.org)

Teresa Heavilin

*Harvey, Madison*

[theavilin@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:theavilin@leaf-ohio.org)

Christine Jankowski [cjankowski@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:cjankowski@leaf-ohio.org)

*Chardon, Kirtland, Mentor, Lake Catholic*

Heather Moll

*Berkshire, Crestwood, iSTEM, Kenston*

[hmoll@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:hmoll@leaf-ohio.org)

Renee Morgan

*Aurora, Chagrin Falls, Orange*

[rmorgan@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:rmorgan@leaf-ohio.org)

Bill Novak

*Bay*

[bnovak@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:bnovak@leaf-ohio.org)

Cheryl Suszynski

*Auburn CC, Fairport Harbor, Eastlake North, Riverside*

[csuszynski@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:csuszynski@leaf-ohio.org)

Sarah Treen

*Mayfield, Willoughby South*

[streen@leaf-ohio.org](mailto:streen@leaf-ohio.org)