



Welcome!

Senior Parent Presentation

2018-2019

TOPS Core Curriculum

- English I, II, III, IV
- *Algebra I, *Algebra II, *Geometry, Advanced Math I, Advanced Math II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus
- *Biology I, *Chemistry I, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Environmental Science
- *US History, *Civics(Gov't), Geography, World History, Religion III (History of Religion)
- Foreign Language I, II
- 1 Art or 1 Choir or 1 Band or Fine Arts survey course (Music Appreciation and Art History)
- 19 Core Courses
- Seniors have received their state report with their updated TOPS Opportunity GPA.

TOPS Information

- TOPS Tech - GPA: 2.50/ ACT: 17/ GPA is determined by the 19 TOPS COURSES. This is for a technical degree plan.
- TOPS Opportunity - GPA: 2.50/ ACT: 20 (TOPS pays an average of public tuitions to private universities) Tuition amounts are frozen and will not pay more if the university has increased it since 2017.
- TOPS Performance - GPA: 3.0/ ACT: 23/ tuition plus \$200 more per semester
- TOPS Honors - GPA 3.0/ ACT: 27/ tuition plus \$400 more per semester
- Once you lose Performance or Honors it can't be re-instated. It reverts to the Opportunity Award (set tuition amount only).
- TOPS Calculator located on www.vandebiltcatholic.org under academics then counseling center.

Louisiana Graduation Requirements

- 4 units of English.
- 4 units of Math
- 4 units of Science
- 4 units of Social Studies (Religion III is a state recognized social studies)
- 2 units of P.E.
- 2 units of Foreign Language
- 1 unit of Art
- 4 units of Religion (VCHS graduation requirement)

- VCHS diploma requires 26 credits. VCHS Honors diploma requires 27 credits with at least 10 LVI or AP classes (taken between 9th-12th) and a 3.50 non-weighted cumulative GPA.
- Grading policy: each semester stands alone.
- If a student fails the Fall semester and passes the Spring semester with a "C" or higher, the student will not need to retake the failed semester.
- If a student fails the Fall semester but passes the Spring semester with a "D", the student will have to register for a correspondence course to earn the credit for the Fall semester grade before graduating.
- If a student fails the Spring semester, the student will have to register for a correspondence course and earn the credit before graduating.
- This is for any of the 21 required courses for graduation, not elective courses. A state diploma does require a total of 3 elective courses passed to total 24 credits while VCH requires 5 elective courses passed.
- Each year every student had opportunity to take 7 classes which adds to 28 passed course.

ACT DATES

2018-2019

- Website to sign up is www.act.org (please send scores to universities in the slots provided and included in the \$50.50 no writing or \$67.00 writing).
- October 27, registration deadline is September 28
- December 8, registration deadline is November 2
- February 9, registration deadline is January 11
- April 13, registration deadline is March 8 (last date to earn Performance/Honors score)
- June 8, registration deadline is May 3 (can still earn TOPS score minus one semester)
- Be mindful of registration deadlines to avoid late fees. (These dates and deadlines are found at www.act.org)
- VCHS is **not** a testing site for July.

- www.act.org - register online for ACT. School Code: 191230
Test Center: 177020
- Problem of the Day, Practice ACT test
- December, April, June tests can request test and correct answers for an additional fee.
- TOPS does NOT pay everything. It pays for a set tuition but NOT fees.
- GRADES(3.0) AND ACT SCORES are important for scholarship money offered from the universities. Check their website for required scores and deadlines for applications.
- TOPS pays for 8 semesters. This can go towards graduate school but not another bachelor or associate degree.

- Students can study for ACT and should.
- Students should take the ACT at least three times by December. (Personal opinion)
- Students should send their scores to LOSFA (TOPS) and Universities when registering for ACT.(4 included with cost of test; after it cost \$13 per school)
- ACT Codes: LOSFA(TOPS) -1595; Nicholls - 1580.
LSU - 1590; UL - 1612; LA Tech - 1588;
Southeastern-1608; ULM-1598; L.E.Fletcher- 5033;
NCAA - 9999

FAFSA (Free application for Federal Student Aid)

www.fafsa.gov

www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Both student and parent need a FSA ID (electronically sign and edit information) lock icon on FAFSA page. Must do before FASFA.
- FASFA filing for 2019 graduates opens on October 1, 2018. FSA ID numbers are needed before filing.
- In June the state pulls information from STS, LOSFA and FAFSA. THE STUDENT's social/ birthdate is used to match all information, as well as address and name.
- By the second week of July, if you haven't heard from LOSFA (TOPS) call or email. (www.osfa.la.gov) (800/259-5626 ext. 1012 or 800/433-3243)

What is needed when filing FASFA.

- Students and parents completed tax forms (2017)
- Driver's license(s)
- Social Security Card(s)
- Information on Investments and Assets
- FSA ID numbers

Where will scholarships be announced?

- At the bottom of the daily announcements that are emailed to students and parents.
- If it is not a website, hard copy applications can be found in guidance area in the black scholarship application box.

Scholarships

- Places of employment, insurance companies, credit unions, organizations supported by employers or family membership of organizations are valuable places to inquire about scholarship opportunities.
- Google search academic majors or specific activities. (Ex. USSSA)
- Academic scholarships awarded by Universities based on merit. Be mindful of deadlines, required GPA & ACT score.
- Country wide offers; usually websites
- Local offers (usually during Spring semester)
- Usually based on Merit, Financial Need, and/or Community Involvement
- www.fastweb.com; <http://go.salliemae.com/scholarship/>
www.scholarships.com

College Acceptance

- LSU - GPA: 3.0/ ACT: 22 also holistic view. (Common Application)
- Other Universities use a sliding scale, 2.5 GPA or a 23 Composite ACT, must have an 18 English/ 19 Math sub-score.
- Apply! Send ACT scores if not already sent.
- Reminder: Seniors meeting Academic scholarship qualifications should apply before University deadlines.
- Have a back up plan; Spring is a long time from now.

Cost of One Semester

ULL Fall 2018

- \$100 registration/orientation
- \$2500- \$2900(Fees) TOPS does not pay
- \$2705.22 (Tuition) TOPS is paying 100% this school year. Amount for next year, 2018-2019, will be determined in June 2019.
- Meal plan \$1671 Dorm ranges from \$2300/ \$3200/ \$4530. Apartments are on average \$600 a month with a year lease. Freshman are required to live on campus if student is not living at home.
(University costs can be found on their websites)
- TOTAL for **one semester** approximately **\$12,000**.
- Books:range from \$400-\$700 depending on renting/online/hard copy

Important dates

Miscellaneous

- College Night is at VCH September 26 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Kolb.
- Universities visited religion classes on Monday, October 15.
- Career Night at EDW Monday October 29 at 6:30pm in main building.
- Seniors need to visit the campus and ask financial aid for any possible scholarships (first generation/ catholic school graduate)
- Any student planning on participating in a sport at the next level should inform the AD's office. (Need to register with NCAA)
- Overall GPA/ Regents Core GPA/ TOPS Opportunity GPA

- www.osfa.la.gov : LOSFA Student Hub, Louisiana Award System, LOSFA ID or Louisiana Secure ID is given by LOSFA. VCH does not have student numbers.(social security #)
- E-mail LOSFA with any problems or questions pertaining to TOPS.
- www.latransferdegree.org
- Take more than 12 hours per semester
- Research textbook options
- START Saving account/ Educational IRA's (529)

- TOPS must be renewed every year by completing the FAFSA renewal form, or LA TOPS renewal form.
- Community College is a good option (less expensive/ career counseling/ GPA)
- College Night. Great way to gather information about university possibilities. Acceptance/programs/etc.
- Transcript request
- Letter of Recommendation
- Appointments
- College visits
- www.bls.gov (career information, occupational outlook handbook, occupational finder) Projection for the future, pay, job availability, etc.
- Thank you!

