

BTHS Post-Secondary Readiness Milestones

Ninth Grade

- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- Participate in and track extracurricular activities: sports, clubs, and community service (required for Bright Futures scholarships).
- Turn completed community service hour letters to the school counseling office to be entered into the system.
- Start thinking about life after high school, talk to people about careers you might find interesting.
- Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.
- Put aside money for college or other postsecondary plans.
- Check your Bright Futures GPA online in March and July <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college> .

Tenth Grade

- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Students with disabilities need to apply for PSAT/ACT/SAT/AP test accommodations (specific deadlines and requirements apply)- www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html and ACT: www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/
- Take the PSAT in October (FREE- for 10th graders). Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan). PSAT scores are in your CollegeBoard account.
- Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- Link your CollegeBoard and Khan account to receive personalized practice recommendations for SAT based on PSAT results.
- If you are interested in Dual Enrollment classes your junior year look into taking the PERT, ACT, SAT and/or PSAT. <http://www.sjstate.edu/testingcenter.html>.
- Visit at least 3 college or other postsecondary websites to review programs, admissions requirements, freshman profile, costs, and AP equivalents.
- Keep up participation in school activities and volunteer efforts and keep tracking your progress.
- Check your Bright Futures GPA online in March and July <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college> .
- Turn completed community service hour letters and/or pay stubs to the school counseling office to be entered into the system.
- Look for a job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.

Junior Year - FALL

- Order a transcript from Parchment to check for errors and remaining credits needed: <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/9276/account>
- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- If interested, register for PSAT at your school (cost – about \$20). Take the PSAT in October.
- Participate in test prep for ACT/SAT.
- If interested in going into the military make sure you talk to a recruiter and take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude battery (ASVAB).
- Contact your counselor about eligibility for ACT/SAT fee waivers (free and reduced lunch as well as several other criteria).
- Register for ACT and/or SAT for the spring (check current costs on website) www.act.org, and www.collegeboard.org Make sure to use your school code so results come to your school!

Junior Year - SPRING

- Research post-secondary institutions and programs of study to aid in senior year course selection.
- Registration in February through English classes.
- Order a transcript from Parchment; check for accuracy and remaining credits needed: <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/9276/account>
- Take the SAT and/or ACT - SEND SCORES TO AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL IN FLORIDA for Bright Futures purposes.
- Complete and submit community service/ paid work hours.
- Attend college visits or postsecondary websites to review programs, admissions requirements, freshman profile, costs, and AP equivalents.

Summer Before Senior Year

- Complete online courses.
- Visit college campuses.
- Work on community service/paid work hours.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Create a Resume.

Senior Year - FALL

- Participate in and track extracurricular activities: sports, clubs, and community service/paid work hours (required for Bright Futures scholarships).
- Discuss credit check with counselor.
- Complete testing requirements.
- Complete online courses, especially if concerned about Rank (determined by the end of 7th semester).
- Update resume.
- Order a transcript from Parchment; check for accuracy and remaining credits needed:
<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/9276/account>
- Apply to universities and colleges. If required, request letters of recommendation in person at least 3 weeks in advance.
- Complete community service/paid work hours.
- Apply for financial aid.
- Apply for scholarships.

Senior Year - SPRING

- Order a transcript from Parchment; check for accuracy and remaining credits needed:
<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/9276/account>
- Complete any missing graduation requirements.
- Complete online courses no later than May 3rd to receive credit for Graduation.
- Check your Bright Futures Eligibility; once you decide on a post-secondary institution, update your Bright Futures account with accurate information so your scholarship money goes to the correct institution.
- Apply to state (community) colleges.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Work on community service/paid work hours.
- Request a final transcript be sent to your post-secondary institution through Parchment.

Parchment & Ordering Transcripts

- All transcripts are loaded in Parchment EACH SEMESTER.
- Request a free PDF of the transcript to review – comes via email.
- Transcripts show the cumulative weighted and unweighted GPA, class rank, letter grades and service hours.

Grade Forgiveness

- Students can retake classes in which they earned a D or F.
- All grades appear on the transcript. Forgiven grades will still show, but will not be included in the GPA.
- Juniors should complete grade forgiveness NOW, before the beginning of their senior year.
- Options for grade recovery: St. Johns Virtual School and Florida Virtual school (flvs.net) and/or the Edmentum lab at school during a class period. Edmentum is **not** an improved option for NCAA.

State Assessment Requirements - Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- FAST Grade 10 Reading test or a concordant score.
- B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 end-of-course test or a concordant score.
- A concordant is an approved/pre-determined score on specific tests identified by the state (SAT, CLT, ACT, PSAT and Geometry EOC).

SAT, CLT and ACT – For College, Bright Futures, Concordant Scores

- Students register online for the SAT and ACT (sat.org and act.org). Registration deadlines are usually a month before the test date.
- Students can also register online (cltexam.com) for the CLT, which is taken at home (with restrictions).
- SEND SCORES TO AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL IN FLORIDA for Bright Futures purposes.

Financial Aid – Four Types

- Federal Aid – FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid); www.fafsa.gov; opens October 1st.
- State Florida Aid – Bright Futures; www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org; opens October 1st.
- Institutional Aid – Apply via the college/university you will attend.
- Private Aid – free money from organizations interested in helping students; scholarship opportunities are on the Guidance page of the BTHS website, check your (or your parent's) place of employment; corporations, local businesses, special interest groups, national, state and local organizations, fastweb.com, finaaid.org, collegenet.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Bright Futures – (State Aid)

- You must APPLY for Bright Futures by submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application.
- Applications open October 1st.
- Students will have the opportunity to complete the application in school (they will need their SSN).
- Read over the Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 1.
- Know the requirements for the Florida Academic Scholar and the Florida Medallion Scholar.
- Bright Futures GPA is NOT the same as the transcript GPA. Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment classes are weighed equally with 0.5 per credit (not 1.0 for AP or DE). Two academic electives will be accepted toward the GPA if it benefits the student.

Community Service Hours

- Must be a NON-PROFIT organization.
- Documented on letterhead with the number of hours worked, description, contact signature, parent and student signature.
- Submit to Mrs. Richards in the Guidance office.

Submitting Work Hours

- Print copies of your pay stubs (only up to 100 hrs).
- Complete the top portion of the Reflection Log and staple to pay stubs.
- Put in basket on Ms. Richard's desk (main Guidance office).

