



SCHOLARSHIPS & BRIGHT FUTURES

BTHS SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Counselors will be providing Financial Aid Workshops for Seniors during the month of October through English classes.

THOSE STUDENTS WITHOUT AN ENGLISH CLASS AT BTHS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP FOR A SEPARATE WORKSHOP.

THE 4 TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

There are various ways students can seek Financial Aid to help pay for College.

Federal Aid – Apply for the FAFSA beginning October 1st

State of Florida Aid – Bright Futures & Special Interest Scholarships

Institutional Aid – Visit the college and university websites

Private Aid – Search for Scholarships via national, state and local organizations

SCHOLARSHIPS

(PRIVATE AID)

- ▶ Provide financial support for students to help pay for college
- ▶ Enable students to obtain education they may not have access to otherwise
- ▶ Help reduce debt

Student's can earn multiple scholarships,
there is no limit!

BEFORE STUDENTS
BEGIN THE PROCESS
FOR APPLYING FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS, THEY
NEED TO GET
ORGANIZED!

- ▶ ACT/SAT/CLT test scores
- ▶ Unofficial high school transcripts – students should order a transcript to be sent to their email through Parchment (link is found on the main BTHS website).
- ▶ Letter of recommendation from teacher(s)
- ▶ Create a resume of activities, community service, leadership roles and skills
- ▶ Essays - you may be able to use the same one for multiple scholarships

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Create a dedicated scholarship email account with an appropriate email address
Firstname.lastname@gmail.com
- ▶ Review social media accounts and remove inappropriate material
- ▶ Make a list of deadlines and don't miss them
- ▶ When writing essays, make sure to follow all directions exactly, stick to the prompt, use the accurate word count, and try approaching the topic in a creative way
- ▶ Essays can often be reused and tailored for each new scholarship
- ▶ Apply to EVERY scholarship for which the student is eligible



where can
STUDENTS FIND
SCHOLARSHIPS?



Scholarship Information
may be found on the
BTHS Website!

Go to the School
Counseling Webpage
and then to the
Scholarships Heading on
the right.

- ▶ Scholarship Information
- ▶ Scholarships by Monthly Deadlines
- ▶ Scholarships – Information & Tips
- ▶ Scholarships offered from specific schools
- ▶ Scholarship Websites & Search Engines
- ▶ District Scholarship Page

REminder!

Seniors should be checking the monthly scholarship pages on the BTHS School Counseling Website frequently.

OTHER PLACES SENIORS CAN SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

- ▶ Student's Employers
- ▶ Parent's Employers
- ▶ Church and Civic Organizations
- ▶ Unions
- ▶ Corporations
- ▶ National, State, and Local Organizations
- ▶ Special Interest Groups



HOBBIES AND INTERESTS CAN HELP PAY FOR COLLEGE!

Students may not think
their hobbies and
interests could help
pay for college... but
they should!

There are THOUSANDS
of scholarships for
things other than
academics and
athletics.

THERE ARE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS OUT THERE FOR EVERYONE!

- ▶ Left-handed students
- ▶ Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship
- ▶ Make Me Laugh Scholarship
- ▶ High school students who donate blood
- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Surfing
- ▶ Gaming
- ▶ Animal Lovers
- ▶ Book worms
- ▶ Music/Theatre/Dance
- ▶ Religious Scholarships
- ▶ Cancer Survivors
- ▶ First in Family
- ▶ Disability
- ▶ Green
- ▶ Vocational

AND SO MUCH MORE!

A red starburst graphic with multiple points, containing the text 'Google Search' in white.

Google
Search

PLEASE BE AWARE OF SCAMS!

- ▶ Never pay for scholarships or searches
- ▶ Scholarships are gifts, they never have to be repaid!
- ▶ DO NOT give your bank account, credit card, or social security information!



FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES



BRIGHT FUTURES STUDENT HANDBOOK

Become more knowledgeable
about Bright Futures by
READING the Bright Futures
Student Handbook, Chapter 1.



Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship Grant Programs

[HOME](#) [Login](#)



The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes lottery-funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement.



Bright Futures Student Handbook

Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility



- Requirements for Scholarship Types (FAS, FMS, GSC, GSV)
- Non-Traditional Students (home-educated, GED, mid-year, out-of-state)

Chapter 2: Scholarship Information



- Length of Scholarship Award
- Award Amounts [\[BFFAS/BFFMS Private\]](#)
- Transferring the Scholarship between Institutions

Chapter 3: Renewal Eligibility



- Renewal Requirements
- Reinstatement/Restoration Requirements

Bright Futures Flyers



- [Florida Academic Scholarship \(FAS\)](#)
- [Florida Medallion Scholarship \(FMS\)](#)
- [Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship \(GSC\)](#)
- [Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship \(GSV\)](#)

Additional Resources



- [Bright Futures Brochure](#)
- [Bright Futures Course Table \(BFCT\)](#)
- [Bright Futures Credit Hour Renewal Requirement Interactive Tool](#)

APPLICATIONS	REPORTS	RESOURCES	STATUTES AND RULES
Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)	Annual Report to the Commissioner - (Archives)	Federal Student Aid	Florida Statutes
Reinstatement/Restoration Application	End-of-Year Reports - (Archives)	Financial Aid Terms and Definitions	State Board of Education Rules
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Bright Futures Statistical Reports	Money for College Brochure	Legislative Changes
Document Upload		Navigating Your Financial Future	Postsecondary Compliance Audits
		State Scholarship and Grant Calendar	Postsecondary Eligibility Requirements

Florida Department of Education | Office of Student Financial Assistance | 325 W. Gaines St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 | (888) 827-2004 | osfa@fldoe.org

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLAR (FAS) and FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLAR (FMS)

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /CLT [®] /SAT [®])	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2025-26 Graduates ² : 29/95/1330 2026-27 Graduates ³ : 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2025-26 Graduates ² : 24/82/1190 2026-27 Graduates ³ : 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GVS) can only be used to fund: an Applied Technology Diploma, Technical Degree Ed Program (Associate in Applied Science or Associate in Science), or a Career Education Certificate Program.

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)

The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award may be funded if a student is enrolled in a career education or certificate program. Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the GSV award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- ▶ Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
- ▶ Graduate with a standard Florida High School diploma or its equivalent.
- ▶ Achieve the required weighted minimum 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses.
- ▶ Take at least 3 full Career and Technical Education credits On-the-job training may not be substituted for any of the three required career credits.
- ▶ Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the Career and Technical Education credits.
- ▶ Complete 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or the combination of both for 100 total hours. Note: 75 hours of volunteer service hours will be required for students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter.
- ▶ Achieve the required minimum score on one of the college entrance exams per the chart below no later than August 31 of the year the student graduates from high school.

Exam Type	Sub-test	Required Score
ACT®	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT® (March 1, 2024, and thereafter)	Critical Reading or Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	490
	Mathematics	480
SAT® (Prior to March 1, 2024)	Reading Test	24
	Writing and Language Test	25
	Math Test	24
PERT (Only applies to the GSV Scholarship)	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

NOTES ABOUT FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES

- ▶ Bright Futures GPA is NOT the same as your cumulative weighted or unweighted GPA.
- ▶ Bright Futures GPA is calculated from 16 academic credits
 - ▶ 4 English, 4 Math, 3 Sciences, 3 Social Studies, and 2 Foreign Languages
- ▶ Bright Futures weighs honors, AP, and dual enrollment classes **equally** with 0.5 per credit earned – NOT 1.0 weight for AP or DE.
- ▶ Bright Futures will also accept two additional academic electives toward the GPA calculation if it benefits the student.

NOTES ABOUT FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES

- ▶ You are permitted to use qualifying scores through August 31, 2026 for ACT, SAT or CLT to qualify for the Bright Futures test criteria if you did not qualify prior to graduation.
- ▶ You must APPLY for the scholarship by submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application during senior year. The application opens each year on October 1.
- ▶ Bright Futures Scholarships will renew automatically each year if the student maintains the required college GPA and credit hours.

NOTES ABOUT FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES


- ▶ Bright Futures receives student transcript information (courses, grades, and community service/work hours) twice a year when the district uploads transcripts at the end of 1st semester and end of 2nd semester/end of school year.
- ▶ Bright Futures receives ACT, SAT and CLT test scores ONLY when student reports scores to Florida state colleges and universities. Bright Futures will superscore the score reports sent to Florida state colleges and universities.
- ▶ Bright Futures GPA CANNOT be viewed in HAC.
- ▶ Juniors and Seniors will receive their Bright Future reports through class lessons.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & WORK HOURS

- ▶ Not needed for graduation but Needed for Bright Futures and can be used on applications and a resume.
- ▶ The goal should be to complete 100 hours of community service/paid work hours by the end of 11th grade.
- ▶ Students may combine community service and work hours, but the hours must equal 100.
- ▶ Students using paid work hours are required to submit one pay stub reflecting 100 work hours along with a Community Service Plan to Ms. Richards in the main Guidance office.
- ▶ How to find community service opportunities, go to: www-bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/community-service-hours
- ▶ REMINDER - Make sure the organization is a not for profit by searching by the name at: <https://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/ByName>
- ▶ Remember to keep a copy of verification letters for your records
- ▶ Service Hours are entered on a bi-monthly basis. Students may check their hours by logging in to HAC and clicking on the registration tab.

SUBMITTING COMMUNITY SERVICE/WORK HOURS

SERVICE HOURS LETTER or Paystub

**Westminster Woods on Julington Creek**
25 State Road 13, Jacksonville, FL 32259 Phone: 904-287-7300 | Fax: 904-287-7303 | WestminsterPetitement.com

To whom it may concern:


Westminster Woods on Julington Creek is a not-for-profit community service organization dedicated to providing services for older adults. Our facility offers numerous volunteer opportunities. We are pleased to verify service hours required by school and religious organizations. It is, however, the standard of this organization that we will not allow persons to serve court ordered community service in any of our communities.

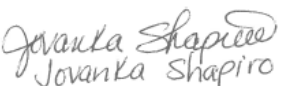
Nick Shapiro graciously contributed his/her time. The staff and residents of Westminster Woods on Julington Creek wish to extend our appreciation for the work, which this volunteer has performed.


Date/s 7/2/14 - 8/8/14

Hours Worked 39

Sincerely,


Pamela Benfer
Director of Volunteers
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek
(904) 287-7181


Jovanka Shapiro

 Bradenton / Cocoa / Daytona Beach / Ft. Lauderdale / Ft. Walton Beach / Jacksonville / Orlando / Panama City / St. Petersburg / Tallahassee / Winter Park

STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE PLAN

St. Johns County Student Volunteer Service Plan

All lines on this form must be completed before the service plan is submitted for hours.

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Date(s) of Service Activity: _____

Social/Civic Issue/Professional Area Addressing with Service Activity: _____

Service Organization: _____

Description of Volunteer Activity: _____

Reflection on Service Activity

Attach the organization's letter on letterhead to this page. Complete the reflection below and submit to your school counselor/designee by your graduation date. *Note: Ideally, students submit hours at least after each year in high school rather than saving them all until the end of high school.*

What impact did your service have on the social/civic issue/professional area that you identified? _____

Identify one way the service activity could have been improved. _____

What was your favorite part of volunteering? _____

Would you recommend this activity to other students? Circle One: Yes No

I affirm that I have performed the service activity under the supervision of a non-relative, meeting all requirements outlined in St. Johns County Community Service Guidelines. I understand that if I am found to have given false testimony about these hours that the hours will be revoked and endanger my eligibility for the Bright Futures Scholarship.

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Community Service verification letters or work paystubs can be turned into Ms. Richards in the school counseling area of the main building or emailed to Kathleen.Richards@stjohns.k12.fl.us

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS DO *now* TO QUALIFY FOR a BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP?

9TH GRADE

- ▶ Keep up with course work and establish a good high school GPA.
- ▶ Get involved in your school and community.
- ▶ Submit service/work hours to Ms. Richards in the Main School Counseling office or at Kathleen.Richards@stjohns.k12.fl.us

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS DO *now* TO QUALIFY FOR a BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP?

10TH GRADE

- ▶ Keep up with course work and maintain a good GPA.
- ▶ Seek out community service opportunities.
- ▶ Submit service/work hours to Ms. Richards in the Main School Counseling office or at Kathleen.Richards@stjohns.k12.fl.us
- ▶ Begin researching colleges.
- ▶ Begin planning for next year's courses with college and Bright Futures in mind.

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS DO *now* TO QUALIFY FOR a BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP?

11TH GRADE

- ▶ Keep up with course work and maintain a good GPA.
- ▶ Check service/work hours in HAC. You should have at least 100 hours by now.
- ▶ Submit service/work hours to Ms. Richards in the Main Guidance office or at Kathleen.Richards@stjohns.k12.fl.us
- ▶ Schedule meetings with college representatives and ask questions about financial aid and Bright Futures.
- ▶ Begin planning for next year's courses with college and Bright Futures in mind.
- ▶ Take SAT, ACT, CLT and send scores to a Florida school.

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS DO *NOW* TO QUALIFY FOR A BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP?

12TH GRADE

- ▶ Review your Bright Futures Report.
- ▶ See your school counselor if there are any errors on your transcript.
- ▶ Take note of what is “Missing” to qualify for each award.
- ▶ Take steps to improve your Bright Futures GPA if it is borderline.
- ▶ Submit any remaining service/work hours by winter break.
- ▶ Take or re-take SAT, ACT or CLT and report your scores to a Florida school.

WHAT SHOULD
STUDENTS DO *now*
TO QUALIFY FOR a
BRIGHT FUTURES
SCHOLARSHIP?

12TH GRADE

- ▶ APPLY!
- ▶ APPLY NOW!
- ▶ DO NOT WAIT TO APPLY!
- ▶ Students do not have to be eligible for Bright Futures to apply. You can apply now and become eligible by graduation.
- ▶ You will NOT be eligible if you do not APPLY!



For More Information

- Visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
- Contact Customer Service 888-827-2004
- Email OSFA@fldoe.org
- www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/FASTER/
- FSTR@fldoe.org

Florida Bright Futures

REMEMBER!

Counselors will be providing Financial Aid Workshops for Seniors during the month of October through English classes.

THOSE STUDENTS WITHOUT AN ENGLISH CLASS AT BTHS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP FOR A SEPARATE WORKSHOP.



THANK YOU!