

## 9<sup>TH</sup> Grade

- ❑ Attend 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation for students and parents.
- ❑ Explore career and college opportunities on [www.roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder](http://www.roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder)
- ❑ Students with disabilities need to check with their counselor about applying for test accommodations on PSAT, SAT, and AP exams- [www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html) and ACT: [www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-non-us/registration/accommodations.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-non-us/registration/accommodations.html).
- ❑ Register for the PSAT at your school.
- ❑ Take the PSAT in October.
- ❑ Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- ❑ Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan).
- ❑ Sign on to My Score Reports after receiving your PSAT scores.
- ❑ Meet with your counselor to develop next year's schedule, review postsecondary plans, and review your 4-year plan. Check on prerequisites for advanced level junior and senior courses.
- ❑ Participate in and track extracurricular activities: sports, clubs, and community service (required for Bright Futures scholarships).
- ❑ Turn community service hours form in to your school counseling office to enter 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 eligibility online in March and July [www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college](http://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college).
- ❑ Monitor your grades, transcripts, etc., on Focus EVERY year.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> Grade

- ❑ Explore career and college opportunities on [www.roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder](http://www.roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder).
- ❑ Take the PSAT in October.
- ❑ Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- ❑ Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan).
- ❑ Sign on to My Score Report after receiving your PSAT scores.
- ❑ Research available test prep for ACT/SAT.
- ❑ Take the PERT if you are interested in Dual Enrollment classes your junior year.
- ❑ Apply for Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).
- ❑ Visit at least 3 college or other postsecondary websites to review programs, admissions requirements, freshman profile, costs, and AP equivalents.
- ❑ Interested in a service academy? If yes, request a pre-candidate questionnaire from the service academy.
- ❑ Keep up participation in school activities and volunteer efforts.
- ❑ Check your Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July [www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college](http://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college).
- ❑ Turn community service hours form in to your school counseling office to enter into the system.
- ❑ Meet with your counselor to develop next year's schedule.
- ❑ Attend a parent/student/counselor conference to develop postsecondary plans.
- ❑ Apply for ACT/SAT/AP test accommodations if you are eligible (specific deadlines and requirements apply).
- ❑ Look for a job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.
- ❑ Put aside money for college or other postsecondary.

## 11<sup>TH</sup> Grade

WINTER

- ❑ Make a list of your abilities, social/cultural preferences and personal qualities. List things you may want to study or do after high school.
- ❑ Explore career and college opportunities on [www.roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder](http://www.roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder)
- ❑ Make a file to manage your postsecondary plans search, testing, and application information.
- ❑ Register for PSAT at your school.
- ❑ 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 or in school counseling office) [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Make sure to use your school code so results come to your school!
- ❑ Ask your school counselor about taking the SAT Subject Area Tests.

FALL

- ❑ Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan).
- ❑ Sign on to My Score Reports after receiving your PSAT scores.
- ❑ Check your Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July [www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college](http://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college).

SPRING

- ❑ Take the ACT and/or SAT (tests are on various Saturdays Aug. – Jul.).
- ❑ Take the PERT for postsecondary readiness.
- ❑ Apply for Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).
- ❑ Begin your search for financial aid sources: on the district website, in your school counseling office, on college and university websites, and on various scholarship websites.
- ❑ Scan local newspapers to see which civic, cultural and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.
- ❑ Develop a list of 10-15 colleges or other postsecondary opportunities that attract you. Request view books and information about financial aid and academic programs that interest you.
- ❑ Visit colleges you might be interested in. If you are considering a service academy or ROTC scholarships, contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- ❑ Check your Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July.
- ❑ Meet with your counselor to develop next year's schedule, progress towards graduation requirements, and review postsecondary plans.
- ❑ If you are an athlete planning to play sports in college, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- ❑ Turn community service hours forms in to your school counseling office so they can be entered in the system and sent to Bright Futures in the summer.
- ❑ Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July [www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college](http://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college).

SUMMER

- ❑ Create a resume of your accomplishments, activities and work experience since you started high school.
- ❑ Download applications (or request paper copies) from colleges to which you will apply. Check application dates- large universities may have early dates or rolling admissions.
- ❑ Put aside money for college or other postsecondary plans.

- ☐ Narrow your list of postsecondary options. Download college applications and financial aid forms.
- ☐ Create a master list or calendar that includes:
  - ☐ tests you will take and their fees, dates and registration timelines
  - ☐ college application due dates, fees
  - ☐ financial aid application forms required and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
  - ☐ other materials you will need such as recommendations and transcripts
  - ☐ your high school application processing deadlines (how far in advance do you need to request transcripts, recommendations)
- ☐ Ask for recommendations at least two weeks in advance well of your deadline. Make sure to provide a profile of information about you, your goals, interests and accomplishments for the recommendation writer. (Think about who you will ask to write the recommendation- preferably someone who KNOWS you and LIKES you).
- ☐ If you are submitting essays, write the first draft and ask teachers and others to review them.
- ☐ If you did not have your scores sent to the colleges you are applying to contact, College Board and ACT to have scores sent.
- ☐ Attend credit check meeting with counselor to review graduation status and postsecondary plans (September)
- ☐ Register for the ACT and/or SAT if higher scores are needed (check current costs on website or in school counseling office) [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- ☐ Take the ACT and/or SAT if needed (tests are on various Saturdays Aug. – Jul.).
- ☐ Complete and submit college admissions applications (if eligible for test waivers may be eligible for fee waivers- check with counselor)
- ☐ Complete scholarship applications.

- ☐ Apply for spring Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).
- ☐ Complete the online Florida Financial Aid Application for Bright Futures (beginning October 1).
- ☐ Turn community service hour forms in to your school counseling office to make sure they are in the system for the 7<sup>th</sup> semester Bright Futures evaluation.
- ☐ Attend a Financial Aid Night at a school for parents and students (Oct/Nov/Dec).
- ☐ Attend a BEACON financial aid session for seniors at your school (Oct/Nov/Dec.).
- ☐ Apply for a PIN for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (for student and parent).
- ☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1.
- ☐ Go online to check Bright Futures status in late February and July.

- ☐ Apply for spring Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).
- ☐ Complete the online Florida Financial Aid Application for Bright Futures (beginning October 1).
- ☐ Turn community service hour forms in to your school counseling office to make sure they are in the system for the 7<sup>th</sup> semester Bright Futures evaluation.
- ☐ Attend a Financial Aid Night at a school for parents and students (Oct/Nov/Dec).
- ☐ Attend a BEACON financial aid session for seniors at your school (Oct/Nov/Dec.).
- ☐ Apply for a PIN for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (for student and parent).
- ☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1.
- ☐ Go online to check Bright Futures status in late February and July.

- ☐ Have final transcript sent to college, NCAA.
- ☐ Check 8<sup>th</sup> semester Bright Futures evaluation. Make sure the college you plan to attend is listed on the application.
- ☐ Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in July
- ☐ [www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college](http://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college).

Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_ State GPA (unweighted) \_\_\_\_\_ District GPA (weighted) \_\_\_\_\_

Bright Futures GPA \_\_\_\_\_ PERT Scores \_\_\_\_\_

(found only at [www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college](http://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college))

SAT Scores

Goal:

ACT Scores

Goal:

College/Career Choice 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Applied: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

College/Career Choice 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Applied: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### School Counseling Services

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