Thinking about college–how to make the right decision.

Everglades High School Gator Chats
November 2, 2017
Becky Mendelson, BRACE Advisor
Let’s Take A Minute…To Breathe

• This is scary and overwhelming no matter what experience you have with this process.

• It will be okay! You will all find your “dream” school and the reality is that the “dream” is where you end up.

• There is only so much in your control and the rest is not. Schools look at legacies, male: female ratios, students from under represented areas, diversity, athletes, the list goes on.

• We are all here to help during this process.
The Application Process

- Number/Rigor of Academic Courses (don’t make changes to senior year schedule)
- Academic Performance/Grades (blips-let them know)
- Test Scores (SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests) - Juniors will be testing for the SAT school day in March.
- Waivers - (This applies for students in the Free/Reduced lunch program) Once an SAT waiver is used, you will be eligible for 4 College Application Fee waivers through College Board.
The Application Process Continued

- Extracurriculars/Sports/Leadership/Volunteer Hours
- Essay – This will serve as your interview
- College Resume
- Letters of Recommendation (when applicable) from a core teacher 11th or 12th grade
- Transcript
Rigor of Curriculum

- Senior Schedule Matters (self report/transcript).
- Once applications are out, you MUST stay in classes.
- Cannot earn less than a C in dual enrollment!!!
- Grade forgiveness is not something all schools will accept.
- First quarter grades will go on the transcript as a placeholder.
GPA Scale

- Weighted -- Every subject with weight including 1 point for Honors, 2 points for AICE and AP classes (colleges will give .5 for Honors and 1.0 for AP/AICE
- Academic core -- All the core subjects: math, science, English, history and foreign language with weight
- Unweighted -- Everything stripped down...an A is a 4.0, B is a 3.0, etc.
- The colleges will focus on the academic core GPA
- 1\textsuperscript{st} quarter (40%) + 2\textsuperscript{nd} quarter (40%) + midterm (20%) = semester grade; Both semester grades will go on transcript
- Senior year grades matter! Any grade below a C in an academic class should be reported to the school.
The Essays

- Be Yourself.
- Relax. Don’t try to “sound good.”
- Do not have someone else write your essay!!!!
- Quality over Quantity!!!!!
- Show intellectual curiosity.
- Tell a story... the best essays involve a small thing in your life that provides a good outline.
- Start writing this summer!!!!
The College Essay

• The Reps want to meet YOU, not your representative!

• The essay is one of the most important parts of the college application. It is your opportunity to shine, to show the college your personality and let them hear your voice!

• What are you passionate about?

• Don’t write about your service project or something the admissions officer can read in a resume.

• Be careful about writing about someone special, the colleges will want to accept them instead of you!

• Make sure you are telling them what you want them to know about YOU!
Feedback from the schools…

• Colleges are not seeing enough exploration of academic interests:
  • Community
  • Books/websites/publications you could be exploring
  • Involvement…think outside the box.
  • Show passion by actions.
• Colleges want to see balance.
• Biggest issue is taking on too much rigor and overdoing it.
• Stay in your lane!
• Every year, the classes get stronger and they are looking for the highest quality kid.
General Admission Hints

- Universities compare students to peers at the same high school.
- Scores on AP tests ARE NOT considered for admissions.
- Apply for term you want to attend.
- Set up separate “college” email account and CHECK YOUR EMAIL!!!(
  - Good Email Address Example:
    - RMendelson123@gmail.com
  - Bad Email Address Examples:
    - Starwarsfan@facebook.com
    - Sweetcakes@Instagram.com
General Admission Hints Continued

- Don’t mess up Senior year! That can come back to haunt you!
- Begin applications summer before senior year!
- Get recommendation letters NOW!
- Start work on resume.
- Don’t join every club because you think it “looks good.”
Florida Bright Futures

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) by high school graduation.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be accepted by, enroll in, and be funded at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary education institution within the specified timeframe (2 years or 3 years) from the student’s year of high school graduation. If a student enlists directly into the military after graduation, the 2-year or 3-year period begins on the date the student is separated from active duty.
- Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)

- 3.5 Recalculated GPA (extra .50 per full credit for State Honors or higher)
  - 4 English
  - 4 Math (Algebra I and above, NOT Informal Geometry)
  - 3 Science
  - 3 Social Studies
  - 2 World Language
  - May use 2 Additional credits in above areas to raise GPA.

- Testing:
  - SAT= 1290
  - ACT= 29

- 100 Service Learning Hours

- Alternative Method: AICE Diploma plus 100 Service Learning Hours.
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

- 3.0 Recalculated GPA (extra .50 per full credit for State Honors or higher)
  - 4 English
  - 4 Math (Algebra I and above, NOT Informal Geometry)
  - 3 Science
  - 3 Social Studies
  - 2 World Language
  - May use 2 Additional credits in above areas to raise GPA.

- Testing:
  - SAT = 1170
  - ACT = 26

- 75 Service Learning Hours
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)

- 3.0 Recalculated GPA (extra .50 per full credit for State Honors or higher)
  - 4 English
  - 4 Math (Including Algebra I, Geometry)
  - 3 Science (Including Biology)
  - 3 Social Studies (WH, USH, US Gov, Econ)
  - 1 Fine/Practical Art
  - 1 Physical Education with the Integration of Health

- 3.5 GPA in Career Technical Ed Program

- Testing:
  - SAT=440R, 440M SAT (prior to 3/2016)
  - SAT= 24 Read, 25 Writ and Lang, 24 Math (3/2016 and after)
  - ACT= 17 English, 19 Reading, 19 Math
  - PERT= 106 Reading, 103 Writing, 114 Math

- 30 Service Learning Hours
Gold Seal Cape Scholars

- Meet the General Requirements for Bright Futures;
- Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit; and
- Complete 30 service hours.
- Must be enrolled in a Career Education or Certificate Program.
- Upon completion of an AS degree, may receive up to 60 credit hours towards a BS.
- Upon completion of an AAS degree, may receive up to 60 credit hours towards a BAS.
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) will receive an award to cover 100% of tuition and applicable fees and $300 for both fall and spring semesters for additional educational expenses. Students attending a public institution will have tuition and applicable fees covered. These fees include activity and service fee, health fee, athletic fee, financial aid fee, capital improvement fee, campus access/transportation fee, technology fee and tuition differential fee. Students attending a nonpublic institution will receive a comparable amount as noted in the Private Award Chart.

Other award recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type as outlined in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017-18 Bright Futures Scholarship Per Hour Award Amounts</th>
<th>Credit Hour Award</th>
<th>Clock Hour Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Year</td>
<td>$77</td>
<td>$51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Year</td>
<td>$63</td>
<td>$42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Public Colleges – Baccalaureate Programs</td>
<td>$53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career / Technical Centers</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) &amp; Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Certificate Program (PSAV)</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Technology Diploma Program (ATD)</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Degree Education Program (AS, AAS, CCC)</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) – 2010-11 HS Graduates and earlier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Year</td>
<td>$77</td>
<td>$51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Year</td>
<td>$63</td>
<td>$42</td>
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<td>$39</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* As of 2015-16, GSV recipients are ONLY eligible to receive funding in these vocational education categories. GSC recipients who earn a qualifying A.S. or A.A.S degree may receive $48 per credit hour toward a qualifying B.S. or B.A.S. degree.

A disbursed Florida Academic Scholar in each district is awarded an additional per credit hour award. Academic Scholars who attend in the fall following high school graduation are ranked on the product of their Bright Futures weighted GPA and their best college entrance exam score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017-18 Academic Top Scholars</th>
<th>Per Hour Award Amounts</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$44</td>
<td>$29</td>
<td>$1.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FloridaShines.org
(Florida Virtual Campus)

- www.floridashines.org
  - Go to College
  - Pay For College
  - Bright Futures Scholarship (Check Now)
- Student Log-In: (external number)
  - SS Number with an X at the end or Student ID
What is Naviance?

- Naviance is a comprehensive K-12 college and career readiness solution that helps districts and schools align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life.
How do I access Naviance

1. GO TO EVERGLADESHS.ORG
2. CLICK ON “Students.”
3. CLICK ON, “CLICK on Naviance.”
4. ENTER STUDENT NUMBER FOR “USERNAME.”
5. ENTER MM/DD/YEAR FOR “PASSWORD.”
6. LOG IN.
### Colleges I'm Thinking About

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Delivery type</th>
<th>Added By</th>
<th>Expected Difficulty*</th>
<th>My Interest</th>
<th>Early Decision</th>
<th>Early Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Regular Decision</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U of Central FL</td>
<td>student</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>First Choice</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Florida</td>
<td>student</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Difficulty of admission specifically for you as estimated by your counselor

†College information is provided by the colleges themselves. Costs, dates, policies, and programs are subject to change, so please confirm important facts with college admission personnel.
### College Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Registrations</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas University</td>
<td>10/30/17 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>49 (80 max)</td>
<td>10/25/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Film Academy</td>
<td>11/1/17 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>28 (80 max)</td>
<td>10/27/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Wales University (North Miami)</td>
<td>11/13/17 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>29 (80 max)</td>
<td>11/6/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Scholarships and Financial Aid

The list below contains scholarships or financial aid awards that may be relevant for you. Click the name of a scholarship to view more information or click the column headings to sort by name, category, deadline or maximum award.

You may also check the scholarships for which you are submitting applications and then click “Add Selected Scholarships to My List” below.

### Browse by Category

- Select category
- Only show scholarships added or updated since my last visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Maximum Award</th>
<th>Merit Based</th>
<th>Need Based</th>
<th>Essay Req</th>
<th>Service Req</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USDA 1890 Scholarship application</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Full tuition, as well as room and board</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;President's Own&quot; U.S. Marine Band Concerto Competition</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>2,000 and trip to Washington DC to be a guest soloist with the US Marine Band</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Stolen Girls, Stolen Dreams&quot;: Human Trafficking Poster Contest</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(LGBTQ) - Queer Foundation Annual High School Seniors English Essay Contest</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 A.O. Smith Scholarship</td>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 South Florida Construction Career Days Scholarship</td>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th Annual Poster Contest for High School Students: &quot;One Person Can Make a Difference&quot;</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Up to $1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbott and Fenner Scholarship</td>
<td>5/14</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abrahamson &amp; Ullgren Scholarship Essay Contest</td>
<td>7/31</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Life Scholarship to Tackle Your Workouts</td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AED Superstore College Scholarship</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My Information

- Rebecca.Mendelson@browardschools.com
- Evergladeshs.org
- Remind 101 - Text the message @c0113ge to the number 81010
- Direct Line - (754)323-0545