

MHS Guidance Department - Senior Reminders and Information

Graduation Requirements: Be confident that you know exactly where you stand and that you have a plan to graduate successfully for your intended completion date (January, June or August). If you need to take Adult Education/Night Classes, obtain the enrollment forms from your counselor. You may register for Virtual Education online if needed at www.flvs.net (make sure you select your class from the 'Florida Virtual' section on the course selection page. Print the Course Request Form, and bring it to your counselor for approval.

Testing: FCAT will be offered for those who still need to pass one or both sections in October, April and June.

SAT and ACT: Required for anyone going to a 4-year college or for the Bright Futures Scholarships. These tests can also be used for placement at the community college. You may, and in many cases, should take both SAT and ACT. Most colleges and Bright Futures will accept whichever test demonstrates your best score. You may take each test two or more times to achieve your best score in each section. Apply at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. Apply via paper application only if necessary. Be sure to include your school code 100-328 on your registration for SAT and ACT.

College Applications: If you intend to go directly to a two-year or four-year college develop a list of colleges based on your criteria (location, size, major, cost, admission standard, activities, etc.) If you have a 'reach college' or two, be sure to have at least one 'safety' college. The BRACE office is an excellent resource for you to gain assistance in these decisions. Your Guidance Counselor can assist as well. Applications can be submitted in paper form and online for most colleges. The Florida University System colleges prefer an online format. Go directly to the college's website Admissions Page or to FCATS.org. Remember that your application is your formal presentation of yourself to the college, so it must be done correctly, with planning and thought. Essays should reflect your thoughts and be presented with excellent grammar and writing skills. Deadlines are important, don't procrastinate!
Alternatives to College: If your plans include military, work or vocational school, be sure to consult the BRACE office or your counselor if you have questions. There are limitless opportunities for you out there.

Financial Aid: This is based strictly on your family financial situation. The amount of aid you may qualify for is determined by submitting the FAFSA either in paper form or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This should be done as soon after January 1st as possible, but preferable before Feb. 15th. Plan ahead so as to have the proper documents and information required to complete the forms. Keep in mind that SCHOLARSHIPS may or may not depend on financial need. There are many types of scholarships available. Check the financial assistance page of your college's website, keep informed through the BRACE newsletters, and do a search through www.fastweb.com.
BEWARE of scholarship scams out there! If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Beware also of organizations offering to assist you and 'guarantee' you college monies for an upfront fee paid by you.

Bright Futures Scholarships: The state of Florida program is excellent for use in Florida public and private colleges. You must go online and apply for state assistance to be in the database to receive this scholarship. Do this after December 1st at this website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org which will also allow you to access other State of Florida financial assistance programs. Be sure to read carefully the criteria for the three different levels of Bright Futures. If you do not yet qualify, you might by your graduation date. The Bright Futures Office in Tallahassee will access your MHS transcript and your SAT/ACT scores electronically. Check your eligibility status at www.FACTS.org.

Community Service: You must complete 40 hours (75 if you are going for the 100% Bright Futures Award) prior to graduation. This must be done according to the School Board policies outlined in the Service Learning Brochure. You must complete an application with MHS main Guidance prior to beginning the service hours and submit the proper document time sheet following your service commitment. Don't procrastinate. Check www.volunteerbroward.org for possible volunteer sites.

Suggested Websites for College Planning:

*www.monarcknights.com/guidance

*www.FACTS.org

*Comprehensive listing of colleges:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/refsites/college.html>

*College Ranking Information:
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.html>

*US news and World Report College Rankings
<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cohome.htm>

*Information on Florida Public Universities
www.flblog.org

*Broward College (BCC):
www.broward.edu

*Bright Futures Scholarship Information:
www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf

*SAT/PSAT/AP programs Information:
www.collegebard.com

*ACT Testing Program:
www.actstudent.org

*Summer Programs:
www.petersons.com Click on High School

*Broward Schools Student Support Services/Programs:
<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentsupport>

*Scholarship Search:
www.fastweb.com