



SENIOR ORIENTATION

Dear Parents and Senior Students:

Congratulations! Welcome back to Gibbs High School. Can you believe it? You are the proud parents of a senior. We know that it is both an exciting time and a time of great anxiety. This final step for new seniors is an extremely important change in their lives. There is plenty to do and I promise that this year will just fly by and graduation day will be upon us before you know it.

This summer your son/daughter will get the ball rolling with a senior credit check, college-bound preparations and entrance requirements. This meeting will explain the process of college applications, SAT/ACT testing, college visitations and auditions, The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship programs, Financial Aid, Who's Who on campus, letters of recommendations and ordering transcripts (among other selected topics). This is a very important meeting for both parents and their seniors. Please make plans to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting this summer, then please stay tuned for a make-up meeting scheduled some time in September. A notice will be mailed to you announcing that new date. There will be no plans to make up the summer meeting prior to the meeting in September. Please make every effort to attend the summer orientation meeting as scheduled.

A parent must accompany the student to this meeting. If the student is not available (ex: out of town, etc.) the parent may represent their senior and attend alone. We assure you that this meeting will make a difference and give you a peace of mind regarding the entire senior process. Please allow approximately two hours for the meeting. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please call the school at 893-5452, ext. 2029.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Your Senior Guidance Counselors

MONTH-TO-MONTH TIMELINE

FIRST SEMESTER - FALL RESPONSIBILITIES “GETTING ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE”

AUGUST

- Meet with counselor for summer conference / Senior Seminar. Parent(s) must attend.
- SAT/ACT TESTING: Be sure that you have taken the College Board entrance exams. Please refer to your testing schedule for dates and times. Consider re-taking the test if you want to improve your scores. (*See pg. 15 for a list of test dates and registration deadlines*).
- Sign up for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Meetings.

SEPTEMBER

- Double-check Gibbs graduation requirements as well as academic requirements of those colleges to which you are applying. Review your CREDIT CHECK with your counselor to be sure that you are on a direct course toward graduation and college life beyond. ****TRANSFER STUDENTS**** (Private School, Home School, Out of State/County, Virtual School, etc.) It is your responsibility to make sure that the proper official records have been sent successfully to Gibbs High School. Transfer Courses (i.e., Algebra I, Foreign Language, English I, Physical Science Adv.) must be clearly noted on the credit check/transcript. Please maintain records of all contacts made pertaining to this issue.
- For the early acceptance / first draft to colleges and universities all applications, counselor / teacher recommendations, reports, transcript requests are due by the December 1st deadline. No transcripts or reports will be sent from Gibbs after that date. Applications / transcript requests etc., submitted after December 1st will resume the first week of January. Check to see that your records are accurate.
- Start researching scholarship and grant applications and opportunities.
- Attend every fall **College Fair** program you can-especially if you have not yet complete your college search process. Gibbs students have made many fine college matches in past years at college fairs.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Many selective colleges require recommendations from teachers and a counselor. In many cases, especially where you're on the borderline of being admitted, strong recommendations can make or break an application. Submit your request two weeks in advance.
- COUNSELOR: The recommendation from a counselor is typically referred to as the **Secondary Counselor/Advisor Report**, which you will find attached in your application packet. Please fill out the basic student section at the top. A summary of your academic achievement in high school (such as your GPA) will be provided on your transcript. The counselor will complete the rest of the form, which may include a rating of certain personal and academic qualities. Tear out the Counselor Recommendation Form and give it to your counselor at least two weeks in advance. Your counselor will mail the report to the college. It is your responsibility to send the remainder of the application to your college of choice. Counselor reports and final transcript requests are due the Friday before Thanksgiving break. Please refer to the page that describes “How to Order a Transcript” in this manual.
- Attend countywide Financial Aid Seminars (*see pg. 16 for a list of dates and locations*).

OCTOBER

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): By October, you can apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The financial aid representative for Gibbs High School is St. Petersburg College (SPC)/Gibbs Campus located on 5th Avenue & 66th Street north. They will be very happy to answer any of your financial aid concerns you may have. You may contact them directly at (727) 791-2485. Or you can email your questions at www.askfas@spcollege.edu.
- Instructions for completing both the FAFSA and *Profile* accompany the applications. Although it is a time consuming task gathering all the necessary information, the process is relatively straightforward. In addition, there are Financial Aid Administrators or Advisors at each college to help answer any of your questions.
- Apply for a Federal Pin at www.pin.ed.gov. Both student and parent need to apply for their own pin number specific questions.
- FAFSA must be filed prior to receiving funds from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Programs. Apply / file soon after October 1 to receive early financial consideration.
- PARENTS: Get your **income tax returns** prepared early - they may be requested by schools to prove eligibility for financial aid.
- Approximately four to six weeks after applying for FAFSA, you will receive a SAR (Student Aid Report), which will indicate your eligibility for a federal Pell Grant by means of a Student Aid Index. The federal grant, however, is for extremely needy families, and ineligibility to qualify does not mean that you are not entitled to college funds. This will be determined when your *Profile* form has been processed. You will receive an acknowledgment, which will list the colleges and programs to which a Family Contribution Report has been sent estimating how much a student's family should be able to contribute toward his or her education. If admitted to the college and deemed eligible for financial aid, a financial aid offer will be made.
- There are basically only two kinds of Financial Aid:
 1. **NEED BASED FINANCIAL AID:** Such a package typically includes some kind of grant, federal loan, and work-study program. Almost all financial aid includes a combination of the three elements. Students should keep in mind that they are never awarded a total sum of money larger than the established cost of attending a university. Money received from other sources is deducted from government based financial aid awards. Need based aid comes in the form of the following:
 - LOANS:** Loans must be repaid. Generally, students must begin paying back loans six to nine months after completing college.
 - SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS:** Neither has to be repaid. They are given for academic excellence, for academic achievement, or in some cases as part of a need-based financial aid award (Pell Grants).
 - WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS:** This gives the student an opportunity to earn money through programs, which involve 10-20 hours of work per week on the campus.
 2. **NON-NEED BASED FINANCIAL AID:** Many colleges offer non need-based scholarships that are independent of the parents' income. These range from token awards to the total cost of attending the college. Students wishing to apply for university-based scholarships must request them from the specific university involved.

CAUTION: Some colleges or universities may make promises of financial assistance they cannot fulfill. Ask for specifics. Request terms in writing. There are also innumerable private scholarships offered by businesses, organizations, churches and a wide range of other groups, which specify their own qualifying criteria. Money is available from thousands of private student aid programs in the U.S. Finding this aid is not always easy but is worth the effort! Students with limited finances should also consider state schools or community colleges where tuition is much lower than at private institutions. However, keep in mind that there are private schools for highly qualified candidates, which are willing to provide financial assistance so that attendance at their school does not cost more than it would at a public institution.

PLEASE NOTE: *All students entering college and applying for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship must complete the FAFSA form to be considered for any financial aid, including scholarships, grants, and loans.*

NOVEMBER

Important Note: Beware of January deadlines for college applications: The college applications are mailed from Gibbs H.S. BEFORE the December holiday break. We recommend that you give the appropriate forms to your teachers and counselor by the Friday before Thanksgiving break.

SENIOR FEES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Pay your dues EARLY to avoid the higher cost!

PCCA Dues:	Fall Semester 1	\$80
	Spring Semester 2	\$100 (late)
	<i>(PCCA students must pay this in addition to Gibbs Dues)</i>	

GHS Projected Costs:

Gibbs Dues: \$95 by October 1; \$100 after October 1

Common Applications/All College Applications Due December 1st.

DECEMBER

- Complete your community service hours by January of your graduating year.
- Complete Bright Futures Projects.
- Pinellas and Florida Virtual School Grades Due.

Tip. "Before" and "after" photocopies: ***Please, please, please! Make copies of all your college applications before you fill them out.*** Fill out a practice application on this draft copy before doing the "real thing." Typos, excessive whiteouts, and other goofs should be avoided at all costs - especially for applications to selective schools that pay close attention to how an application looks. After you have completed the application, go to the photocopier again - make a copy to retain in your files. You may need to refer to your copy for any number of reasons - e.g. an admissions counselor has a question about your application or - heaven forbid! - That college's mascot chewed your application up. You are responsible for copying YOUR part of the application (forms, essays, etc.).

SECOND SEMESTER - SPRING RESPONSIBILITIES - "GETTING MONEY FOR COLLEGE"

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY

Senior Obligations

Final opportunities for testing-SAT/ACT

**See testing schedule*

Review credit check for graduation

**No virtual school for graduating courses*

Review financial obligations, both Gibbs High School and PCCA

**Go to student home FOCUS page and click the "Fees" tab*

Review schedule corrections for graduation requirements

**Pick up forms from the magnet office*

MARCH

- Send your **mid-year transcripts** to the schools to which you have applied. (The mid-year school report requested by the college should be given to your counselors at this time - Allow two weeks for your counselor to fill out the form).
- Communicate with financial aid personnel at your selected colleges/institutions with any questions about financial aid awards.
- If you have made your decision to attend a particular college, pay the deposit to reserve room and board on campus. Also inquire about **immunization requirements** for your new school. Freshmen dorm rooms fill up very quickly! This is a perfect time to look for a summer job. This money will be very helpful in your last minute preparations for going off to school.

APRIL

CREDIT RECOVERY

It is the responsibility of the student to see the counselor and get signed up for the various forms of course recovery. Students who earn an F in for a semester grade, in any of the graduation required courses would need to enter Credit Recovery. Both student and parents **MUST** monitor every report card grading period to anticipate possible semester problems with graduation. The progress of each student can be seen Portal throughout the grading period. Students may also pick up progress Report Forms from the PCCA office.

SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

High school students have continued to benefit from Summer Bridge in at least two critical areas, preparation for the state's Algebra 1 EOC test and credit recovery opportunities to help students who have fallen behind in their graduation requirements. Please sign up for Summer Bridge on the County website www.pcsb.org

MAY

- May 1st** is the deadline at Gibbs for sending your **final transcripts** to your college of choice. **May 1st** is also regarded as the 'national signing date for college' in the U.S. Remember to notify all other colleges that accepted you as to your decision. Remember to inquire and complete all necessary medical and immunization records for the college. Be sure to secure your college of choice by sending in your deposit or you may lose your slot. Prepare for your high school graduation.
- Complete the PCCA Senior Survey; complete the county-wide Senior Survey as well (See counselor).
- Be aware of college/university new student orientation dates.

Congratulations! The end of an era, the beginning of another for you.

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Student and Family Action Plan: 2020-2021

Graduation and post-secondary plans

Name: _____, _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____
Last (please print) First

PCCA _____ BETA _____ TRADITIONAL _____

Senior year is a whirlwind of activities. This is a big year for your student as he or she balances schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and the college application process. Use the suggestions below to help you and your student successfully navigate this important time.

- Attend your senior meeting with your counselor.** This year, he or she will work with the counselor to learn how to prepare transcripts, college applications, and financial aid documents. Graduation credit checks and credit recovery plans will be reviewed (See manual for details).
Plan date _____
- Visit colleges together.** If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges in which your child is interested (See: *College & Campus Visits*).
Plan date _____
- Ask how you can help your senior finalize a college list.** You can help him or her choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets his or her needs (See: *How to look for a College*). **Plan date** _____
- Find out a college's actual cost.** Once your 12th-grader has a list of a few colleges he or she is interested in, find out the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost— or net price—of each college. **Plan date** _____
- Encourage your child to get started on applications.** He or she can get the easy stuff out of the way now by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible.
Plan date _____
- Help your child decide about applying early.** If your senior is set on going to a certain college, he or she should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. **Plan date** _____
- Gather financial documents:** To apply for most financial aid, your child will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need your most recent tax returns and an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens Oct. 1. **Plan date** _____
- Help your child prepare for college admission tests.** Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT, in the fall (See: *College Entrance Examination*).
Plan date _____
- Help your child find and apply for scholarships.** He or she can find out about scholarship opportunities from the district wide *Scholarship Bulletin* located in the front office. The Pinellas County School's website has a page full of resources for students to search for scholarships and grants (See: *Finding the Money*). Your high school student will need to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. **Plan date** _____
- Encourage your child to take AP Exams.** If your 12th-grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have him or her talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May.
Plan date _____
- Review financial aid offers together.** Your 12th-grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance. **Plan date** _____
- Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance.** Once your child has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to review the offer, accept a College's offer, mail a tuition deposit and submit other required paperwork.
Plan date _____

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

How to Order a Transcript

Please follow steps as given below. It is imperative that you follow this procedure in order.

Step #1 Pick-up Transcript Transmittal Form from the Records Clerk;
Administration Building 1: Room 1-107

Forms are color-coded; please do not make copies.

Step #2 Be sure to follow ALL instructions and fill out the form completely.

Step #3 Review addresses to be sure that the name of the school(s) is included. A listing may be attached if you intend to send multiple schools on one form. Please type (or cut and paste addresses). No hand written addresses will be accepted. **You must not handwrite the college address.** You may type the address directly on the form or cut and paste the college address from a mailer.

Step #4 Please pay the bookkeeper \$1.00 per transcript sent to colleges. (Your first transcript is FREE).

Step #5 Send completed form to your cohort counselor's office (including any other reports you may have to send to the college). You may leave form(s) in the door mailbox.

Note: Please include copy of the College Secondary School Report at the same time you send out transcripts if needed (*Print Form only*). Do not request electronic school reports or transcripts.

Allow 2 weeks for both request(s) to process from the date you present them to the counselor.

IMPORTANT: Keep a personal log dating when transcripts were sent. This will allow you to answer questions with actual dates if the college does not receive your information.

**PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR SCHOOL RECORDS AND RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**

Identifying information: (Please Print)

Complete legal name while attending school _____

Name currently used, if different _____

Last public school attended in Pinellas County _____

Year last attended (or graduated) in Pinellas County _____

Full Birthdate ____/____/____ Full Social Security Number _____

Phone number or email address where you can be contacted, in case of questions

Records requested: (Please indicate quantity needed in space provided)

COST:

____ High school transcript, official (**OFFICIAL copies must be mailed, not faxed**) \$1.00 each

____ High school transcript, unofficial \$1.00 each

Postage \$.50

____ Total of Records Requested x \$1.00, then add postage = Money Order Total: _____

Send requested records to whom: (and at what address OR fax number)

Parent/Student Signature (required): _____ Date: _____

Electronic Signatures are not acceptable, per Pinellas County School Board policy. This release is valid for 90 days from the date written above. PUBLIC LAW 93-380, August 21, 1974, prohibits us from furnishing a copy of a student record, or any information from a student record, without the written permission of the student. IF the student is UNDER the age of 18, a parent or guardian of the student must sign the request. This form is considered an official release of the requested information or record listed above.

PRINT, Sign and MAIL Form and Money Order To: Gibbs High School-Transcript Request

850 34th St S

St Petersburg, FL 33711 Questions?

Please call us at (727) 893-5452 x. 2012

OFFICEL USE ONLY

Roll # _____ Student # _____ Year _____

Date Received: _____ Date Sent: _____ Processed By: _____ Revised 4/2017

COLLEGE RESUMES

Resumes **MUST** be included in all requests for letters of recommendation and/or college secondary school reports.

An excellent website with guidelines and outstanding examples of resumes in all arts disciplines can be found on the Hope College website at:

<http://www.hope.edu/student/career/resources/CnPArts%20Resumes.pdf>

- Full Formal Name (including middle; no nicknames)
- Address (including phone numbers and email address)
- Educational History in high school (including recent semester grade point average). Also include achievements like Work Shop Certification, Industry Certification, Summer Art Programs, Internships, etc. May include test scores (ACT/SAT)
- Extracurricular Activities (including NHS, Service Clubs, Student Government, Sports, etc.)
- Community Volunteer Services (including Bright Futures Scholarship hours, religious organizations, civic centers, recreation centers, etc.)
- Awards/Recognitions (including awards of distinction; beauty contests, eagle awards, black belt karate, silver/gold key, etc.)
- Work Experience (including apprenticeships)

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FACTORS IN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

What follows is a list of some of the considerations that should be examined in making a wise choice. By searching and reviewing the websites published by individual colleges and universities, handbooks and directories of colleges, or through conversations with your counselor, college alumni, and friends, you can usually get information about all of these considerations. *The most important factor is to have an idea of who you are and what you are looking for in a college.*

COLLEGE TYPE

- Size
- Private or Public (State)
- Liberal Arts or Art Schools/Institutes
- Degrees offered: Two or four year college
- Student Diversity (ex: support systems; minorities, students with disabilities, GLBT, etc.)

CAMPUS LIFE

- Housing and recreational facilities
- Counseling and career services
- Fraternities, sororities, clubs or other social organizations
- Social activities and extra-curricular offerings
- Security
- Application of an honor code
- Athletic programs
- Religious affiliations/obligations

RESOURCES FOR SELECTING A COLLEGE

The Pinellas County Schools’ website has a great resource page to use as a start for the college search. Go to www.pcsb.org > Student > Future Plans.

Future Plans is a powerful tool to help students discover and understand their talents, interests, and preferences.

In the left hand panel on the Future Plans page is a link to “College Search Information.” This link takes you to a comprehensive list of all Post-Secondary Institutions in Florida. This page also links students to other college search websites, including:

- [Big Future](#) — A great resource created by the College Board that helps students find a college, pay for college and research careers
- [U.S. College Search](#) — Find links to almost any college or university in the United States.
- [U.S. News College Rankings and List](#) — Rankings by U.S. News for colleges and universities.
- [The Common Application](#) — Link to the Common Application as well as information on participating colleges and universities.
- [College Bound Network](#) — Search for colleges by programs, states or degrees.
- [Peterson's College/University Search](#) — Three-step college match tool.

- College catalogues & Brochures
- Visits of college admissions personnel
- Summer visits and College Fairs
- Alumni contacts

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How to LOOK For a College

- **Region**

Bible Belt: Southern Baptist: Located in the American South, and it includes all or parts of: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas (Buckle), Virginia, West Virginia

Rosary (Catholic): Established missions in what are now South Florida, West Georgia, Northern Texas, New Mexico, California, West Arkansas, Illinois, and Michigan

Mormon Corridor: Beginning in Utah, the corridor extends northward through Western Wyoming and eastern Idaho

- **Diversity**

Racial/Ethnic
Women
Religious
GLBT
Special Needs

- **@ Size**

Class size, Town size, T: P: R

- **@ Personal**

Dorm Room, Campus Safety, Social/Clubs, Weather changes

- **@ Degree Seeking**

A.A.
B.A. vs. B.F.A.

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CAMPUS VISIT

A visit to the campus of a college or technical school you might want to attend is an excellent idea! You and your parents should plan your visit carefully to learn as much as possible. As you plan, consider the suggestions below:

College & University Campus Visits

Board Policy Regarding: College/University Campus Visits

Students are allowed a total of 4 absences, which do not count against their attendance. These days may only be taken during their junior and senior years combined. (All 4 days can be taken in their senior year if preferred). Armed Forces and vocational school visitations will also fall under this provision. These absences must be applied for 3 days in advance.

Procedure for obtaining an excused absence for College Visitation:

1. A week prior to the scheduled visit, student must pick up a College Visitation Application from the office.
2. Complete the College Visitation Application and obtain required signatures.
3. Return completed and signed application to your clerk at least 3 days prior to scheduled college visitation.
4. Within 72 hours upon returning to Gibbs High School you must bring dated/stamped documentation showing the campus(s) you visited to the clerk. Only then will your absence(s) be recorded as an official college visit (REL/COL) and will not count when exempting exams. The absence(s) will stand as unexcused until proper documentation is received and/or if paperwork is not submitted in a timely manner. Please note, travel time is considered as part of the absence.

Examples of documentation:

- Parking Receipts
- Admissions Office Invitations
- Travel Tickets
- University Publications

IMPORTANT: All documents must have date and college / university stamps.

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College Entrance Examinations

The SAT and ACT test are standardized achievement examination for college admissions in the United States. The ACT was first administered in fall 1959 as a competitor to the College Board’s Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Some students who perform poorly on the SAT find that they perform better on the ACT and vice versa.

Both the SAT and the ACT scores are used to supplement the secondary school record and help admission officers put local data — such as course work, grades, and class rank — in a national perspective. Colleges use The ACT and/or the SAT because there can be substantial differences in funding, curricula, grading, and level of difficulty among U.S. secondary schools. However, most four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. will accept either the ACT or the SAT with few exceptions when one may prefer one test to another. Prior to taking any test, be sure to considering your choice of colleges/universities and which test is best for you to take.

Special Note: Choosing a single test and taking it multiple times is encouraged by the Gibbs High School Counseling Staff. See your counselor for further explanation.

Need-based testing and college application fee waivers are linked to a student’s free/reduced lunch status. Please remember to apply at the start of each school year.

2020-21 TEST DATES

2020-2021 Test Dates (National)		
National Test Dates for 2020-2021 will not open for registration until July 2020.		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2020	August 14	August 15 - August 28
September 13, 2020	TBD	
September 19, 2020	TBD	
October 10, 2020	TBD	
October 17, 2020	TBD	
October 24, 2020	September 18	September 19 - October 2
October 25, 2020	TBD	
December 12, 2020	November 6	November 7 - November 20
February 6, 2021	January 8	January 9 - January 15
April 17, 2021	March 12	March 13 - March 26
June 12, 2021	May 7	May 8 - May 21
July 17, 2021*	June 18	June 19 - June 25

ACT:

SAT:

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
August 29, 2020	July 31, 2020	August 11, 2020 (for mailed registrations) August 18, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for mailed registrations) September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020	October 20, 2020 (for mailed registrations) October 27, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 17, 2020 (for mailed registrations) November 24, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 20, 2021 (for mailed registrations) April 27, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 18, 2021 (for mailed registrations) May 26, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)

SCHEDULED FINANCIAL AID SEMINARS

The Financial Aid Seminars are held annually at designated Pinellas County Public High Schools. You may attend any of the seminars no matter which school you attend. The seminars are all the same. If you are a student, or parent or guardian of a student planning to attend a post-secondary institution and you are concerned about how to obtain financial aid, we invite you to attend a free seminar sponsored by the Pinellas County School system.

These presentations are most useful to parents and students who are looking for scholarships or need-based financial assistance to further their education after graduating from high school. Seminar speakers address the needs of current juniors and seniors, placing emphasis on school and district resources along with state and federal programs. Assistance in accurately completing applications and forms required for accessing scholarships and need-based aid is also provided.

Public and private school students and their parents may attend a financial aid seminar at any of the locations designated. Please contact the individual school for the exact location within the school. Presentations begin promptly at 6:30 P.M. and end approximately 8:00 P.M. Plan to arrive early to pick up the helpful handouts used during the seminar. Feel free to attend more than one if needed. You may also choose to attend a seminar at the location most convenient for you.

Financial Aid Seminars: Dates & Locations

October

Dates are TBA as of the printing of this manual.

To see all the dates and locations, visit this link:

<https://www.pcsb.org/Page/3626>

Or from www.pcsb.org – Then click the following links: Families > Resources > Financial Aid and Scholarships > Financial Aid Events > Financial Aid Seminars

For further questions, please contact:
Brooke Pair, Counselor-Financial Aid
pairb@pcsb.org

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Students are responsible for reviewing times and dates of SAT/ACT testing schedules and enrollment deadlines. When test scores are received, please report ALL testing scores to your counselor personally with each return of test results.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

Concordant for Algebra 1 EOC and FSA ELA

These are Comparative and Concordant scores needed to meet graduation requirements.

Assessment	Passing Score
FSA ELA	350
SAT Verbal	430
SAT Reading Subtest	24
ACT English	19 or average of reading/writing of 18
Algebra 1 EOC	497
PERT Math	97
PSAT Math	430
ACT Math	16
SAT Math	420

DUAL ENROLLMENT: PERT Score Equivalents

ACT and SAT scores are used to qualify students for dual enrollment. Students must also have a 3.0 GPA to qualify for most courses.

	ACT	SAT Subtests
Reading	19	24
Math	19	25
Writing	17 (English)	24 (Writing)

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

General Qualification Criteria

Test dates through the end of June of the senior year will be admissible.

Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)

<p>A student may receive funding for only one award (FAS, FMS, or GSV). The highest award earned by the student will be selected. *Award amounts will differ at quarter or clock hour institutions.</p>	<p>Up to: \$4,545/semester – 4 year \$2,790/semester – 2 year \$2,295/semester – Vocational Center</p>
<p>Grade Point Average (GPA) Law for more challenging higher level courses prescribes weighting as .50 per course per year. Example: <u>Credit Weighting</u> 1.00 .50 .50 .25</p>	<p>3.5 weighted GPA in core classes (listed below), combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below. Weighting for more challenging, higher-level courses is prescribed by law as .25 per semester course or .50 per year course. (Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>
<p>Required Credits See the Comprehensive Course Table on the Bright Futures website to identify courses that count toward each award level.</p>	<p>4 English (3 with substantial writing) 4 Mathematics (Algebra I and above) 3 Science (2 with substantial lab) 3 Social Science 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)</p> <hr/> <p>16 Credits</p>
<p>Community Service</p>	<p>100 hours, as approved by the district or private school</p>
<p>Test Scores Sections of the SAT, ACT, or CPT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria. For early eligibility evaluations, test dates through January 31 will be admissible For final eligibility evaluations, test dates through June 30 will be admissible</p>	<p>Best combined score of 1290 SAT I/SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) or best composite score of 29 ACT (excluding the writing section) The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite SAT Subject Tests exams are not used for Bright Futures eligibility ACT Scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding</p>

Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)

<p>A student may receive funding for only one award (FAS, FMS, or GSV). The highest award earned by the student will be selected. <i>*Award amounts will differ at quarter or clock hour institutions.</i></p>	<p>Up to: \$3,420/semester – 4 year \$2,115/semester – 2 year \$1,710/semester – Voc. Center</p>
<p>Grade Point Average (GPA) Law for more challenging higher level courses prescribes weighting as .50 per course per year. Example: <u>Credit Weighting</u> 1.00 .50 .50 .25</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA in core classes (listed below), combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below. Weighting for more challenging, higher-level courses is prescribed by law as .25 per semester course or .50 per year course. (Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>
<p>Required Credits See the Comprehensive Course Table on the Bright Futures website to identify courses that count toward each award level.</p>	<p>Courses must include 15 credits of college preparatory academic courses. 4 English (3 with substantial writing) 4 Mathematics (Algebra I and above) 3 Science (2 with substantial lab) 3 Social Science 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)</p> <hr/> <p>16 Credits</p> <p>May use up to 3 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA</p>
<p>Community Service</p>	<p>75 hours, as approved by the district or private school.</p>
<p>Test Scores Sections of the SAT, ACT, or CPT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria. For early eligibility evaluations, test dates through January 31 will be admissible For final eligibility evaluations, test dates through June 30 will be admissible</p>	<p>Best combined score of 1170 SAT I/SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) or best composite score of 26 ACT (excluding the writing section) The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite SAT Subject Tests exams are not used for Bright Futures eligibility ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding</p>

Rules for Preparing a Community Service Project

Community Service Requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Community Service is defined as identifying a social issue in the community. This requires students to look beyond themselves and reach out to an issue faced by our society (i.e. poverty, abuse, elderly citizen rights). These hours will meet the requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars or Gold Seal Vocational scholarships. The completed hours will be recorded on the students' transcript.

Volunteer Service is defined as assisting where needed and does not necessarily address a social issue. Although these hours are not recorded on the transcript, students can keep a log of these activities for use when applying for college, job applications, awards and scholarships other than the Bright Futures. The student will identify a social problem or problems that interests him/her, develop a plan of personal involvement in addressing the problem and evaluate and reflect upon the experience. The service may be performed at more than one (1) agency and address more than one (1) social problem, however, each agency must be approved by the high school's community service designee prior to the beginning of the experience. The student must be a high school student enrolled in grades 9-12 (summer before 9th grade is acceptable).

Steps to Follow:

The following steps are the process for documenting the community service experience. A list of possible community service experiences are listed below this form. This list should not be considered all-inclusive as there are many more ideas for service. (For specific requirements concerning grade point average, courses needed and minimum SAT or ACT scores, please see the Florida Bright Futures Website or contact your Guidance Counselor.)

1. Meet with the community service designee at the student's high school to review policies and procedures on the Student Community Service Information Sheet (PCS 2-2602-1).
2. Contact the community agency for an interview to discuss the social issue and a plan of action to address the social issue.
3. Complete form #1 (PCS 2-2602-2) after developing a detailed identification of the social problem and plan of action.
4. Submit community service form #1 (PCS form 2-2602-2) to the community service designee at the high school for approval.
5. Log community service hours on form #2 (PCS form 2-2602-3). The agency contact person must sign this documentation.

6. Summarize, evaluate, and reflect upon the community service work experience and the persons in the community that the student interacted with during this service work. Submit this information to the high school community service designee by completing the reverse side of the community service form #2 (PCS form 2-2602-3).

7. The completed forms shall be placed in the student's official cumulative file at the high school.

Quick Note: All Community Service hours and paperwork must be completed, signed, and submitted to the school prior to graduation.

What hours cannot be counted?

Gibbs holds quarterly **Bright Futures Meetings** that outline the process in detail. These meetings are *highly recommended* prior to starting your project. See the list of dates on page 30.

1. Court mandated community service.
2. An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the community service work.
3. All forms of duty within the family. The student's family to include: parents (including step), siblings (including step), any of their grandchildren (including step) and any of their spouses, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.
4. Religious devotion or any activity which can be interpreted primarily as proselytizing.
5. An activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm student performance (i.e., fostering an animal in your home).
6. Donations, such as Locks of Love or giving blood.
7. Service work that the student earns academic credit (except for credit earned through approved service-learning courses).

Potential Community Service Projects

Note: No service project location is pre-approved. All projects should be approved by the High School Community Service Designee prior to the start of the activity. Also, the following is a list of agencies that have provided opportunities in the past and is provided for your convenience, but the School District neither endorses, guarantees, nor makes any representation regarding the listed agencies; parents and adult students are strongly encouraged to investigate the agencies and make their own personal decisions regarding the sites.

To view detailed information about the agency, projects available, and contact information, visit: <http://www.pcsb.org/Page/3554>

School requirements:

Once the student is an active ninth grader and a project has the written approval of the high school community service designee, there is no time limit for completing hours other than that the hours must be completed prior to the student's graduation date.

Students should not begin community service work until their project ideas have been submitted to and approved by their school's Community Service designee and all paper work has been signed and dated by the appropriate people. Students should contact their high school Community Service Designee with questions.

Call 727-588-6013 about these and any other Community Service questions or concerns you may have.

Finding the Money: *Resources for Grants & Scholarships*

Once you have been accepted to college, the next big challenge is paying for college. Although the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship is a great opportunity for students in the State of Florida, the reality is that the required SAT and ACT scores are very high and many students are ineligible for that particular scholarship. The good news is that there are other opportunities for scholarships that students can access.

The Pinellas County Schools website has a page full of resources for students to access to search for and apply for scholarships and grants. You access this page by visiting www.pcsb.org > Families > Resources > Financial Aid and Scholarships.

This page has links for:

Listing of current scholarships that are available

- [Scholarship Opportunities](#)
- Search for scholarships with the U.S. Department of Labor's [free scholarship search tool](#)

General information regarding the Bright Futures Scholarship Program

- [Information Regarding Bright Futures](#)
- [Florida Bright Futures website](#)
- [Bright Futures Community Service Component and Requirements for Pinellas Students](#)
- Review your Bright Futures evaluation at [Florida Virtual Campus](#)
Click on **Pay for College** under the **Go to College** link, then click on the link under **Bright Futures Scholarships**.

State of Florida Grant and Scholarship Programs administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance

- [State of Florida Grant and Scholarship Programs](#)

Pinellas Education Foundation

- [Pinellas Education Foundation Scholarship Information](#)
- The Foundation has one application that allows students to apply for more than 100 different scholarships
- [Traditional High School Senior Scholarships](#)

Link to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- [FAFSA](#)

Links to Financial Aid Seminars, FASFA Nights, Talented 20 and more

- [Financial Aid Events Information & Additional Links](#)
- [Presentations from 2014-15 Financial Aid Seminars](#)

For additional information, contact:

Brooke Pair, Counselor-Financial Aid
pairb@pcsb.org
(727) 588-6013 (phone)

Additionally, a number of arts scholarship opportunities arise for students in all arts areas throughout the year. Besides, the district's showcase event, Walker's Rising Stars, many opportunities are distributed through the teachers in the arts majors on campus.

Application Form: *How to fill out a college application*

To admissions officers the application form is one of the most important ways to measure your qualifications. In a few short pages, they learn about your academic and extracurricular achievements, grades and test scores, and through the essay get to meet you and evaluate your writing ability. Your job is to present your best qualities in the application and to make yourself appear to be the student the college simply must have. Students should apply online whenever possible. If this option is not available, the application can be downloaded and completed. One can use the paper version of the application provided by the institution.

In part one of this four part series we will walk through page one of a common application form. The Common Application is available on the Internet at: www.commonapp.org. (The “Common Application” is very similar to most applications you’ll encounter.) Remember that this is only one example and your application will certainly be different because it will be unique to you.

Answer ALL questions as accurately as possible.

The essay is probably the single most important item! See section on “The Essay”.

The application fee, which must be paid in U.S. dollars and drawn on a US bank, must be included with the application. For on-line applications you may often pay with a credit card.

It is the student’s responsibility to see that their teachers complete recommendations and either mail or return them on time.

A completed Transcript Request Form must be submitted with each college application to ensure that an accurate record is kept of all materials received.

A complete application file will include the following:

- Application form
- Personal essay and in some cases supplementary essays
- Application fee
- Counselor and teacher(s) recommendations
- Transcript
- School profile
- Secondary school report for some colleges

In most cases, unless the college specifies otherwise, the student is responsible for sending the application form, fee + personal essay. The Guidance Office will mail the secondary school report, recommendations, transcript and profile. All requests should be made to the Guidance Office at least one month before the application closing date. Students are responsible for seeing that SAT and ACT scores are officially reported to the colleges. School and personal score reports are not considered official.

This Form Must Be Turned Into The Guidance Office ONE MONTH Before The Application Deadline. Copies can be found in the High School Guidance Office. This form must be filled out for EACH college to which an application is being sent. Please write the address of the college on the stickers provided- IN TRIPLICATE (copy the address exactly off your form). As these will be the address labels that accompany your application materials, please write very clearly and in block capitals. Do not forget to put Att.: Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

DEADLINES

Fall 2020 Getting into College

SAT Test Dates..... October & November

ACT Test Dates September & October

Credit Check..... August/September

Common College Applications Due December 1

(All college applications, letters of recommendations and transcripts due; Recommended: Present to counselor before Thanksgiving break).

Provide 2 weeks notice for all forms to be processed.

Financial Aid SeminarOctober

Apply for FAFSAOctober (*Free Application for Federal*) Student Aid

Apply at www.fafsa.ed.gov

Complete Bright Futures Community

Service Projects (SENIORS) End of Semester 1: December

Florida Virtual School Final

Grades Due (SENIORS) End of Semester 1: December

(PCCA Senior Dues \$80.00) End of Semester 1: December

Spring 2020 Find the Money; Financial Aid Requested

Apply for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships.....January

Apply at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

NHS Dues Paid: Final WarningJanuary

Final Transcript to Selected College.....May 1

SCHOLARSHIP AND BRIGHT FUTURES MEETING DATES

Meetings are held on select Wednesday's
from **7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.**

Please sign up with **Mrs. Pelletier** in the front office.
Parents are encouraged to attend.



*Please note these are the only information meeting times available.
There will be no individual appointments to discuss Bright Futures.
Initial eligibility requirements must be met prior to graduation from high school.*

SCHOLARSHIP AND BRIGHT FUTURES MEETING DATES

- ❖ ***Dr. Clark has scheduled dates for the Florida Scholarship and Bright Future meetings. All eligible Scholarship and Bright Future students from ALL Cohorts will be able to attend.***
- ❖ ***Parents are invited to attend, but not without the student. Meetings will be on select Wednesdays, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Grande Theater or the Media Center.***

- ❖ ***Students will need to sign up with Mrs. Pelletier in the Front Office before the deadline.***

- ❖ ***If a student signs up after a deadline, they will be placed on the next scheduled meeting list.***



BACK TO SCHOOL...AGAIN!!

The Ultimate College Shopping List

FOR YOUR BED

- Sleeping pillow
- Decorative pillows
- Pillow protector
- Mattress protector
- Comforter/Duvet
- Coordinating Sheets
- Comfy blanket
- Mattress pad

FOR YOUR BATHROOM

- Face/Bath/Hand towels
- Shower shoes
- Shower caddy
- Bath robe
- Mouth wash
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Face cleanser
- Chapstick
- Face wipes
- Face mask
- Skin toner
- Moisturizer
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shaving cream + razors
- Hairspray
- Hair products for your hair type
- Hair brush + comb
- Straightener
- Curling iron
- Blow dryer

FOR YOUR ROOM

- Drawer liners
- Rug
- Laundry bin
- Laundry bag
- Comfy chair
- Mini ottomans
- TV
- Trash can + recycling bin
- Mini fan
- Rolling cart/Pantry/Craft

FOR YOUR CLOSET

- Scarf hanger
- Regular hangers
- Shoe organizer
- Jewelry organizer

FOR YOUR DESK

- Desk organizers
- Mouse + mouse pad
- Lamp (check your dorm for lightbulb requirements)
- Bulletin board
- Coasters
- Push pins

FOR YOUR KITCHEN

- Coffee mugs
- To-go coffee cup
- Plates
- Cups
- Bowls
- Silverware
- Microwaveable Tupperware
- Microwaveable soup bowl
- Coffee maker
- Microwave
- Mini fridge
- Dish detergent
- Dish wand
- Kitchen towels
- Food
- Pots + pans
- Oven mitts
- Baking supplies
- Cooking oils + seasonings

FOR YOU

- Pain medicine
- Cold medicine
- Allergy medicine
- Stomach medicine
- First aid kit
- Band-aids
- Eyedrops
- Thermometer
- Deodorant
- Foundation
- Eyeliner

- Mascara
- Eye shadow
- Feminine products
- Tissues
- Manicure set -
- Nail polish remover
- Nail polish
- Cotton balls

FOR SCHOOL

- Folders
- Binders
- Notebooks
- Planner
- Calendar
- Graph paper
- Pens
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Stapler
- Three-hole punch
- Tape
- Sticky notes
- Scissors
- Paper clips
- Index cards
- Calculator
- White-out

TECH

- Surge protector power strip
- Extension cord
- Laptop + charger
- Phone + charger
- Headphones
- Camera
- Movies
- TV cable
- Alarm clock

OTHER STUFF

- Brita filter
- Stain remover
- Lint roller
- Umbrella
- Dryer sheets
- Disinfecting wipes
- Storage bins
- Water bottle
- Tool kit
- Plastic hooks
- Backpack

2020/2021 Gibbs High School Senior Class Information

CLASS SPONSOR:

Mrs. Wanda Wilson-Corbett

Email: wilsoncorbettw@pcsb.org

Phone Number: 727-893-5452 ext. 1364

Remind 101: This app is used to provide students with senior information or if there are questions regarding upcoming events.

Text the number: (718) 404-9669

In the message: @gibbs20-21

HOMEcomings:

- Homecoming Week: TBD
- Homecoming Game: Friday, TBD
- Homecoming Dance: Saturday, TBD (7-11p in the GHS Cafeteria)

SENIOR CLASS CAP AND GOWN AND GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT ASSEMBLY:

- Date/Time: Thursday, October 22, 2020 during 5th period (Student Meeting)
- Information will be provided about cap and gown orders and graduation announcements.

SENIOR FEES:

- Senior fees cover the cost of the following: cap, gown, tassel, medallion, diploma cover, programs, venue, security, flowers, and trophies presented at graduation.
- Senior fees cost \$100
- Students can set up a payment plan with Mrs. Corbett (\$20 minimum down payment)
- Collection dates: Starting Monday, August 24, 2020
- See Mrs. Corbett in Room 2-232 to pay your dues
- Cash (exact amount), checks and money orders accepted
- Senior fees must be **paid in full**, to participate in any Senior activities
- Cap and Gowns will not be distributed if students are not on track for Graduation

SENIOR PICTURES:

- Cady Studios will be doing a last call for senior picture make-ups on Thursday, September 10, 2020
- Sitting fee of \$30
- Photos Include: Formal, Cap & Gown, Tux, or Drape

YEARBOOKS:

- Cost: TBD
- See Mrs. Hill-Dennard

GRAD BASH:

- Friday, April 23, 2021 at Universal Studios, Orlando, FL
- Students are to meet on the west side of building 2 (in front of the clinic) for a dress code check and brief meeting by 3:30.
- We will depart for Universal Studios at 4:00 pm and return to school approximately 4:40 on Saturday, April 24, 2021.
- Tickets for Grad Bash will be on sale September 1, 2020
- **Senior Dues must be paid in full before a ticket can be purchased**
- Cost of tickets approximately \$145, in Mrs. Corbett's room 2-232
- Once tickets are purchased from Universal, the money is non-refundable
- Cash (exact amount), checks and money orders accepted
- Permission slips are required, and all students must have parent/guardian signatures, even those who are 18 years of age.
- Dress code information will be provided upon the purchase of a ticket and requires a student and parent signature indicating you all have reviewed Universal's dress code and will adhere to the rules.
- We have reserved 3 buses and once all of the buses are filled, no more tickets will be sold.

SENIOR WEEK:

- Monday, April 26, 2021 through April 30, 2021
- Senior Week Activities: dress up days (students must remain in dress code); senior pranks are not allowed
- Friday, April 30, 2021 during periods 2 & 4 Senior Breakfast and during periods 6 & 8 Senior vs Teachers Basketball Game and Cap & Gown Distribution

SENIOR BREAKFAST AND SENIOR T-SHIRTS:

- April 30, 2021 in the GHS Cafeteria (7:30 – 9:30 am)
- Breakfast, Guest Speakers, Graduation Information, and Senior Slide Show
- Cost is \$25 (covers t-shirt and breakfast), Mrs. Corbett in room 2-232
- Please provide Mrs. Corbett with your t-shirt size.
- No tickets will be sold at the door.
- Cash (exact amount), checks and money orders accepted

SENIOR PROM:

- Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 7 – 11pm
- Location: USF St. Pete Ballroom, 200 6th Avenue South, St. Pete, FL 33701
- Ticket Cost: TBD

SENIOR EXAMS:

- TBD once the Graduation Date is established

GRADUATION:

- Date: TBD
- Time: TBD
- Location: Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Drive, St. Petersburg, FL