

# Cougars Reality Check

## College Nights!!

10<sup>th</sup> Annual College & Career Fair – Countryside High

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – 6 to 8 p.m.

Pinellas County College Fair – USF St. Petersburg

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – 1 to 3 p.m.

NACAC College Fair – Tampa Convention Center

Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> – 12 to 3 p.m.

Come mingle with college representatives from various colleges and universities all over the nation.

## Bright Futures Scholarship

The Legislature reserves the right to make **changes to the funding and renewal requirements for ALL Bright Futures students** (initial and renewal) each academic year. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to sign up and check qualifications for this scholarship opportunity.

G.P.A., SAT/ACT test score and volunteer hour requirements are found on the Bright Futures Website:

[www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/)

*\*All Bright Futures information is subject to change by legislature*

## Visit our State Universities Online

Take time to take a Virtual Tour of the State Universities right here in Florida:

Florida A&M University	<a href="http://www.famu.edu">www.famu.edu</a>
Florida Atlantic University	<a href="http://www.fau.edu">www.fau.edu</a>
FAU/ Honors College	<a href="http://www.honorscollege.edu">www.honorscollege.edu</a>
Florida Gulf Coast University	<a href="http://www.fgcu.edu">www.fgcu.edu</a>
Florida International University	<a href="http://www.fiu.edu">www.fiu.edu</a>
Florida Polytechnic Univ.	<a href="http://www.floridapolytechnic.org">www.floridapolytechnic.org</a>
Florida State University	<a href="http://www.fsu.edu">www.fsu.edu</a>
New College of Florida	<a href="http://www.ncf.edu">www.ncf.edu</a>
University of Central Florida	<a href="http://www.ucf.edu">www.ucf.edu</a>
University of Florida	<a href="http://www.ufl.edu">www.ufl.edu</a>
University of North Florida	<a href="http://www.unf.edu">www.unf.edu</a>
University of South Florida	<a href="http://www.usf.edu">www.usf.edu</a>
University of South Florida St. Pete	<a href="http://www.usfsp.edu">www.usfsp.edu</a>
University of West Florida	<a href="http://www.uwf.edu">www.uwf.edu</a>

## What will college cost??

### COLLEGE COSTS FALL INTO FIVE CATAGORIES:

**Tuition and Fees:** Charge for instruction and services

**Books and Supplies:** Books, pens, pencils, paper, supplies

**Room and Board:** Food and housing

**Personal Expenses:** Laundry, phone bills, supplies, clothing

**Transportation:** Car, gas, tolls, plane, train

### ESTIMATING YOUR EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:

Use the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculator on the [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) web site.

### SCHOLARSHIPS VS FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships are provided from private sources and do not have to be repaid. Join **REMIND text messages: text 8101 to: @bf9d42** and visit our school website for scholarship listings. Financial Aid is provided by Federal and State Governments and may or may not have to be repaid.

**FAFSA Night at Countryside – Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 6 to 7 p.m.**

### FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me)  
[www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com)  
[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)  
[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)  
[www.bigfutures.com](http://www.bigfutures.com)  
[www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships](http://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships)  
[www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com)  
[www.scholarshipaid.com](http://www.scholarshipaid.com)  
[www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov)  
[www.FindTuition.com](http://www.FindTuition.com)  
[www.collegeXpress.com](http://www.collegeXpress.com)

**\*\*NEVER PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY\*\***

### HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID?

1. Apply for admission to your future school. You can't get money if you don't attend that college.
2. Fill out the FAFSA, which is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is a must! Get it on-line at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
3. Wait for a "package." This is a financial award package from one or more of the colleges/ universities to which you applied. The \$ amount they offer you is based on your FAFSA information. Each school may offer different types of aid through CSS/Profile, <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
4. Pick your package. Once you have decided on an offer, send your materials to the financial aid office at your college/university.

# Senior Calendar

## AUGUST 2018

- Review Career Plans
- Complete College research and plan visitation when possible
- Narrow college choices to 5 schools to which you want to apply
- Complete your high school resume or Brag sheet
- Submit applications to state universities
- SAT- 8/25/18

## SEPTEMBER 2018

- Ask to send electronic transcripts
- ACT - September 8
- Financial Aid Night – Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7 p.m.
- Meet with college representatives who are set up to visit CHS or local college fair
- Work on Senior Portfolio, Resume & Letters of Rec.

## OCTOBER 2018

- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> College & Career Fair @ CHS
- SAT - October 6
- SAT School Day – October 10
- ACT- October 27
- FAFSA opens Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Homecoming – Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>
- Work on application essays
- Complete Early Decision and Early Action applications
- If needed, complete CSS/Financial Aid *PROFILE* on Collegeboard.com
- Meet Early Decision or Early Action deadlines
- Work on Senior Portfolio, Resume & Letters of Rec.

## NOVEMBER 2018

- SAT – November 3
- Work on Senior Portfolio, Resume & Letters of Rec.
- Work on college applications, many have Nov. deadlines.

## DECEMBER 2018

- Complete your Bright Futures Application online at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)
- SAT- December 1
- ACT - December 8
- Check to see if your college/university needs you to have a CSS/Financial Aid *PROFILE*
- Complete the FAFSA if attending college summer term 2019
- Check you end of semester grades/credits

## JANUARY 2019

- Complete your FAFSA application for fall term 2019
- Apply for scholarships
- Finalize college choices
- Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for information about financial aid

## FEBRUARY 2019

- ACT - February 9
- Be sure all necessary materials have been sent to your chosen colleges
- Don't get "senioritis;" colleges want to see strong second semester grades
- Expect to receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), which outlines Expected Family Contributions for the school year.
- Apply for scholarships

## MARCH 2019

- Anticipate award letters from financial aid outlining your financial aid assistance
- Be sure your colleges/universities have received all necessary information
- SAT- March 9
- Continue scholarship search
- Apply for scholarships

## APRIL 2019

- Grad Bash – April 6<sup>th</sup> (tentative)
- ACT - April 13
- Prom – April 26
- Prepare for May AP Examinations, if applicable
- Admissions decisions arrive
- Review college acceptances; perhaps revisit your top choices
- Review financial aid packages; talk with college financial aid officers
- Check dates for housing deposits
- Apply for scholarships

## MAY 2019

- College / Military Signing Day – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Awards Night – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- SAT - May 4
- May - Seniors final exams
- \*AP Exams May 6<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
- \*Graduation rehearsal (TBD)
- \*Graduation (TBD)
- Order final transcripts
- Apply for scholarships
- Update and Finalize Bright Futures Application

## JUNE 2019

- SAT - June 1
- ACT - June 8
- Notify colleges you did not choose
- Attend College/University Orientation
- Update and Finalize Bright Futures Application