College & Career Connection

SUNLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

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Pasco County, FL

Connecting High School to Your Future Plans

Welcome to the College and Career newsletter! I am excited to share with you the latest resources in my mission to help students be informed while making educational decisions for their futures.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to all of our students and families who have trusted my advisement over the last several years. Your trust comes with much gratitude which motivates my endeavors to help students reach their maximum potential.

In terms of my resources found in this newsletter, I have successfully launched an online College and Career Center via My Pasco Connect. This course aims to improve access to quality educational resources for both college and career planning for all students grades 9-12.

I am also excited to announce that Pasco County Schools has partnered with Xello, a college and career tool which allows students to explore various pathways beyond high school. This app can be found on a student's My Pasco Connect dashboard. Here, students can take interest inventories, explore pathways, research educational institutions and scholarship resources. There are also activities students can use like: resume builder and/or portfolio builder. A unique feature they can also explore Florida Life Simulator, where students can explore the virtual game of "Life", choosing careers, lifestyles while learning how far the dollar goes.

Finally, students can always visit my office, 3-166, to ask questions during all lunches!

Enjoy this newsletter!

Mrs. Black

In this newsletter you can expect:

Stay on Track: Year-by-Year Checklists

ACT, SAT and CLT, How Do I Register?

Navigating College Applications

Community Service & Work Hours and Grade Reporting

Paying for College Scholarship Resources

Understanding the Bright Futures Program

Figuring Out Your Future: Career Exploration

Stay on Track: Year-by-Year Checklists

Preparing for college starts well before a student's senior year. In fact, many students who take high school courses while in middle school are getting a head start.

With students applying to colleges during the first few months into their senior year, they often reflect back to their early studies. Many of them wish they had taken their Freshman year more seriously.

Earning high grading marks early and increasing the number of challenging course as you progress through high school, allow students to take control of their future and opens the potential opportunities which are on the horizon.

What can students do to be prepared? Take a moment to look over the grade level, year-by-year checklists below. This can clarify the grade level expectations and creates a pathway to success.

9th Grade
10th Grade
11th Grade

12th Grade
12th Month By Month Checklist

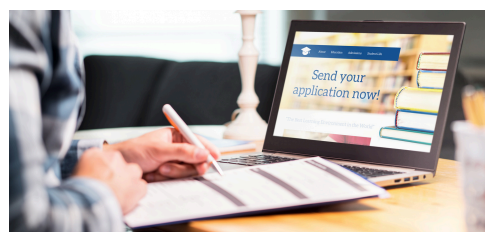## ACT, SAT & the CLT: How Do I Register?

The SAT, ACT and the CLT are all digital assessments which are designed to measure high school students readiness for college. Comparison charts and articles can be found online.

Students must register for these assessments on their websites:

College Board- SAT

ACT Website

Classic Learning Test- CLT

Navigating College Applications

Applying for college can be an overwhelming process. Break down the process into small short-term goals. Before you know it, you will be waiting on your acceptance emails!
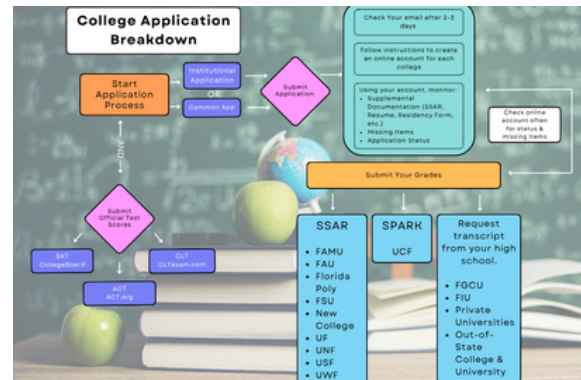
- Complete an online application through the college's website or the Common Application website. (Check out Common App Resources.)
- Send your SAT and/or ACT and/or CLT scores to the colleges you are interested in applying. You will do this by logging into your SAT, ACT or CLT account.
- Report your grades completing the Self-Student Academic Report (SSAR).

At-A-Glance Resources to Guide Students with the College Application Process

The State University System has developed a matrix that outlines the admissions criteria for each public university in Florida. Please note that this information is updated annually and reflects the average academic profiles of students admitted for the Fall term—not exact admission requirements. Click the image to view a larger, more detailed version.

Applying to college can feel confusing and overwhelming. To help simplify things, I've created a quick visual guide that outlines each step of the process. Click the image below to view a larger version of the flowchart and walk through the journey with ease. Students should check university websites for specific application deadlines.

Community Service and Work Hours-How to Submit

We're Going Paperless!
Students can now submit their community service and/or work hours through a link available on the school's website. Whenever possible, aim to submit your hours each quarter. These logged hours are important for Bright Futures scholarship evaluations during senior year. For detailed requirements, see page 4 of this document.
Pro Tip: *Community service hours are not required for high school graduation, but they are strongly recommended for scholarships.*

Requesting Transcripts or Self-Reporting- Which is best?

Submitting Your Grades to Colleges
Reporting your grades is a required part of the college application process. Over time, colleges and universities have updated their policies on how they receive this information. Many now ask students to self-report their grades using platforms like the SSAR (Self-Reported Student Academic Record) or SPARK form. You can find your unofficial transcript on My Student under the Reports tab.
Wondering where to submit this information? Once you've applied, instructions will appear in your student application portal. Keep in mind that some schools—especially private colleges—may require your high school to submit transcripts directly. To request this, simply use the online link provided on the school's website.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Scholarship Resources

The link below is a "live" newsletter to over 100 scholarships. Read the eligibility requirements before applying. Not yet a senior? Start researching and create your own list of resources you could apply to when the time comes!

Mrs. Black's Financial Aid & Scholarship Newsletter

BIG FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITES

No essay, no minimum GPA or test score, or citizenship requirements. Just follow the steps for chances to win. The more steps you complete and the earlier you start, the more chances you have to win! Start during your **Junior** year!

Check out this video.

Florida Bright Futures and the Florida Financial Aid Application

The Florida Financial Aid Application is home to 17 Florida Specific grants like Bright Futures.

This is a link which breaks down the Bright Futures Award and eligibility requirements.

Click HERE for the timeline.

FAFSA-THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

- Get familiar with studentaid.gov
- Mark deadlines on your calendar and set reminders so you get your applications in on time.
- Gather necessary documents in advance so it's easier to complete your FAFSA form when it's available (check out our article on how to prepare for filling out the FAFSA form).

FAFSA
Need Money for College? Complete the FAFSA!
FAFSA.GOV

All college bound students and their parents (who are referred to as "contributors") should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The FAFSA is available October 1. Apply early for the best chance of receiving the aid you need!

You can fill out the FAFSA on a computer or mobile device.

Filling out the FAFSA is free. Never pay a company or service to process your FAFSA.

By completing the FAFSA, you automatically apply for a Pell Grant (free money).

Don't let the FAFSA intimidate you, and don't assume that you won't be eligible for any aid.

For information on how to get money for college, watch this video on financial aid.

VIDEO

- Get scholarship tips now, before the deadlines creep up on you.
- Remind your additional contributors, if any, to complete their sections of your FAFSA form.
- Double-check information on your FAFSA form before submitting it to avoid errors that could cause processing delays.

xello

Xello is an online program that helps anyone, anywhere in the world create a successful future through self-knowledge, exploration, and planning.

Figuring Out Your Future: Career Exploration Program
Hello Xello, Xello.World

Pasco County Schools is excited to partner with Xello, a comprehensive K-12 career exploration tool. Every student has access to their personalized account by using the Xello icon found on the My Pasco Connect dashboard.

Engage Every Student With a Student Driven Future-Readiness Program
Built with thousands of hours of research with educators, Xello puts students at the heart of their journey of self-discovery. By delivering an engaging student experience, Xello helps educators achieve real results.

Assessments that Build Self-Knowledge
Students complete interactive career, personality, and learning style assessments to help them better understand their unique interests, skills, and strengths. Each engaging assessment encourages reflection, helping students connect who they are with relevant career options.

Personalized Student Portfolios
Students personalize their Xello experience by creating a shareable, online portfolio that showcases their interests, skills, and abilities. Profiles are easily updated as students gain new experiences, reflecting who they are every step of the way.

Vibrant Career and College Profiles
Students explore hundreds of career and college options that align with their assessment results. Engaging content written at a grade 6 level, rich photography, and real-world interviews combined with interactive college planning features provide an authentic glimpse into their future and the critical knowledge to make informed decisions and plans.

Interactive Planning Tools
Students translate their newfound knowledge into an actionable roadmap by piecing together their saved career and academic options to create a personalized plan. Plus, with integrated course planning, they'll have a clear path to their future goals.

Build Skills Employers Value
With integrated lessons, students build essential skills and knowledge that can help them succeed in the real world. Personalized based on their work in Xello, lessons give students the chance to reflect, reassess, and build communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills to ensure smooth transitions between critical life stages.

Thank you for reading!

SUNLAKE HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER	813-346-1000
Follow the Online SLHS College and Career Center on My Pasco Connect to stay informed of scholarships, job opportunities and other important announcements from Mrs. Black. Students must register before parents can access resources. https://pasco.instructure.com/enroll/NDTJXC	