



CLASS OF 2021

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SENIOR YEAR

SIGN UP FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES THROUGH THE REMIND APP

Number to text: 81010

Class of 2021 remind codes:

Last names A-D @howie2021

Last names E-La @saint2021

Last names Le-Ri @edwins2021

Last names Ro-Z @turnerco21

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- **Ms. Jessica Howie-Last Name A-D**
howiej@santarosa.k12.fl.us
- **Mrs. Angie Schlosser-Last Name E-La**
schlossera@santarosa.k12.fl.us
- **Mrs. Annette Edwins-Last Name Le-Ri**
edwinsa@santarosa.k12.fl.us
- **Mrs. Ashley Turner-Last Name Ro-Z**
turnerea@santarosa.k12.fl.us

IMPORTANT DATES

THE SENIOR CALENDAR IS POSTED ON SCHOOL'S WEBSITE – CHECK IT OFTEN FOR UPDATES.

1ST SEMESTER

OCTOBER

22nd:

END OF 1ST NINE WEEKS

27th:

HERFF JONES MEETING IN GYM FOR CAP &
GOWN/GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT INFO

(3rd pd)

NOVEMBER

3rd:

ORDER CAP&GOWN/ANNOUNCEMENTS AT LUNCHES

3rd-5th:

FSA READING RETAKES

23rd-27th:

FALL BREAK

DECEMBER 21st-Jan 1st Winter Break

IMPORTANT DATES

2ND SEMESTER

- **JANUARY**

12th, 13th, 14th

1ST SEMESTER EXAMS

- **MARCH**

15th-19th

SPRING BREAK

- **APRIL/MAY**

TBA

AWARDS DAY -THIS IS FOR DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS AND HONORS RECOGNITION.

TBA

SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT –THIS IS TO RECOGNIZE SENIORS WHO HAVE EARNED LOCAL AND COLLEGE-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS.

- **JUNE**

2nd, 3rd, 4th

2ND SEMESTER EXAMS

GRADUATION – JUNE 5, 2020 AT 11:00 AM HELD AT THE PENSACOLA BAY CENTER.

GRADUATION

- Guidance counselors are meeting with seniors to do a “graduation check” and discuss future plans. Be patient, the District is resolving glitches in our new computer system.
- Students in danger of not meeting graduation requirements will be monitored closely, and the counselor will be in communication with the parents.
- If you do not meet all requirements for graduation, you may not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- DEADLINES:

- Vary for each college – Apply early because that will put you in the running for more scholarship opportunities.
- Be sure to research specific colleges for degree programs and specific requirements. Some (but not all) schools are moving to “test optional”.
- Visit the financial aid page of each school’s website to learn about their financial aid opportunities. Specifically better grades = more money!!! Some schools will automatically review your transcript for scholarships and others will require you to do an application.
- Consider November 1st your deadline, but check each school’s website for updated extensions!!

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- How to Apply:
 - College applications are completed online. Start by visiting the school’s website and clicking on “Freshman Applications”.
 - In addition to Institutional applications, many schools also use third party platforms such as Coalition, SENDedu, and CommonApp. If you are using one of these platforms, let your counselor know. Let your counselor know if you require a letter of recommendation. When using these platforms, your guidance counselor will upload your transcript and secondary report. Check to see if recommendations are required and provide Guidance and your teachers a Resume/Brag Sheet
 - If you are not using a third party platform and apply through a University/College website, you will need to send your transcripts through the Parchment website. Visit the GBHS Guidance website for instructions.
 - Apply as early as possible to take advantage of school based scholarships.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- DOCUMENTATION:

- Test scores must be sent directly from **actstudent.org** or **collegeboard.org**. A few schools will allow you to self-report your test scores and then give you a timeline for sending the official scores later if accepted to their school.
- If you have taken dual enrollment courses (even if the classes were at GBHS) you must send your college transcript to the colleges. You can send your Pensacola State transcript through Spyglass by going to the PSC's website:
www.pensacolastate.edu
- Most state universities do NOT require a letter of recommendation. However, many private schools do. If you are using your Guidance Counselor as a reference, please give your counselor a resume/brag sheet. At least two weeks notice is needed for letters of recommendation. We do not submit letters of recommendation unless the school requires it.

TRANSCRIPTS

- Please visit the Guidance website for instructions to send transcripts online through Parchment. **GUIDANCE COUNSELORS DO NOT PROVIDE TRANSCRIPTS.** The cost of sending a transcript is \$5.00 per school. Also, a transcript will be e-mailed to you.
- If you receive free lunch, please make an account and come to Guidance to have the Guidance Secretary add fee waivers.
- If you are using SendEDU, Coalition or CommonApp, your counselor will upload the transcript.

FEE WAIVERS

- **IF YOU RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH OR HAVE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE PAYING FOR THE ACT/SAT DIFFICULT. YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FEE WAIVERS. PLEASE SEE YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.**
- **IF YOU USE FEE WAIVERS FOR THE ACT/SAT OR HAVE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR COLLEGE WAIVERS. THIS WOULD ALLOW YOU TO APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE AND NOT HAVE TO PAY THE APPLICATION FEE.**
- **IF YOU FEEL AS THOUGH YOU MAY QUALIFY, PLEASE SEE YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR E-MAIL.**

SSAR – STUDENT SELF-REPORTED ACADEMIC RECORD

- FAMU, University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, University of North Florida, New College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida PolyTechnic University and other Florida schools require SSAR.
- University of Central Florida uses a self-reporting system called SPARK
- If apply to these schools you must make an SSAR/Spark account and input all of the courses you have taken for which you have earned high school credit along with the grade you earned. Then you will need to link your SSAR to your school(s).
 - Look at the GPA/Credits tab on the FOCUS portal for a complete list of all your courses and grades. You can also order an unofficial copy of your transcript through Parchment for review.
- **You do NOT send a transcript until you are accepted.**

FAFSA

- **FAFSA** stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- This application is used to determine whether you may qualify for any Federal Student Aids such as the pell grant, work studies, and loans. **FAFSA is also required for students receiving scholarships directly from colleges (everyone needs to do it!!)**
- FAFSA application is open on October 1st.

FAFSA

- You apply on the website www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - You can use the *FAFSA4caster* to estimate your eligibility for federal student aid.
 - EACH COLLEGE HAS ITS OWN DEADLINE SO CHECK THEIR WEBSITE, however November 1st should be your deadline!!! The early bird gets the scholarship money!!

BRIGHT FUTURES

- All seniors need to complete a Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) online. This application is for the Bright Futures Scholarship and several additional State Scholarships. Guidance will post an instructional video in October with step by step instructions.
 - The application will be available on the website below.
 - Keep in mind that the application can only be completed once, so you need to WATCH THE VIDEO to make sure that you do it correctly!
- www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home

BRIGHT FUTURES

- Students are responsible for checking their status through their online account. Everything is done online, and you will receive nothing through the mail from Bright Futures.
- All of the information regarding GPA, test scores and community service can be found in the 2020-2021 Handbook at this link.
- <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapterI.pdf>

BRIGHT FUTURES

- Community Service hour sheets can be found on the guidance website or in the guidance office.
- While service hours are not required for graduation, Bright Futures requires 75 hours for the Medallion Scholarship and 100 hours for the Academic Scholarship.
- **TURN IN YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS TO THE GUIDANCE SECRETARY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Scholarships are out there – you have to be proactive and look for them:
 - Your employer or your parents' employer.
 - Church, clubs/organizations you or your parents are members of.
- The Guidance Department will advertise local/national scholarships as they are sent to us.
- If you use a website for mass scholarships such as FASTWEB.com or SCHOOLSOU.P.COM consider making an e-mail account that you can delete after graduation because you will receive lots of spam.
- The updated list of scholarships is posted on the GBHS Guidance home page.
- <http://gbhsguidance.weebly.com/>

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SENIORS:

- My Majors <http://www.findmycollegemajor.org/>.
 - After taking this assessment, you will be recommended the top majors, colleges and careers based on your academic achievements, interests and personality.
- Florida Shines <https://www.floridashines.org/>
 - Allows you to research schools, degree programs and different career choices.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SENIORS:

- State University System of Florida Admissions Matrix and other information

http://gbhsguidance.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/7/9/107900997/2020-21_sus_admission_tour_matrix.pdf

- Private Colleges & Universities of Florida Admissions Matrix and other information

http://gbhsguidance.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/7/9/107900997/private_colleges_universities_of_florida_matrix_2020-21.pdf

REFERENCE

- ALL OF THIS INFORMATION AND MORE CAN BE FOUND ON THE GULF BREEZE HIGH SCHOOL'S GUIDANCE WEBPAGE
- <http://gbhsguidance.weebly.com/>