

12th Grade Student Information Sheet: 2023-24

Senior year is an exciting year, and we want to help you make the transition to the next phase of your life as easy as possible. Please review the information below and see your school counselor for any additional information you need.

Graduation Contracts: Seniors will meet with their counselor toward the beginning of the school year to review and discuss all graduation requirements. Contracts include your current grade point average, number of credits earned so far, classes needed for graduation, status on testing, your online course, and information about your post-secondary plans. You and your counselor will sign, and you will receive a copy of the contract.

Post-secondary plans: Each student will need to develop a plan for his/her future. Plans may include college, technical programs, work force, or the military. Your counselor can help you develop your post-secondary plan. Keep your eyes open for information about college and military presentations posted in your **Schoology Class of 2024 Group**.

Not sure where to apply: There are many websites that can assist you with your search to find the perfect college or vocational school for you.
www.campustours.com – provides virtual tours of hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide.
www.niche.com – provides college, career, and financial aid information, as well as virtual tours.
www.floridashines.org – career interest survey and planning, college and financial aid planning.

Application deadlines: It is important to keep track of college/trade school/scholarship deadlines. Try to have necessary items completed 2 weeks prior to deadlines.

SAT/ACT: If you need a concordant score to meet graduation requirements or if you are planning to attend a four-year college, you will need to take the **SAT** and/or **ACT**. It is suggested that you take each test more than once. If you are planning to attend a two-year community college in Florida you could take the **SAT, ACT or PERT/ACCUPLACER**. The **PERT/ACCUPLACER** is an examination given at community colleges. For test preparation, test practice, payment and easy online registration, go to: **SAT:** www.collegeboard.org, or **ACT:** www.actstudent.org and follow the directions. Our high school code is 101543. Do not wait until the last minute. Fee waivers are contingent on income (See Ms. Boyd), please complete free/reduced application for eligibility prior to ask for fee waiver: <https://www.manateeschools.net/page/2610>

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Oct. 07	Sept. 07	Sept. 26
Nov. 04	Oct. 05	Oct. 24
Dec. 02	Nov. 02	Nov. 21
Mar. 09	Feb. 23	
May 04	Apr. 19	
Jun. 01	May. 17	

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Oct. 28	Sept. 22	Oct. 06
Dec. 09	Nov. 03	Nov. 17
Feb. 10	Jan. 05	Jan. 19
Apr. 13	Mar. 08	Mar. 22
Jun. 08	May 03	May 17
Jul. 13	Jun. 07	Jun. 21

Recommendation Letters: If you need a recommendation letter, please provide a **resume** outlining your personal accomplishments while in high school. Include clubs, sports, jobs you have participated in either at school or in the community. The person you are asking to write your letter of recommendation will need to know what sets you apart from others. Letters of recommendation take careful thought and time. Expect a 10 day turn around time for requested letters.

Community Service: We strongly suggest that each student completes at least 100 hours of community service during their high school career. Community service hour forms are in the guidance lobby.

Important Dates:

- ✓ Post-Secondary Education Night at MTC - Monday, September 11th
- ✓ Open House/Career Fair at MTC - Thursday, October 5th
- ✓ Big Bank Theory - Monday, October 23rd and Tuesday, October 24th
- ✓ FAFSA Workshop at Southeast - Tuesday, January 30th
- ✓ College Fair - Monday, February 26th
- ✓ Career Fair - TBD

Other pertinent information, including Scholarships, can be found on the College & Career webpage:



Scholarship Awards and Acceptance Letters: Bring to guidance or email them to your counselor so we can make sure to include you in the senior awards ceremony.



Graduating Class of 2024-The Financial Aid Process

How to pay for college is without a doubt one of the most significant challenges facing students today. If you know that you are going to need help paying for your college education, the search for financial aid needs to be **a major and ongoing priority**. There is still financial aid available in today's society, but **you** need to look for it and apply for it. Your counselors are here to assist you in this process, but ultimately you and your parents/guardians are the keys in locating and applying for financial aid. You cannot wait until the spring to come to your counselor's office and say – "I need a scholarship." At that point, most scholarships and grants will have already been given out.

[There are many ways to search for scholarships and grants.](#) Some suggestions are:

- Check the Scholarship List located on the College & Career webpage.
- Look for scholarships offered by your employer or your parents' employers.
- Check to see if scholarships are offered by local community and business organizations.
- Contact the financial aid department of the college you are planning on attending.

[Another important way to search for scholarships and grants](#) is to do an internet search using key words that identify what makes you unique, i.e. scholarships for first generation students, scholarships for students of single parent families, scholarships for left-handed students, scholarships for students raised by their grandparents, etc.

Scholarships can also be found on FREE online scholarship search websites and on ACT and SAT websites. The following are a few excellent websites to explore:

- www.scholarships.com - lists thousands of scholarships and financial aid awards worth billions of dollars.
- www.fastweb.com- the world's largest and oldest Private-sector scholarships, grants and free college scholarship database.
- www.collegeboard.org - click on "Students". Under "big future" click on "Get help paying for college".
- www.actstudent.org - click on "Financial Aid" link at the top of the page.
- www.raise.me – set up an account with your achievements earning money toward your tuition at participating schools.



Financial aid may also be available through **state and federal governments**. The **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** is used to apply for federal student aid such as grants, work-study, and loans. It is also used to apply for aid from your state or college. As a senior, you may apply to FAFSA **beginning October 1, 2023**. You **MAY NOT** apply before this date. However, you can become familiar with the FAFSA process, gather the needed documents and apply for your FSA ID/FAFSA pin before the October 1, 2023 date. Apply **EARLY** before all the monies are given out.
PLEASE NOTE----The correct, official website for FAFSA is <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. **FAFSA is FREE.**

[Student athletes](#) may also qualify for scholarship money. Requirements, procedures and eligibility standards can be reviewed on the www.ncaaclearinghouse.net website. Athletes must register in order for coaches to make official contact with you. There is a registration fee so please see your counselor to learn about the fee waiver process if you are part of the Free/Reduced Lunch Program.

[Scholarship](#) money may also be available to you through **The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program**. Grades, test scores (SAT, ACT) and community service will be evaluated to determine your eligibility. Counselors will help students complete the initial application through Government/Economics. Details and specifics regarding this program and other state scholarships can be reviewed at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Click on State Grants, Scholarships and Applications on the left side of the page.

High School Graduation Year	GPA	SAT (Reading, Math)	ACT (Eng., Math, Read, Sci)	PERT	Community Service	Paid Work Hours
Florida Academic Scholars (Good for up to 120 credits)	3.5 Core- required	1340	29	n/a	100	100
Florida Medallion Scholars (Good for up to 120 credits)	3.0 Core- required	1210	25	n/a	75	100
Gold Seal – up to 72 credits in AS, AAS, CCC or PSAV; 60 credits in ATD's	3.5 Career & Technical 3.0 Core	Reading-24 Writing and Lang - 25 Math-24	English-17 Reading-19 Math-19	Reading-106 Writing-103 Math-114	30	100