

10 Essential Things Every Senior Needs to Know

1. **College Applications** – GET GOING ON THEM NOW!! FSU's deadline is typically in mid-October, and the others are right behind that! Information of how to access each applications can be found on each college's website. If you are not sure where you would like to go to college, check out the following websites for College Searches: Naviance (an app available through LaunchPad), Collegeboard.org, and floridashines.org
2. **High School Transcript Requests** – ALL transcript requests are currently requested through a form available at the front desk. Please request your transcript at least 3 business days prior to needing them for any application deadlines.
3. **SAT/ACT Schedule** – If students need to re-take the SAT or ACT, please do it soon!!! SAT & ACT scores can be sent to colleges even after the admissions application deadlines. Colleges will consider new scores as they are received if their admissions decisions have not been announced. **SAT & ACT score reports MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE SAT & ACT WEBSITES, not from AEHS.**
4. **Fee Waivers** – are available for the SAT & ACT for students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch – (up to 2 per test). If you have ever used a waiver for the SAT or ACT, or if you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you are also eligible for a college admissions application fee waivers.
5. **Community Service Hours** – Seniors, GET YOUR HOURS TURNED IN BY DECEMBER! You can always turn in more after that, but Bright Futures will do an initial eligibility in January when they receive the first semester transcript, so it's best to have the hours show up by that time. Final eligibility will be determined from their final transcript – so more hours can be added, but why stress?
6. **Letters of Recommendation** – Start asking your teachers, club sponsors, coaches, and Ms. Roca for a letter of recommendation for your college and scholarship applications. Ms. Roca will need at least 3 business days to write the letter for you. DO NOT wait until the day your application is due to request one.
7. **Bright Futures Application** – You may complete the Bright Futures application beginning on December 1st at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org Ms. Roca will go into classrooms sometime in January to help you complete the application.
8. **Scholarships** – Fastweb.com, Chugg.com, Scholarshipexperts.com, raise.me, and many other websites are excellent ways to find scholarships. Also, check the college websites for whatever college you are applying to and find any scholarship opportunities for incoming freshmen. Most deadlines for these scholarships happen BEFORE you know if you're accepted to that college – but they will sort that out in the end. Look at the college in general, as well as the specific college for your major (college of engineering, education, medicine, etc.).
9. **FAFSA** – this is the Federal form that must be completed by each student/parent (www.fafsa.gov) to determine federal financial aid eligibility. Many colleges and scholarships will also require this information to determine financial aid eligibility as well. This is available beginning October 1st 2018 for the **Fall 2019/Spring 2020** school year. Income tax information for the 2017 tax year will be required for completing this. Watch for an information sessions at AEHS and throughout the district for help with completing this.
10. **NO SENIOR-ITIS** – Be aware that college admissions decisions are **CONDITIONAL** and can always be **RESCINDED** if they don't like what they see on a final transcript. Absences are listed on your transcript. Colleges can see how many days you missed of school each school year. Please stay focused & keep your grades up!