

DCPS Post Secondary Readiness Milestones

Ninth Grade

- Attend 9th grade orientation for students and parents.
- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Students with disabilities need to check with their counselor about applying for test accommodations on PSAT, SAT, and AP exams-
www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html and ACT:www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/
- Register for the PSAT at your school (cost – about \$15).
- Take the PSAT in October.
- Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan).
- Sign on to My College Quick Start after receiving your PSAT scores.
- Meet with your counselor to develop next year's schedule, review postsecondary plans, and review your 4 year plan. Check on prerequisites for advanced level junior and senior courses.
- Participate in and track extracurricular activities: sports, clubs, and community service (required for Bright Futures scholarships).
- Turn community service hours form in to your school counseling office to be entered into the system.
- Start thinking about life after high school, talk to people about careers you might find interesting.
- Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.
- Put aside money for college or other postsecondary plans.
- Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July www.flvc.org .

Tenth Grade

- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Take the PSAT in October (FREE- for 10th graders).
- Attend the NACAC College Fair at Prime Osborne in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan).
- Sign on to My College Quick Start after receiving your PSAT scores.
- Research available test prep for ACT/SAT.
- Take the PERT if you are interested in Dual Enrollment classes your junior year.
- Apply for Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).
- Visit at least 3 college or other postsecondary websites to review programs, admissions requirements, freshman profile, costs, and AP equivalents.

- Interested in a service academy? If yes, request a pre-candidate questionnaire from the service academy.
- Keep up participation in school activities and volunteer efforts.
- Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July www.flvc.org .
- Turn community service hours form in to your school counseling office to be entered into the system.
- Meet with your counselor to develop next year's schedule.
- Attend a parent/student/counselor conference to develop postsecondary plans.
- Apply for ACT/SAT/AP test accommodations if you are eligible (specific deadlines and requirements apply).
- Look for a job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.
- Put aside money for college or other postsecondary.

Eleventh Grade

FALL

- Make a list of your abilities, social/cultural preferences and personal qualities. List things you may want to study or do after high school.
- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Make a file to manage your postsecondary plans search, testing, and application information.
- Register for PSAT at your school (cost – about \$15).
- Take the PSAT in October.
- Research available test prep for ACT/SAT.
- If interested in going into the military make sure you talk to a recruiter and take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude battery (ASVAB).
- Contact your counselor about eligibility for ACT/SAT fee waivers (free and reduced lunch as well as several other criteria).
- Register for ACT and/or SAT for the spring (check current costs on website or in school counseling office) www.act.org, www.collegeboard.com Make sure to use your school code so results come to your school!
- Ask your school counselor about taking the SAT Subject Area Tests.

WINTER

- Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan).
- Sign on to My College Quick Start after receiving your PSAT scores.
- Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July www.flvc.org .

SPRING

- Take the ACT and/or SAT (tests are on various Saturdays Sept-June).
- Take the PERT for postsecondary readiness.
- Apply for Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).

- Begin your search for financial aid sources: on the district website, in your school counseling office, on college and university websites, and on various scholarship websites.
- Scan local newspapers to see which civic, cultural and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.
- Develop a list of 10-15 colleges or other postsecondary opportunities that attract you. Request view books and information about financial aid and academic programs that interest you.
- Visit colleges you might be interested in. If you are considering a service academy or ROTC scholarships, contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July.
- Meet with your counselor to develop next year's schedule, progress towards graduation requirements, and review postsecondary plans.
- If you are an athlete planning to play sports in college, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.
- Turn community service hours forms in to your school counseling office so they can be entered in the system and sent to Bright Futures in the summer.
- Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March and July www.flvc.org .

SUMMER

- Create a resume of your accomplishments, activities and work experience since you started high school.
- Download applications (or request paper copies) from colleges to which you will apply. Check application dates- large universities may have early dates or rolling admissions.
- Put aside money for college or other postsecondary plans.

Twelfth Grade

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER-

Narrow your list of postsecondary options. Download college applications and financial aid forms.

- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 - tests you will take and their fees, dates and registration timelines
 - college application due dates, fees
 - financial aid application forms required and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
 - other materials you will need such as recommendations and transcripts
 - your high schools application processing deadlines (how far in advance do you need to request transcripts, recommendations)
- Ask for recommendations well in advance of your deadline. Make sure to provide a profile of information

about you, your goals, interests and accomplishments for the recommendation writer. (THINK about who you will ask to write the recommendation- preferably someone who KNOWS you and LIKES you).

- If you are submitting essays, write the first draft and ask teachers and others to review them.
- If you did not have your scores sent to the colleges you are applying to contact, College Board and ACT to have scores sent.
- Attend credit check meeting with counselor to review graduation status and postsecondary plans (September)
- Register for the ACT and/or SAT if higher scores are needed (check current costs on website or in school counseling office) www.act.org, www.collegeboard.com
- Take the ACT and/or SAT if needed (tests are on various Saturdays Sept-June).
- Complete and submit college admissions applications (if eligible for test waivers may be eligible for fee waivers-check with counselor)-completed scholarship applications **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY**
- Apply for spring Dual Enrollment courses (if eligible).
- Complete the online Florida Financial Aid Application for Bright Futures (beginning December 1).
- Turn community service hour forms in to your school counseling office to make sure they are in the system for the 7th semester Bright Futures evaluation.
- Attend a Financial Aid Night at a school for parents and students (Dec/Jan).
- Attend a BEACON financial aid session for seniors at your school (Jan/Feb).
- Apply for a PIN for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (for student and parent).
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens January 1 (but wait for your taxes).
- Go online to check Bright Futures status in late February and July.

SPRING

- Review financial aid packages generated by your FAFSA.
- If you plan to compete in athletics in college make sure you have submitted the fees and final transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.
- Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in March www.flvc.org .

SUMMER

- Have final transcript sent to college, NCAA.
 - Check 8th semester Bright Futures evaluation, make sure the college you plan to attend is listed on the application.
 - Check YOUR Bright Futures eligibility online in July www.flvc.org .
- State GPA (unweighted) _____
 District GPA (weighted) _____
 Class Rank _____
 Bright Futures GPA _____
 SAT Scores _____

ACT Scores _____

PERT _____