

# Senior Newsletter

SENIOR NEWSLETTER, Mid Year 2018

VOLUME XV

## COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION!

### MID-YEAR REVIEW

At the start of your 8<sup>th</sup> semester, all seniors should be reviewing and updating a check-list of graduation requirements and post-secondary readiness steps. The primary consideration: did you earn credit (pass) all classes needed for graduation in the Fall semester? Are you in progress with an online class? Make sure you have a time line and plan with your online teacher to meet all course requirements prior to graduation.

If a university admissions office is requesting a mid-year report, it is the student's responsibility to see their counselor of record or Ms. Piazza to request an updated transcript, which includes 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades. Check often with your admissions status and respond to any updates in your transcript that the admissions office may request.

### HONORS RECOGNITION

Student course work and data to determine Summa, Magna, or Cum Laude designation at graduation must have been completed by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester. Any dual – enrollment or online courses being included in the honors calculation needed to be finalized by the end of the Okaloosa County School District 7<sup>th</sup> semester. Weighted cumulative GPA is used to determine Honors recognition.

Cum Laude:	3.75-3.99
Magna Cum Laude:	4.0-4.2499
Summa Cum Laude:	4.25 and above.

### BRIGHT FUTURES UPDATE

Florida Department of Education (FL DOE) will award Bright Futures (BF) Scholarships to any senior who qualified for any level of BF Award by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester. To qualify, students must meet all scholarship requirements to include qualifying GPA, test scores, and community service hours (documented in the student's high school record) by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester. Students are responsible to submit their documented hours to their counselor for entry into their high school record. Club sponsors and teachers do not submit hours on students' behalf. Seniors have until the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> semester to qualify or become eligible for a higher award amount. The 8<sup>th</sup> semester awards are not updated by FL DOE until summer 2019. Seniors should register for BF scholarships at this time. It is important to note that registration and qualification are separate processes.

If a student qualifies for a BF scholarship, but does not register by the end of their senior year, they will lose their scholarship. All seniors are strongly encouraged to register at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org). A student does not need to qualify to register. All seniors can register at this time. Seniors have until the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> semester to qualify.

## SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

Bright Futures Scholarships and University Admissions Scholarships are merit-based. Grades, curriculum, and ACT / SAT scores are the primary factors in merit-based scholarships.

Seniors are encouraged to be pro-active in seeking out other scholarships and applying for them. The scholarship search is hard work and requires perseverance, will, and attention to detail. The school scholarship newsletter is a single source in your scholarship search. Also, each university has many scholarships beyond the admissions scholarships. Once you have applied and paid your application fee, search the scholarship data base in the Financial Aid Department of the university. Community scholarships will be added to NHS newsletter as they are received. The applications are usually reviewed by a committee of the organization. Student applications should be neat and professional. Type your essays. Edit and proofread the content. For all scholarships, meeting deadlines is critical.

## FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

Students have many options to pursue post-secondary education and to obtain valuable job skills and training. As the spring semester approaches, it's a good time to review all programs of study in any of the 28 colleges in the Florida College System. Programs of study range from certificate programs (1year) to degrees (2-4 years). Degrees in the Florida College System include Associate of Arts Degrees (AA Degree), Associate of Science Degrees (AS Degrees), Associate of Applied Science Degrees (AAS Degrees), and a limited selection of Bachelor Degrees. The AA Degree is designed to fulfill the first two years of a Bachelor Degree in the State University System (SUS). This is called the 2+2 Rule. The AS and AAS Degrees are designed to receive credentials and training to enter directly into the work force. Seniors and / or their parents should see their counselor of record if they have any questions about the Florida College System and / or transition

to the State University System. There is a difference in cost of attendance and tuition between the Florida College System and the State University System.

A general overview is Admissions Applications in the Florida College System open in early spring semester for fall admissions of the same year. Registration and admissions will remain open to all students after high school graduation. It is recommended to apply in the spring of the year prior to fall admission to meet all scholarship and financial aid deadlines.

## Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC)

**Admissions Applications** for Fall 2019 semester are open at [www.nwfsc.edu](http://www.nwfsc.edu). Northwest Florida State College has a large number of scholarships for graduating seniors. Any senior applying to NWFSC for Fall 2019 admission should also apply in a **separate application** for consideration of a **Foundation Scholarship**. The application for NWFSC Foundation Scholarships opens on Feb 01, 2018 at [www.nwfsc.edu/scholarships](http://www.nwfsc.edu/scholarships). As with the State University System, Financial Aid Offices in the Florida College System require students and parents to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** between now and graduation. Post-secondary institutions recommend that the FAFSA be completed as early as possible. See [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) or call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

In summary, if a senior is applying to NWFSC, there are a total of 4 separate applications to complete. There are 2 separate college applications: the NWFSC Admissions Application and the NWFSC Foundations Scholarship Application. Also, parents and students need to complete the FAFSA. Finally, seniors should apply for Bright Futures Scholarship at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)

### **STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS**

Students should see Ms. Piazza, NHS Registrar, for all transcript requests. A student or parent must release the student's transcript to universities or colleges. The request must come from the student or the parent, not the receiving institution. This is to protect students' data and privacy.

### **SELECTIVE SERVICE**

All male U.S. citizens and all documented or undocumented men residing in the U.S., between the ages of 18-26 years old, must register for Selective Service. Males must register to be eligible for federal student financial aid, state-funded student financial aid, most federal employment, and some state employment. Selective service registration is the law. [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)

### **DEBTS ACCRUED BY SENIORS**

Seniors, you **MUST** settle any debts you have accrued during your attendance at Niceville High School (freshman through senior years) before May 1st. You will not be permitted to attend any extracurricular senior activities (senior prom, senior trip, senior breakfast) or receive your diploma until all debts have been settled. Examples of debts: missing or damaged books, band/ROTC/athletic uniforms not returned, cleaning fees for uniforms, fund raiser collections, art supplies, etc.

The debt can be forgiven at \$8.00 per hour of service by cleaning around the school: See Ms. Phillips in Guidance.

Now is the time to see Ms. Phillips to see if you are on the Senior Debt List. If you are on the list, and have the items listed, please bring them to Ms. Phillips in Guidance.

### **CAP AND GOWN PHOTOS**

Cap and Gown photos will be taken Thursday, February 7, 2019 during English class in the NHS Media Center. There will be only one sitting for this photo. If you miss the photo, there will be another opportunity during the graduation ceremony. Graduates will be photographed receiving their

diplomas on stage and again once they have left the stage. More information will follow in the Spring Senior Newsletter.

### **CAP AND GOWN PAYMENTS**

If you have not ordered your cap and gown, you can do so at [www.HerffJones.com](http://www.HerffJones.com) or mail your order with payment to the address on the order form. The cost is \$65.00 for the cap, gown, tassel and diploma cover. There will be a late charge after March 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to color variations, seniors cannot wear caps and gowns from a previous graduation year. Senior must purchase a cap and gown to participate in the graduation ceremonies. This is the only required purchase for Seniors.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO  
REMEMBER**

**February**

7 - Bill Miller Photography will be here to take Cap & Gown Photos in the Auditorium from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**May**

24 - Senior Walk/Last Day for Seniors/Awards Ceremony

30 - Graduation Ceremony

**\*\*\*Dates and Times subject to change.**

**ACT TEST DATES**

December 8, 2018

February 9, 2019

April 13, 2019

June 8, 2019

**SAT TEST DATES**

December 1, 2018

March 9, 2019

May 4, 2019

June 1, 2019

**SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE FOUND ON STUDENT  
REMIND, IN GUIDANCE, OR ON THE NICEVILLE  
WEBSITE:  
CLICK ON SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION UNDER  
STUDENTS**



