



**Throughout the year you may consider doing the following things:**

- Challenge yourself in your course selections and grade achievement.  
Take as many AP or Dual Enrollment classes as you can handle. If you take any in the summer, the classes will go on your transcript in the fall.
- Review your resume to make sure you have included all your recent information. Be sure to include sports inside and outside of school. If you held an officer position in a club, make sure to note that officer position.
- Get involved at school! Run for office, join a club, volunteer, tutor, or be on an athletic team. Strive to show leadership!
- Get involved in your community or your church. Volunteer to help others. College admission officers and scholarship committees look for leadership and commitment to helping others when reviewing your applications.
- You can review all Bright Futures requirements at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>.
- Be sure to check out other scholarships and grants available to Florida students through the Office of Student Financial Assistance at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>.
- Plan to take the ACT and SAT as early as possible, in the spring at the latest. You will want to be able to take it more than once to attain the highest possible scores for Bright Futures, other scholarships, and college applications. (You may have fee waivers, check with your guidance counselor!)
- Explore taking the CLT as a testing alternative to earn scores needed to receive the Bright Futures Scholarship. Learn more at [www.ctexam.com/ct-florida/](http://www.ctexam.com/ct-florida/).
- Access the ACT ([ACT Scoring](#)) and SAT ([SAT Scoring](#)) websites to learn about how tests are scored including composite scoring and super scoring.
- Make a list of colleges that you are interested in attending and go to their websites. Be sure to list these colleges on your ACT and SAT exams. Visit these schools to get a good feel for the campus environment and what all the schools offer.
- Use FREE scholarship search engines like <https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx> to help you research scholarships and grants.



Follow us our official Facebook page, Hillsborough Education Foundation, and on Twitter & Instagram @hillsedufnd

My College Success Coach is \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach?

Quarter 1 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter 2 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter 3 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter 4 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter** (8/12/2024-10/11/2024)

Maintain "Active" status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

Circle your current Status.      ACTIVE      WARNING      PROBATION 1      PROBATION 2      PROBATION 3

# of Mentoring Sessions I earned by the end of the 1st quarter \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*All students must earn a ***minimum of 15*** mentoring sessions by the end of the school year.

What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q1? Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Create a GPA goal to reach for each semester and review your 4-year final cumulative GPA.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade GPA Goal Semester 1: \_\_\_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> Grade GPA Goal Semester 2: \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Year Cumulative GPA Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tip: Your GPA should be based on scholarship guidelines and college admission expectations.*

Stay involved in at least **one** school club this year. **What Club?** \_\_\_\_\_

Remember your community service hours and/or paid work hours are needed for every level of Florida Bright Futures scholarships. If you are completing community service hours only, **30** hours are required for Gold Seal level, **75** hours are required for Medallion level, and **100** hours are required for Academic Scholar level. If you select to complete paid work hours or a combination of community service and paid work hours to meet Bright Futures requirements, then 100 hours are required for each Bright Futures Scholarship Award level (Gold Seal, Medallion, and Academic Scholar levels).

**Community Service hours earned to date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Paid Work hours earned to date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Research the **National Merit Scholarship**, if you want to try for it, begin preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT in October. [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

Remember: You will need to register and pay for the PSAT/NMSQT in order to take it this year; some schools offer it free. Ask your high school guidance counselor!

Register to take the PSAT/NMSQT. (If you are trying for a National Merit Scholarship.)

Date of PSAT/NMSQT: \_\_\_\_\_

When is the College Fair? Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_



- Look at schedules for the ACT and SAT exams. Be sure to register by the deadline, and plan to STUDY. Visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat> for test dates, deadlines, and practice tests. Spending a few minutes each day in preparation will improve your performance and reduce your anxiety when taking the exams. You should qualify for free fee waivers for each of these exams.

Ask your high school guidance counselor! Register for Free & Reduced lunch; fee waivers for the ACT and SAT tests are received from guidance counselors!

- Register to take the ACT and SAT two times before the end of the school year.

ACT date 1: \_\_\_\_\_ ACT date 2: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT date 1: \_\_\_\_\_ SAT date 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- Attend an ACT/SAT workshop; look for SAT/ACT prep classes at your school and take them when offered.
- Remember to save copies of important papers, applications, projects you have worked on, etc., to a flash drive or online. Print copies of any application materials you fill out. Get in the habit now because it will save you time later.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter** (10/12/2024-12/20/2024)

- Maintain "Active" status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.

**Circle your current Status.**      ACTIVE      WARNING      PROBATION 1      PROBATION 2      PROBATION 3

- # of Mentoring Sessions I earned by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*All students must earn a **minimum of 15** mentoring sessions by the end of the school year.

- What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q2? Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Visit: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html> & [sat.collegeboard.org/practice/](https://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/) for free practice questions, tips, study guides, and tests for the ACT and SAT.

- Take the **Online Practice SAT** on the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/practice-preparation/practice-tests>

- Create a scholarship plan listing scholarships you want to apply to including name, website, and due date.

- Schedule a time to see your guidance counselor to review local scholarships. Identify at least 2 local scholarships to add to your scholarship plan. Meeting date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Scholarship 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Scholarship 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- Continue researching college options. *These websites can help you:* [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org), <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>, and <https://gettherefl.com/>.

- Over the winter holiday I will earn volunteer (community) service hours and/or paid work hours for Bright Futures.

I will volunteer at \_\_\_\_\_



I will work at \_\_\_\_\_

- Update your high school resume and include your awards/achievements, paid or volunteer work, extracurricular activities, classes taken, fluent language(s), and technical skills first semester.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (12/21/2024-3/14/2025)

- Maintain "Active" status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.

Circle your current Status.      ACTIVE      WARNING      PROBATION 1      PROBATION 2      PROBATION 3

- What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q3? Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you reach your 1<sup>st</sup> semester GPA goal?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No
- Explore the CLT (Classic Learning Test) (<https://www.cltexam.com/>). If you plan to take the test, register and take the exam before the end of the school year.
- Did you take, or are you scheduled to take both the SAT & ACT yet?
- If you already took your ACT/SAT, have you reviewed the scores with your College Success Coach?
- Register for the TSIC College Tour (*local program OPTIONAL*)
- Stay academically competitive; take **at least 2 Honors and 2 AP** courses in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Course 4: \_\_\_\_\_

- Over spring break, I will earn volunteer (community) service hours and/or paid work hours for Bright Futures.

I will volunteer at \_\_\_\_\_

I will work at \_\_\_\_\_

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (3/15/2025-5/30/2025)

- Maintain "Active" status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

Circle your current Status.      ACTIVE      WARNING      PROBATION 1      PROBATION 2      PROBATION 3

- What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q4?    Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you on track to reach your 2<sup>nd</sup> semester GPA goal?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No
- Find 2 more scholarships to add to your scholarship plan. *Talk with your guidance counselor to learn about local scholarships. Most colleges and universities list their local scholarships on their financial aid webpage or on their School's Foundation website. You can also search online for additional scholarship opportunities using free search*



engines such as: <https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx>. REMEMBER you should NEVER PAY to search for scholarships or apply for scholarships!

- Don't forget to turn in your community service and/or paid work hours. Remember to keep a copy for your own records.

**Community Service hours earned to date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Paid Work hours earned to date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Over the summer I will earn volunteer (community) service hours and/or paid work hours for Bright Futures.

I will volunteer at \_\_\_\_\_

I will work at \_\_\_\_\_

- Update your high school resume with awards/achievements, paid or volunteer work, extracurricular activities, classes taken, fluent language(s), and technical skills from your 11<sup>th</sup>- school year.
- Look for summer programs on local college campuses. Earning college credits in the summer is a great way to get ahead! **Summer program dates:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Registration deadline:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Explore the application process of the colleges and universities you are interested in applying to. Look at their applications, essay/biographical requirements, average GPA, exam requirements, recommendation requirements, etc.
  - o Check out the virtual tours at websites of any colleges you are interested in attending that you cannot visit in-person.
  - o Log-in with them as this will get them to mail or email you additional information.
  - o If you feel very strongly about 1 or 2 schools, consider applying for early action. These deadlines often close **before or on November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Check with each university/college for the date.
  - o Be sure to have your test scores sent to every school you may want to attend. Your scores will be updated every time you retake an exam, and this will get you on their mailing list.
- Create a worksheet to track application requirements, deadlines, and application fees\* for all the colleges and universities that you are interested in applying to. *\*Remember: Many schools will waive their application fee if you qualify for the fee waiver for the ACT and SAT! Talk to your high school guidance counselor and register for Free & Reduced lunch!*
- What schools are you considering applying to:
  - o School 1: \_\_\_\_\_ School 2: \_\_\_\_\_
  - o School 3: \_\_\_\_\_ School 4: \_\_\_\_\_



## SUMMER

- Visit colleges and universities to take tours, if possible.
- Consider whom you will ask for letters of recommendation and give them plenty of time to respond to your request.
- Note the type of essays you need to write and begin working on them.
- Begin filling out your college applications. The Common App (<https://www.commonapp.org/>) allows a student to complete one main application for admission to multiple Florida universities and/or colleges.
- Continue practicing for the SAT/ACT and retake it early in the fall. The colleges and universities will take the highest scores from all your test scores.
- Continue to update your scholarship plan to include additional scholarship opportunities and track scholarships you have applied to.
- Get your senior pictures taken. Even if you choose not to purchase a package, check with your school's yearbook advisor about having a photo made for the yearbook and for other senior recognition opportunities (such as, Take Stock in Children).

**If you have any questions throughout the year, contact your Take Stock in Children College Success Coach!**