



OCSA SENIOR INFORMATION NIGHT

PRESENTED BY: SCHOOL COUNSELING
DEPARTMENT

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Upcoming events and new graduation information
- ▶ Postsecondary options
- ▶ College admissions and applications
- ▶ Sources of money
- ▶ Valencia College
- ▶ Herff Jones

MEET YOUR COUNSELORS

Ms. Karaki: School
Counselor for
Creative Writing,
Dance, Tech, Visual
Arts


Ms. Ostwald: School
Counselor for Band,
Chorus, Drama,
Orchestra

Ms. Gill: College
and Career
Counselor

Mr. Rosario:
Valencia College
Transition Coach











How do I sign up for information for my Senior? @ocsac125



Osceola County School for the Arts



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day!



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Guidance

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School Counseling Department

ACADEMIC SUCCESS, SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Welcome to the School Counseling Department page! Please use the left navigation bar to access important information from your [school counselors](#).


To withdraw a student from OCSA, please contact Ms. Becerra at liza.becerra@osceolaschools.net.

To update your address and contact information on Focus, please contact Ms. Roldan at zayda.roldan@osceolaschools.net

For questions regarding attendance and student absences, please contact Ms. Caraballo at alyssa.caraballo@osceolaschools.net

If you are a former student, and you are requesting a copy of your high school transcript, please request a transcript from [records management](#).

For current students requesting a copy of your high school transcript, please request your transcript through Xello.

[Click Here To Contact Us!](#)

How do I
make an
appointment
with the
counselor?

Important Dates to Know

- ▶ Bright Futures Application opens... Oct 1
 - ▶ School-wide SAT Day... Oct 16 (Wednesday)
 - ▶ FAFSA opens... Dec 1
 - ▶ Purchase cap and gown... Recommended before winter break
 - ▶ Complete your OVS class before deadline... Mar 13
 - ▶ Submit your Bright Futures community service/ work hours... May 5
-
- ▶ Study and take the SAT/ACT
 - ▶ Successfully pass all classes (OCSA, DE, OVS)

Graduation Updates

- ▶ Starting the class of 2025, OCSA will no longer recognize valedictorian, salutatorian, and top 20 graduates.
- ▶ We will recognize high achieving graduates using the "Merit Diploma" program.
 - **Summa Cum Laude**... Weighted GPA 4.2 or greater
 - **Magna Cum Laude**... Weighted GPA between 4.0-4.199
 - **Cum Laude**... Weighted GPA between 3.8-3.999
- ▶ Students with these distinctions will earn a stole to wear on graduation day.

Graduation Updates- Seal of Fine Arts

- ▶ Students will be eligible to earn the Seal of Fine Arts upon graduation
- ▶ Counselors will be working alongside arts teachers
- ▶ Complete three high school level courses in the arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Theater) and earn an "A" in these courses.
- ▶ In addition, they must meet at least 2 of the following:
 - Complete an Honors, AP, IB, DE level arts class with a "B" or higher
 - Complete two juried events
 - Submit a portfolio
 - Complete 25 hours of arts-related community service

College and Career Highlights



Class of 2024 data



- *100% of Seniors (137) were accepted to college**
- *They had a total of 328 college acceptances**
- *100% had confirmed post-secondary plans which included college, technical college, military or entering the workforce**
- *Completed 7,126 Community Service Hours**
- *Seniors graduated with an AA degree: 7**
- *35 Seniors received acceptances to 77 top 100 Colleges/universities such as Yale University, USC, Berklee College of Music, University of Florida, Penn State and NYU.**



College and Career Highlights



Education Foundation Scholarships:

\$147,606

Bright Futures scholarship recipients: 25

Total Scholarship offers: \$7,041,538!!

Post-secondary options

Four year colleges and universities: both public and private

- Grant bachelor's degrees either BA or BS
- Geared toward professional occupations

Two year college grants Associates degrees: AA or AS

- Offers many technical programs and certificates
- Specializes in transferring to 4 year colleges

Vocational/trade schools

- Grants industry certifications/certificates

Post
secondary
options

Military

Employment

What does it take to get accepted?

Holistic Review

- ▶ Rigor/GPA
- ▶ ACT/SAT Scores
- ▶ Extracurricular activities
- ▶ Recommendations
- ▶ Application Essays



Rigor/GPA

Rigor of Courses:

- ▶ Exceed number of required Core courses (Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Foreign Languages)
- ▶ Challenge yourself with Honors & Dual Enrollment classes
- ▶ Strong schedule Senior year can result in acceptance and success

GPA

- ▶ Grades are a key factor however so is rigor
- ▶ Steady performance over time, particularly junior year.
- ▶ Continue to work on your GPA until the end.

Extracurricular activities

- ▶ Colleges look for students who will contribute to their campus both inside and outside the classroom, as well as their communities.
- ▶ QUALITY over QUANTITY! Do not attempt to join every club or sport on campus. Pick a few activities and do them well. Be a leader by holding office in a club.
- ▶ Be well rounded by varying your activities.
- ▶ Quality volunteer hours through school and/or community organizations are also looked at favorably for both admissions and scholarships.

Recommendations

- ▶ Many colleges require recommendation letters to help them give insight into a student's potential. They are part of the humanizing piece and can help tip the scale in either direction.
- ▶ Ask teachers who know you well and provide them with a resume of your activities and involvement to help the letter be more specific and beneficial.
- ▶ If applying to a college on the Common Application, it will require recommendation from a counselor and perhaps 2 other letters.
- ▶ If the recommendation is optional, DO IT!
- ▶ Give your teachers and counselors plenty of notice! If you do not provide a resume to your counselor, they cannot write a letter.

Essays

- ▶ Many colleges use essays to learn about you. Another humanizing piece of your application.
- ▶ It needs to be carefully constructed, interesting, informative and clever so you will stand out. Be original!
- ▶ If an essay is optional, do it! Pay attention to punctuation, spelling, grammar and word choice.
- ▶ Proofread, proofread, proofread and also ask someone else to proofread such as an English teacher.
- ▶ Remember you never get a second chance to make a first impression with your essay.

ACT/SAT Scores

- ▶ Required, weighed equally and super scored by MOST colleges.
- ▶ The more competitive the college, the more important the score
- ▶ Compare students nationwide and predict success
- ▶ Used for scholarships and select programs
- ▶ Prospective college students should take EACH TEST AT LEAST once during junior year, preferably twice, and possibly one more time early in Senior year.
- ▶ Khanacademy.org is free SAT practice we use in the District
- ▶ Oct 11th: SAT for Seniors (in school)

Prepare for the tests...DO NOT take them cold turkey!

How do I register for tests?

- ▶ Register online prior to deadline to avoid late fees and alternative test sites

ACT: actstudent.org

SAT: collegeboard.org

Practice SAT: Khanacademy.org

ACT: academy.act.org

Send scores to colleges and universities. You may send up to 4 free at the time of testing, after that it costs \$\$. Most schools super score so it is best to send them each time.

Keep all test information and passwords in a safe place.

What is a fee waiver and how do I qualify?

- ▶ Juniors and Seniors who qualify for free/reduced lunch may receive 2 test fee waivers for Sat and 4 for ACT.
- ▶ Seniors who qualify for the waivers may also get 4 College Application fee waivers in their College Board account.
- ▶ Waivers are issued by Ms. Gill in the College and Career Center in the Media Center.

Factors to consider for choosing the right school

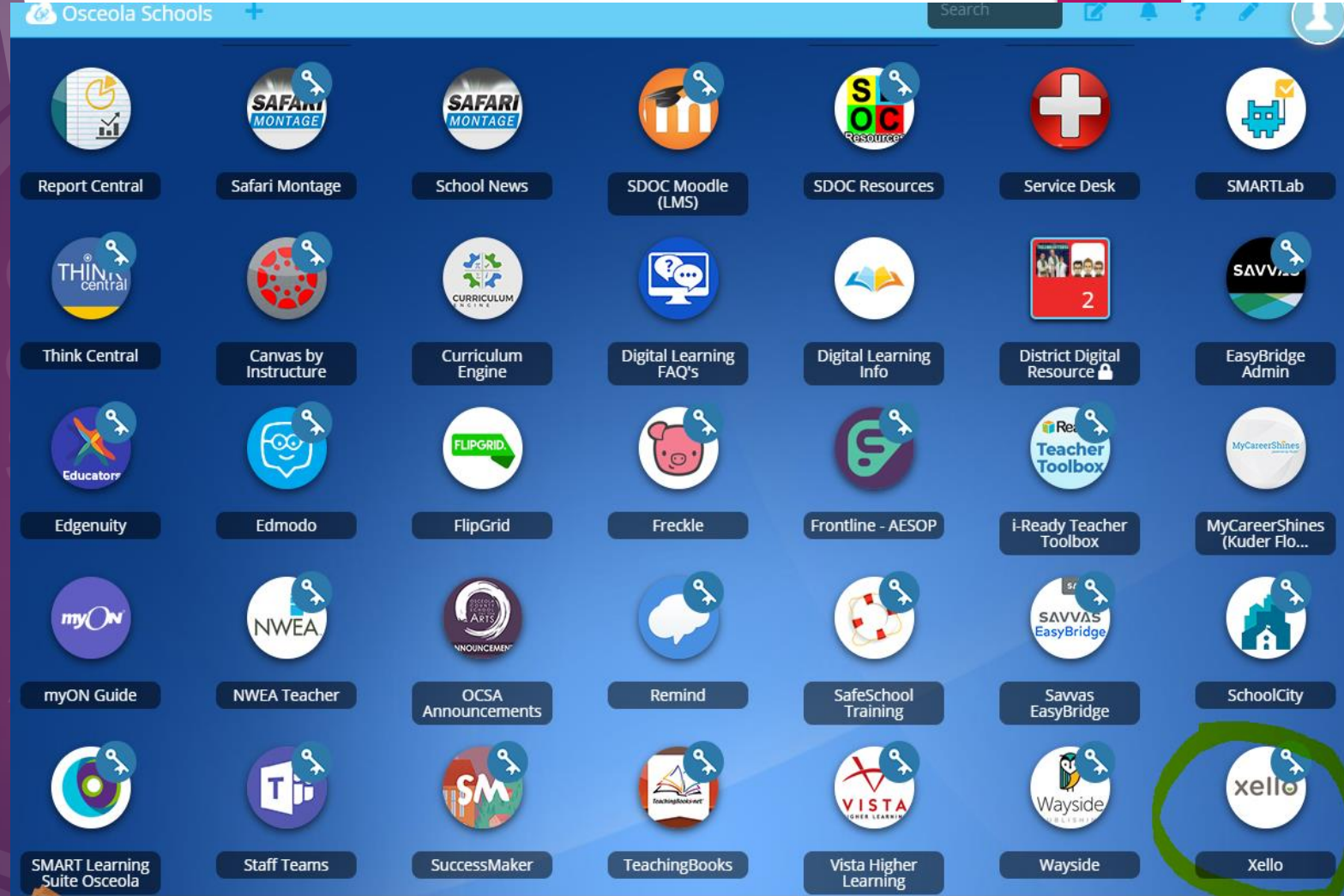
- ▶ Entrance requirements: Middle 50th percentile
- ▶ Size of school: Small Mid size ,or large
- ▶ Major area of study
- ▶ Location:
Climate/Distance/Transportation
- ▶ Urban vs rural
- ▶ Accreditation: Regional credits transfer
- ▶ Athletic programs
- ▶ Cost: How much can you afford to pay? Have the conversation NOW!

Steps to the College application process

- ▶ Get organized/prioritize deadlines
- ▶ Complete applications
 - ▶ Letter of recommendations
 - ▶ Review essays
 - ▶ Submit and pay application fee (fee waiver if applicable)
- ▶ Request transcripts from Counselors via Xello
- ▶ Send test scores
- ▶ Sit back and wait patiently.
- ▶ Send copy of acceptance letters / scholarship letters to Ms. Gill

Xello

- ▶ Xello is a free tool that all Osceola County School for the Arts student have. You can take career assessments, research careers and colleges, use it for goal setting, upload and save documents and so much more!



Xello Dashboard

- ▶ Students can access
 - ▶ Lessons
 - ▶ List colleges applying to
 - ▶ Request transcripts
 - ▶ Explore careers, schools, majors
 - ▶ Assignments

The screenshot shows the Xello dashboard for a user named Karen, who is a Grade 12 student. The dashboard is divided into several sections:

- Header:** The top navigation bar includes the Xello logo, links for "About Me", "Explore Options", and "Goals & Plans", along with search, heart, and profile icons.
- Greeting:** A large "Hey KAREN!" message is displayed.
- Core Lessons Section:** Features a progress indicator at 0%, a dropdown menu for "Core Lessons", and a "Grade 12" badge. The main content area has a light blue background with a large "WS" in a circle, the text "Welcome to Xello Seniors!", and a "Get Started" button. Below this is a "Senior Survey - Beginning of the Year" section with a "SY" icon and a "View All Lessons" button at the bottom.
- Navigation Menu:** A sidebar on the right contains three main categories: "About Me" (with links to Matchmaker, Personality Style, Mission Complete, Learning Style, and Skills Lab), "Explore Options" (with links to Careers, Schools, Majors, and Saved Options), and "Goals & Plans" (with links to My Plans and College Planning).
- Assignments Section:** Lists two assignments: "Build a Resume (Seniors)" and "Personal Essay/Statement". Both are marked as "New" and are due by September 30, 2020. The first assignment is by Osceola County School District and has a status of "Not Submitted". A document icon and the filename "Resume Instructions.docx" are shown below the first assignment.

Valencia College

- ▶ Valencia College Coach:
Victor Rosario





Sources of Money for College

MS. GILL-COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR

FIRST source of money

- ▶ FAFSA.gov
 - ▶ Even if you are not sure if you are going to college or where you are going, PLEASE ,PLEASE,PLEASE fill this out!
Some scholarships require this to be done.
 - ▶ Opens DECEMBER 1



Myth: My income is too high, and I will not qualify. Why fill out FAFSA?

- ▶ Even if you don't qualify for free grants, you will qualify for low interest federal direct student loans and parent PLUS loans. You cannot borrow these if you don't fill out a FAFSA.
- ▶ Some institutional scholarships require that FAFSA be completed as part of the application process to be considered.
- ▶ The 2024 FAFSA will be based on 2022 income. If you had a reduction in income, you could report this directly to the financial aid office at each college and they can re-evaluate the financial aid offer based on the FAFSA on file.

FAFSA ASSISTANCE

- ▶ We have also partnered up with Educational Partners Inc. to assist with FAFSA completion free of charge. They are an approved federally funded agency.



Florida Student Financial Aid Opens OCT1st

- Bright Futures and other grants and scholarships, if you stay in Florida.



OSFA
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

Login ▼

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

- Access to Better Learning and Education Grant
- Benacquisto Scholarship Program (FAQ)
- Bright Futures Scholarship*
- Effective Access to Student Education
- First Generation Matching Grant
- Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship*
- Florida Student Assistance Grant

First-Time Applicants

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first [Create a Student Account](#). After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

GRADUATES
NEXT EXIT ↗

Sources of free money

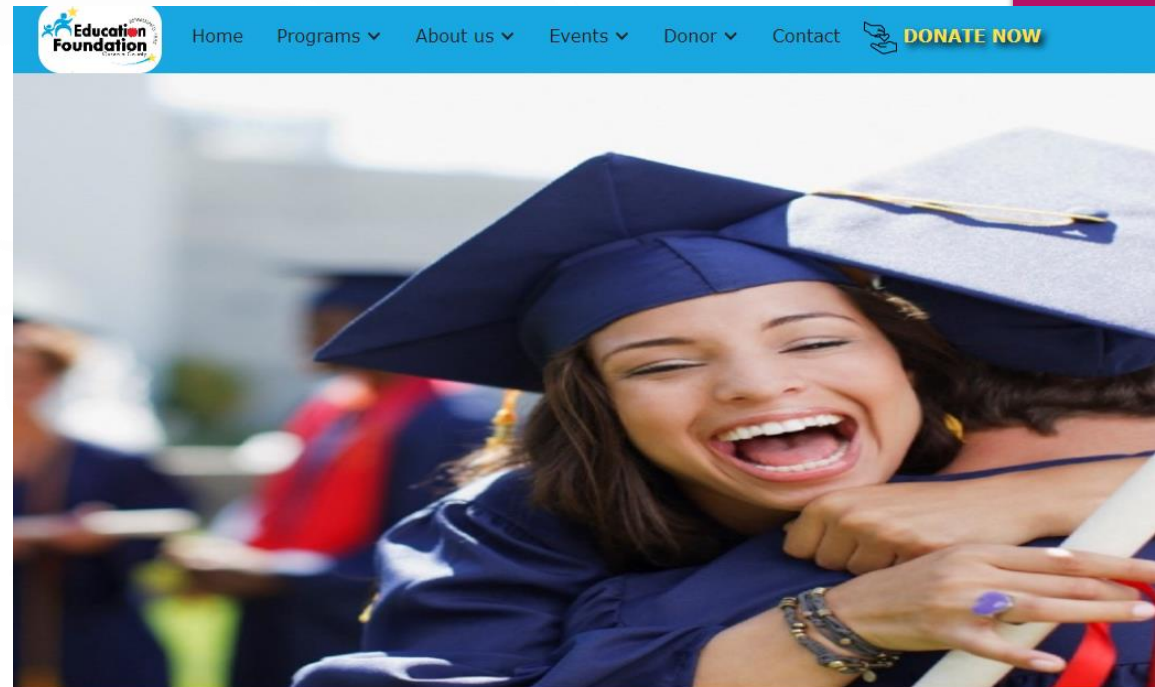
Scholarship Money

► <https://www.raise.me/join/osceola-county-school-of-arts>



Education Foundation of
Osceola
www.foundationosceola.org

- ▶ Access to
100 scholarships !



Scholarships

Each spring, The Education Foundation provides scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to attend universities, state colleges, technical colleges or vocational programs.

Ranging from \$500 to \$18,000, numerous scholarship opportunities are available to high school graduating seniors residing in Osceola County. Students only need to fill out one on-line application with nearly 90 scholarship opportunities.

Student Eligibility - Student must be an Osceola County resident

\$

- ▶ **Bright Futures: application opens October 1st and you have until graduation to complete requirements** <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>
- ▶ **Education Foundation: free scholarships counseling and financial aid workshops November 1st** <https://www.foundationosceola.org/>
- ▶ **FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid opens Dec 1st. FAFSA.GOV**

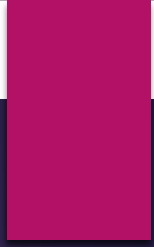
Herff Jones



Mark Satterfield- Herff
Jones OCSA representative



To Order, visit
www.herffforlando.com



Questions!