



OSCEOLA  
COUNTY  
SCHOOL  
for the  
ARTS

# Junior Parent Night

CLASS OF 2026

# Your School Counselors

**Ms. Karaki- School Counselor for Creative Writing, Dance, Technical Theater, Visual Arts**

**Ms. Ostwald- School Counselor for Band, Chorus, Drama, Orchestra**

**Ms. Gill- College and Career Counselor**



# Objectives: What You Need to Know



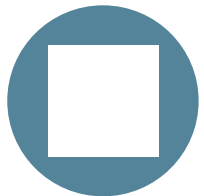
Requirements for  
graduation in  
2026



Junior/ Senior  
year timeline



College  
applications,  
resume, essays



How to research  
college and careers  
on Xello



Financial aid



# Graduation Requirements

DIPLOMA DESIGNATIONS

GPA

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## 24 Credits

LANGUAGE ARTS - 4  
CREDITS

MATHEMATICS – 4  
CREDITS (Algebra/Geo)

SCIENCE – 3  
CREDITS (Biology, 2  
rigorous)

SOCIAL STUDIES – 3  
CREDITS

- WORLD HISTORY – 1
- US History – 1
- Government – 0.5
- Economics – 0.5

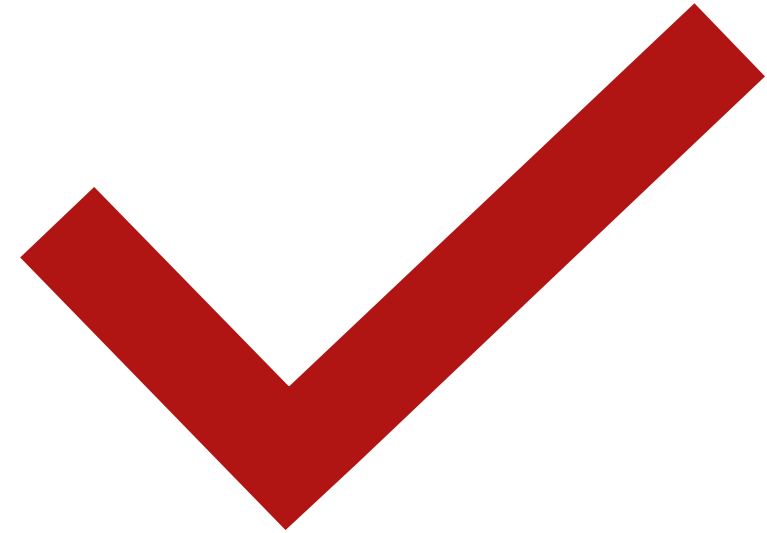
Physical Education – 1

Electives – 8

World Language (not  
grad req)- 2

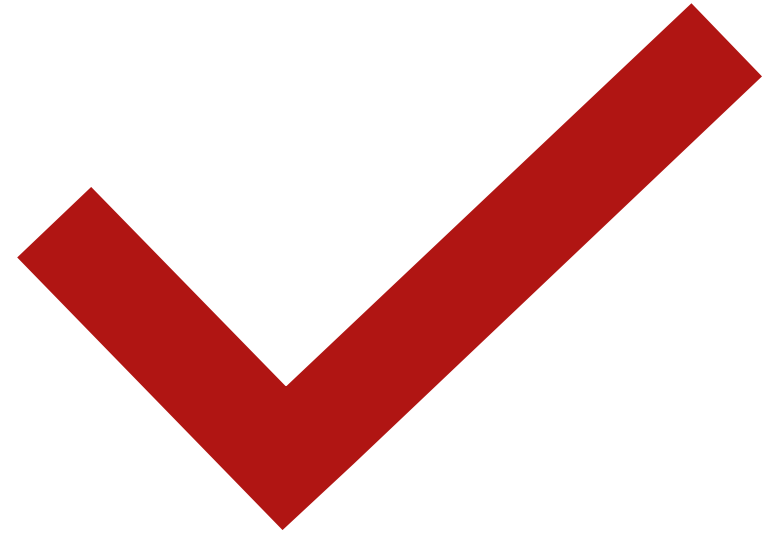
# Assessment Requirements for Graduation 2026

- ▶ FAST PM3 (10th grade) - level 3 or above
- ▶ Algebra 1 – pass class, pass EOC for credit, 30% of grade



# Other Assessments (30% of final grade)

- ▶ Geometry EOC
- ▶ Biology EOC
- ▶ US History EOC (not required if you take AP US History or DE US History)
- ▶ Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE)



# Diploma Designations

- ▶ **Scholar Designation:** In addition to your standard high school requirements, you must...
  - ▶ Pass all EOCs (Bio, Geo, US History)
  - ▶ Complete Algebra 2
  - ▶ Complete 1 credit of equally rigorous math (AP Stat, AP Pre-Calc)
  - ▶ Complete 1 credit in AP or DE
  - ▶ Complete 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics
  - ▶ Complete 1 credit of equally rigorous science (Anatomy/ AP Bio)
  - ▶ Complete 2 credits of the same world language

- ▶ **Industry Scholar Designation:** In addition to your standard high school requirements, you must...
  - Complete a CTE course and take a CTE Exam
  - Digital Media is our only CTE program available at OCSA



# 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

## GOLD



### How to qualify:

- Four foreign language course credits in the same foreign language with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher  
**AND** level 4 or higher on the ELA FSA (grade 10)  
**OR**
- Advanced Placement Language exam score 4 or higher  
**AND** level 4 or higher on the ELA FSA (grade 10)  
**OR**
- International Baccalaureate exam score 5 or higher  
**AND** level 4 or higher on the ELA FSA (grade 10)

## Silver



### How to qualify:

- Four foreign language course credits in the same foreign language with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher  
**AND** level 3 on the ELA FSA (grade 10)  
**OR**
- Advanced Placement Language exam score 3 or higher  
**AND** level 3 on the ELA FSA (grade 10)  
**OR**
- International Baccalaureate exam score 4 or higher  
**AND** level 3 on the ELA FSA (grade 10)

Seal of  
Biliteracy

# Grade Point Average

## ❖ Weighted GPA

AP & D E	Honors
▶ A = 5.0	4.5
▶ B = 4.0	3.5
▶ C = 3.0	2.5
▶ D = 2.0	1.5

## ▶ Unweighted GPA

▶ A = 4.0
▶ B = 3.0
▶ C = 2.0
▶ D = 1.0
▶ F = 0.0

# 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.

# Junior and Senior Year at OCSA

## ► Junior Year

- If a four-year university is part of your plan, challenge yourself to take a rigorous course!
  - AP, DE, CTE course
- Do your best in your rigorous course(s).
- Finish up graduation requirements such as PE and World Languages.
- Consider taking an extra academic class if you are finished with the requirement

## ► Senior Year

- If a four-year university is part of your plan, fall semester transcript matters; continue to be intentional in selecting courses.
- Continue to do your best, grade forgive previous courses if needed
- For DE classes: it's best to take any remaining graduation requirements in the fall, and take electives in the spring
- A full schedule (if possible) is recommended

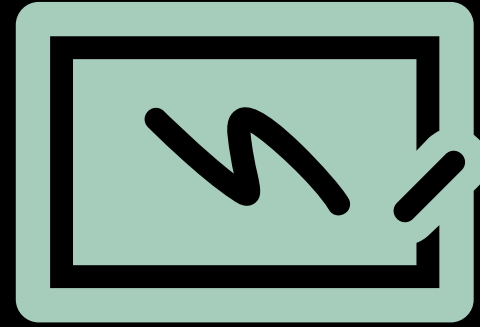


# Junior/ Senior Year Timeline

# Senior Year



- ▶ Students will have many ups and downs
- ▶ Students may need about +\$1000 to cover all expenses of high school and the college process
  - ▶ Yearbook
  - ▶ Cap and Gown
  - ▶ College application fees
  - ▶ Test fees
  - ▶ Housing deposits
  - ▶ Enrollment deposits
  - ▶ Prom
  - ▶ Universal's Senior Graduation event



# College & Career Planning



# College trends...

- ▶ Remain competitive with rigorous courses
- ▶ Who is considered competitive in Florida? Those who qualify for 75% Bright Futures or above
- ▶ Importance of college list building aligned with GPA and quality of course rigor is crucial

## ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE

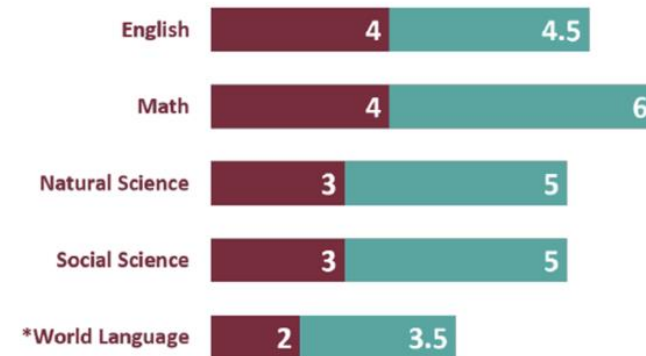
*\*Represents the middle 50% of all admitted students 2023-2024.*



## AVERAGE COURSE UNITS











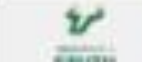
■ Minimum Academic Course Units

■ Average Course Units for Accepted Students



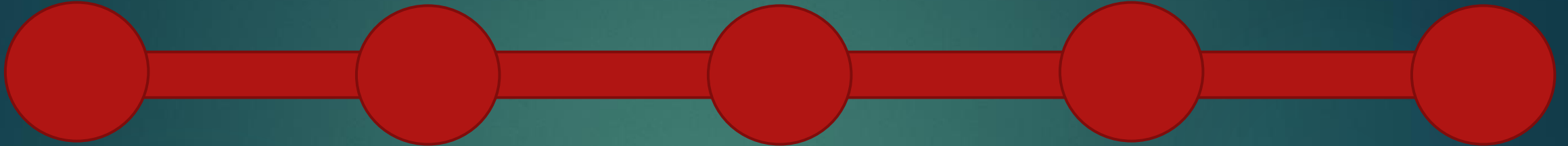
*\*Two sequential units of one World Language are required.*

## SUMMER SEMESTER

Institution		Total Enrollment	Total Undergrad Enrollment (2023)	Class Size	Middle 50% GPA	Middle 50% Admit SAT	Middle 50% Admit ACT	Middle 50% CLT
	FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY	9,742	8011	348	3.47	1025	19	
	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	30,854	23458	1150	3.33 – 4.0	1030 – 1090	20 – 24	20 – 24
	FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	16,230	14243	400	3.16 – 4.21	1030 – 1160	19 – 24	19 – 24
	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	54,037	38715	3600	3.9 – 4.4	1090 – 1190	21 – 24	21 – 24
	FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	1,618	1569	200	3.96	1130	23	23
	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	43,234	32217	2600	4.1 – 4.5	1280 – 1360	28 – 30	28 – 30
	NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	383	361	8	3.36	1045	23	23
	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	69,316	59547	3400	3.91 – 4.38	1180 – 1240	24 – 26	24 – 26
	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	60,489	38347	1800	4.5 – 4.7	1240 – 1400	27 – 32	27 – 32
	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	16,575	13897	1500	3.63 – 3.96	1000 – 1160	19 – 25	19 – 25
	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH	48,732	36452	3211	3.61 –	1100 –	22 – 25	22 – 25

# JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE

## Semester 1



**Start with you:** Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities.

List things you may want to study and do in college.

**Learn about colleges:** Use the Xello College Search.

Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.

**Resource check:** Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there.

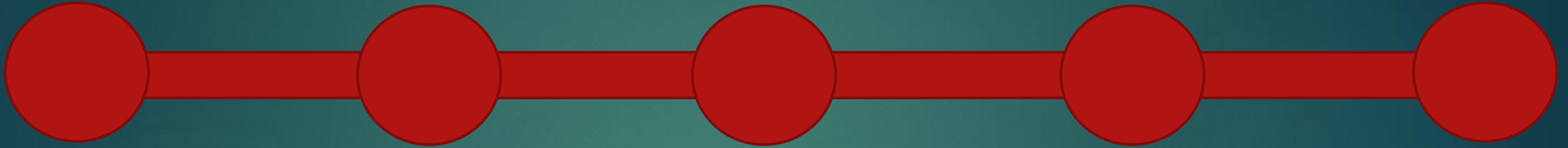
When will college representatives visit your school?(Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine college catalogs and guides.

**Develop your resume.** Is your resume empty in certain sections? Now is the time to participate in an extracurricular, complete volunteer hours or add an accomplishment. College are considering the holistic student which involves more than just your GPA and test scores.

**Estimate your financial aid need.** Financial aid can help you afford college. Use the College Board's *Getting Financial Aid* and the financial aid calculator at **bigfuture.org** to estimate how much aid you might receive.

# JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE

## Semester 2



**Develop a list of 10-20 colleges that are of interest to you.** You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy & get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are & what you want & then finding colleges that will meet your goals.

**Stay open to all the possibilities—don't limit your search.** To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.

**Apply for special programs based on your interests and goals:** Sunrise Scholars, Questbridge Junior Prep Scholars Program, Horatio Alger Scholars Program and other similar opportunities available only during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of your junior year.

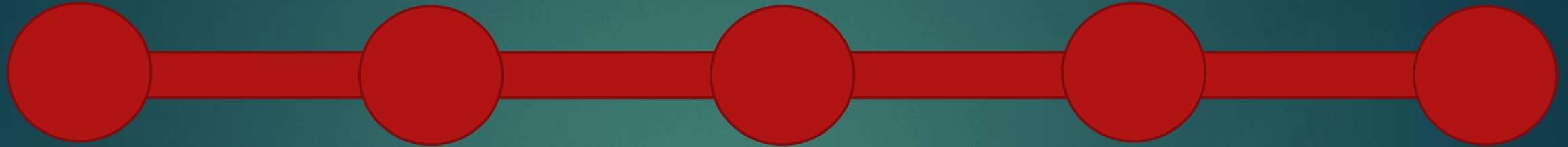
**Begin your College Essay.** You will work on this in your AP English Comp class after completing the AP exam. College essays are an essential part of the college application and usually the biggest hurdle for students to complete their applications.

**Start to gather documents for financial aid:** Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Dec. 1.



# SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

## Summer Planning



**Create your college organizer** and list of schools you want to apply to with tuition costs, GPA/testing requirements, etc.

Know your college application and financial aid deadlines..

**Consistently study for the ACT & SAT.** Plan to test again 1<sup>st</sup> semester of senior year.

Go on college campus tours (virtual or F2F).

**Create your Common App account**, complete your Common App tab, and add your colleges.

Revise your college essay.  
Have your college essay proofread.

**Ask at least 3 teachers** to be a college/scholarship reference.

Continue to apply for scholarships.

**Apply to colleges** that have summer application early deadlines.

# Testing Waivers

- ▶ SAT and ACT Saturday testing waivers are available to 11th/12th graders who are:
  - ▶ enrolled in a federal free or reduced-price lunch program at school
  - ▶ enrolled in a program for the economically disadvantaged
  - ▶ resides in a foster home, is a ward of the state, or is homeless
  - ▶ family receives low-income public assistance or lives in federally subsidized public housing.
  - ▶ family's total annual income is at or below the USDA levels for free or reduced-price lunches
- ▶ See your College and Career Counselor to see if you qualify.

# VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- ▶ Volunteer service is non-paid service in your community that aids in literacy education, health & wellness, poverty, and other social issues.
- ▶ You do not need service hours to graduate high school.
- ▶ You will need community service to earn the Bright Futures Scholarship.
- ▶ Other scholarships may ask for service hour completion.
- ▶ You cannot earn service hours by working with friends or family.



# How Can Parents Help?

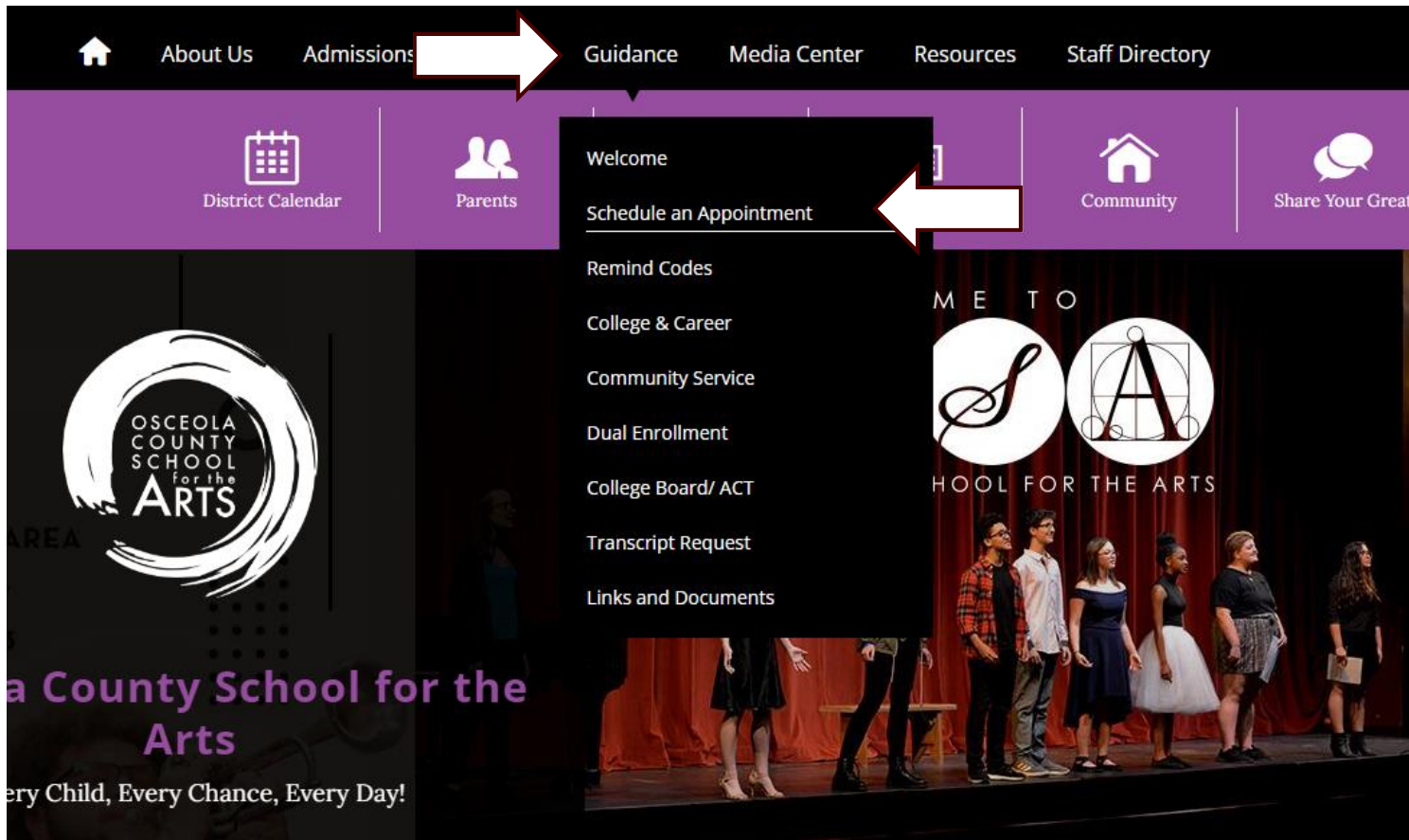
- ▶ Remind them they still have to get good grades and study in their Junior and Senior year. Keep communication open
- ▶ Listen to what **they** want – about college
- ▶ Listen for uncertainty, lack of confidence etc.
- ▶ Help them to be realistic and boost confidence
- ▶ Take them to visit colleges; virtual visits
- ▶ Remind them about tests and deadlines – help them make a calendar and keep a college folder
- ▶ Be prompt with any pieces **you** have to complete i.e. this year's tax returns to use for next year's FAFSA





# When Parents Can Help

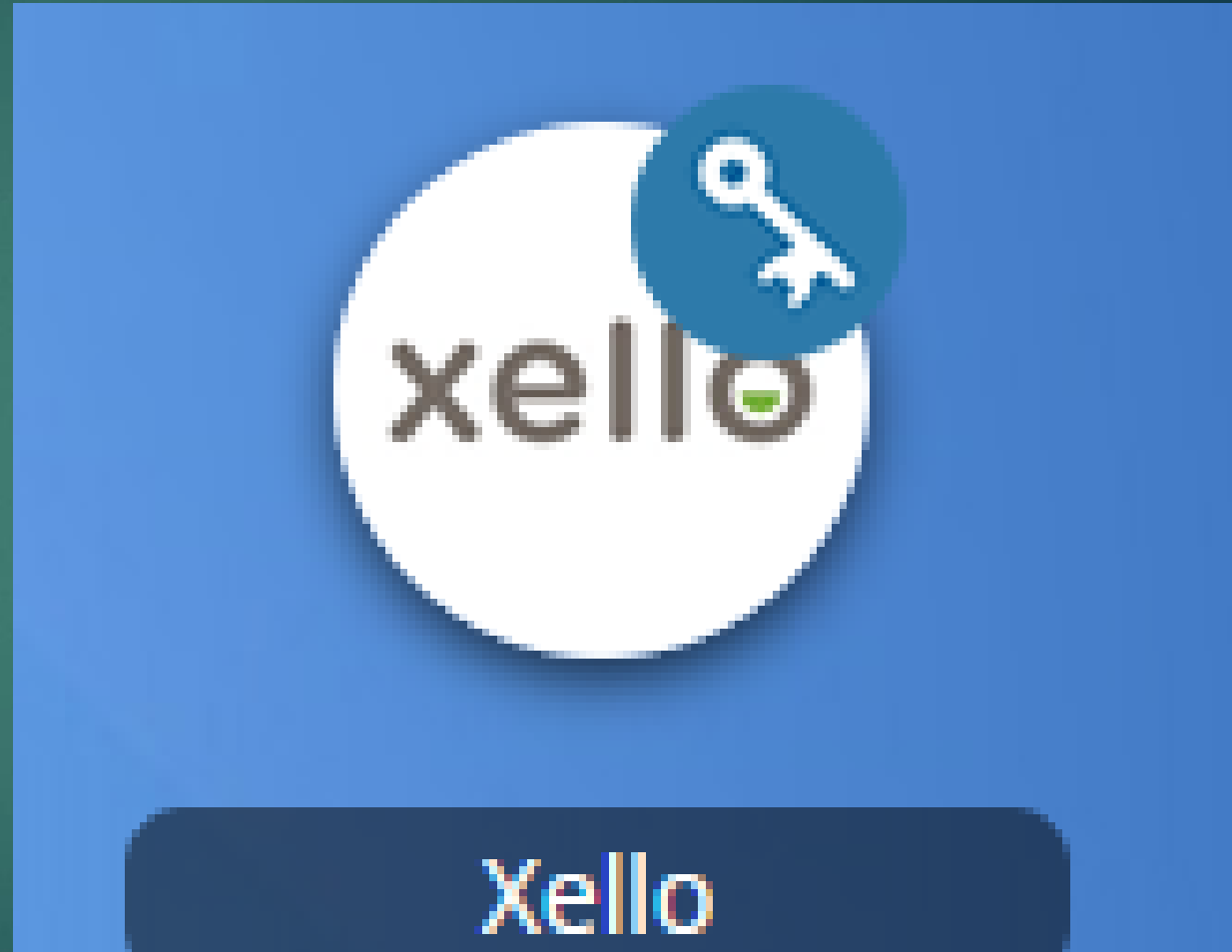
- ▶ Now – help student do research about careers and determine the selection criteria for college.
- ▶ Career Research- Xello
- ▶ College selection criteria includes:
  - ▶ Major /Degrees offered
  - ▶ Location (in- state vs. out of state)
  - ▶ Size (how do you learn?)
  - ▶ Financial aid opportunities / cost
  - ▶ Admissions requirements
  - ▶ Good college website for parents – Big Futures at [Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)



How do I  
make an  
appointment  
with the  
counselor?

# College and Career Exploration Tool: Xello

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



# Xello Landing Page

**xello**

About MeExplore OptionsGoals & Plans

Hey **KAREN!**

0%


Core Lessons


Grade 11

WX


Welcome to Xello!

Get Started

Career Demand0%

Choosing a College0%

View All Lessons

About Me


Matchmaker

Personality Style

Mission Complete

Learning Style

Skills Lab


Explore Options

Careers

Schools

Majors

Saved Options

Goals & Plans

My Plans

College Planning


Assignments

Build a Resume (Juniors) New

By: Osceola County School District

Due: May 28, 2021

Status: Not Submitted

Resume Instructions.docx

# Hey KAREN!

0%

Core Lessons

Grade  
11

Welcome to Xello!

Get Started



Career Demand

0%



Choosing a College

0%

View All Lessons



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Explore Options



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Resume Instructions.docx

## Links & Resources

# Complete Xello lessons

Hey **KAREN!**

0% Core Lessons

Grade  
11



Welcome to Xello!

Get Started



Career Demand

0%



Choosing a College

0%

View All Lessons



About Me



Explore Options



Goals & Plans

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### Assignments

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Resume Instructions.docx

Xello-Resume  
No resume = No  
Letter of  
Recommendation

# Xello

- ▶ **Transcripts will be sent electronically through Xello so it is imperative that student input the college information correctly for counselor to fill out their end of the documents.**



[EXPLORE](#)[PLAN](#)[APPLY](#)[Counselors and recommenders](#) ▼[Members](#) ▼[Log in](#)[Create an Account](#)

# Your future starts here

Whether you're applying to college for the first time or looking to complete your degree, Common App will help you reach new heights.

[Apply now](#)



# Financial Aid

# THE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

- ▶ Wrong question: Can you help me find scholarships?
- ▶ Right question: Where can I find scholarships?
- ▶ Having to pay for scholarships is a scam.
- ▶ Local Scholarships in Xello
- ▶ Unigo.com
- ▶ Scholarships.com






# Scholarship Money

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



# Scholarship Money

**xello**[About Me](#)[Explore Options](#)[Goals & Plans](#)

## COLLEGE PLANNING

**COLLEGE APPLICATIONS** | Create and track your college applications here.[Create Your First Application](#)


[View My Applications](#)

**LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS** | Search for and manage scholarships here.[Search for Local Scholarships](#)

[View My Scholarships](#)

**KNOWLEDGE HUB** | 3 topics to help with paying for college

- [FAFSA \(Free Application for Federal Student Aid\)](#)
- [Grants, Work-Study, and Loans](#)

 [Confetti me!](#)

# Bright Futures Scholarship

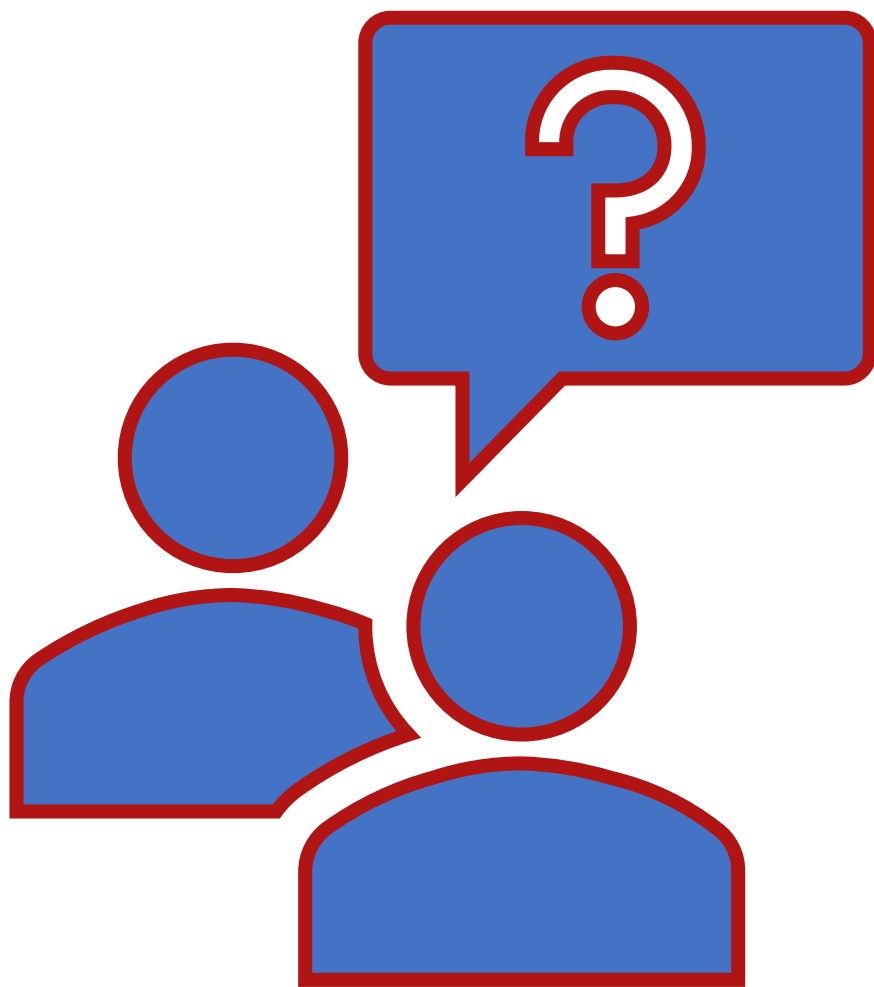
- ▶ Florida-based scholarship program for Florida high school graduates attending a Florida public year university or college
- ▶ Can have up to 100% of their tuition covered

Type	16 High School College-Preparatory Course Credits <sup>1</sup>	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT <sup>®</sup> /CLT <sup>®</sup> /SAT <sup>®</sup> )	Volunteer Service Hours <sup>2</sup>	Paid Work Hours <sup>2</sup>
FAS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing) 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory)	3.50	2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340  2025-26 Graduates: 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210  2025-26 Graduates: 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours

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Remind-Class  
of 2026  
@ocsac126





Questions?