



OCSA SENIOR INFORMATION NIGHT

PRESENTED BY: SCHOOL COUNSELING
DEPARTMENT

MR. ARRINGTON, MRS. WIETOR & MRS.
GILL

MEET YOUR COUNSELORS

Mr. Arrington:
Band, Orchestra,
Vocal

Mrs. Wietor:
Creative Writing,
Technical Theatre,
Dance, Drama

Ms. Gill: College
and Career
Counselor

Ms. Tattoli:
Valencia College
Transition Coach

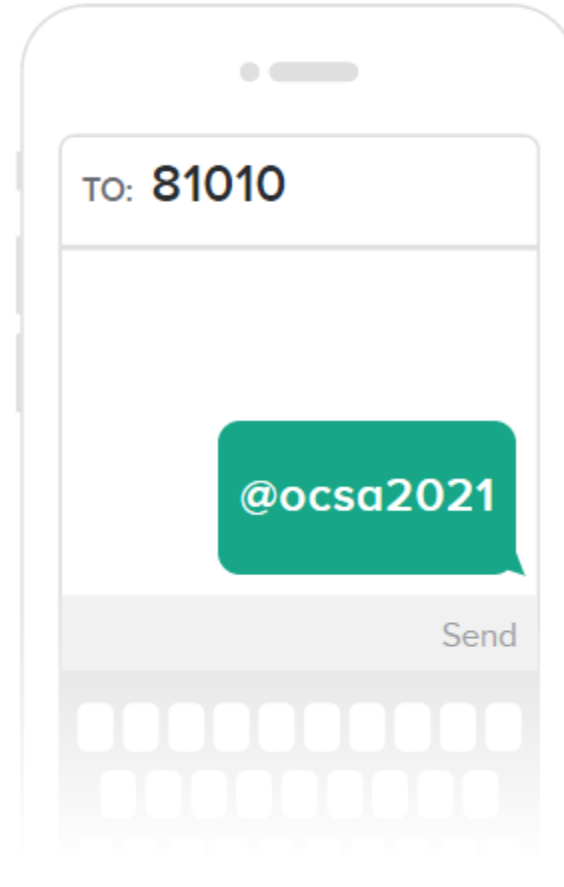
How do I sign up for information for my Senior?



Tell people to text @ocsa2021 to the number 81010

They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @ocsa2021 to (314) 714-4590.



The screenshot shows the website for Osceola County School for the Arts. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About Us, Guidance, News & Events, Parents, and Students. The main header features the school's logo and the tagline "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day!". Below the header is a row of icons representing various services. The breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Guidance > Welcome > Home".

Guidance

- Welcome
- College & Career
- Dual Enrollment
- Remind Codes
- Resource Links
- Valencia College
- Transcript Request

OCSA Guidance Department

Welcome to the OCSA Guidance Department! We are here to support students with academic planning, personal and social development needs, and career exploration and planning.

Schedule an appointment with a counselor

To meet with your counselor please click the "View Website" link next to your counselor.

When parents book an appointment, please be aware that the meeting will be conducted over the phone and not face to face during the time scheduled.

Scheduling a Parent/Teacher Conference

1. Check your child's grades in the Focus Parent Portal

How do I
make an
appointment
with the
counselor?

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!

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

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.**

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

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

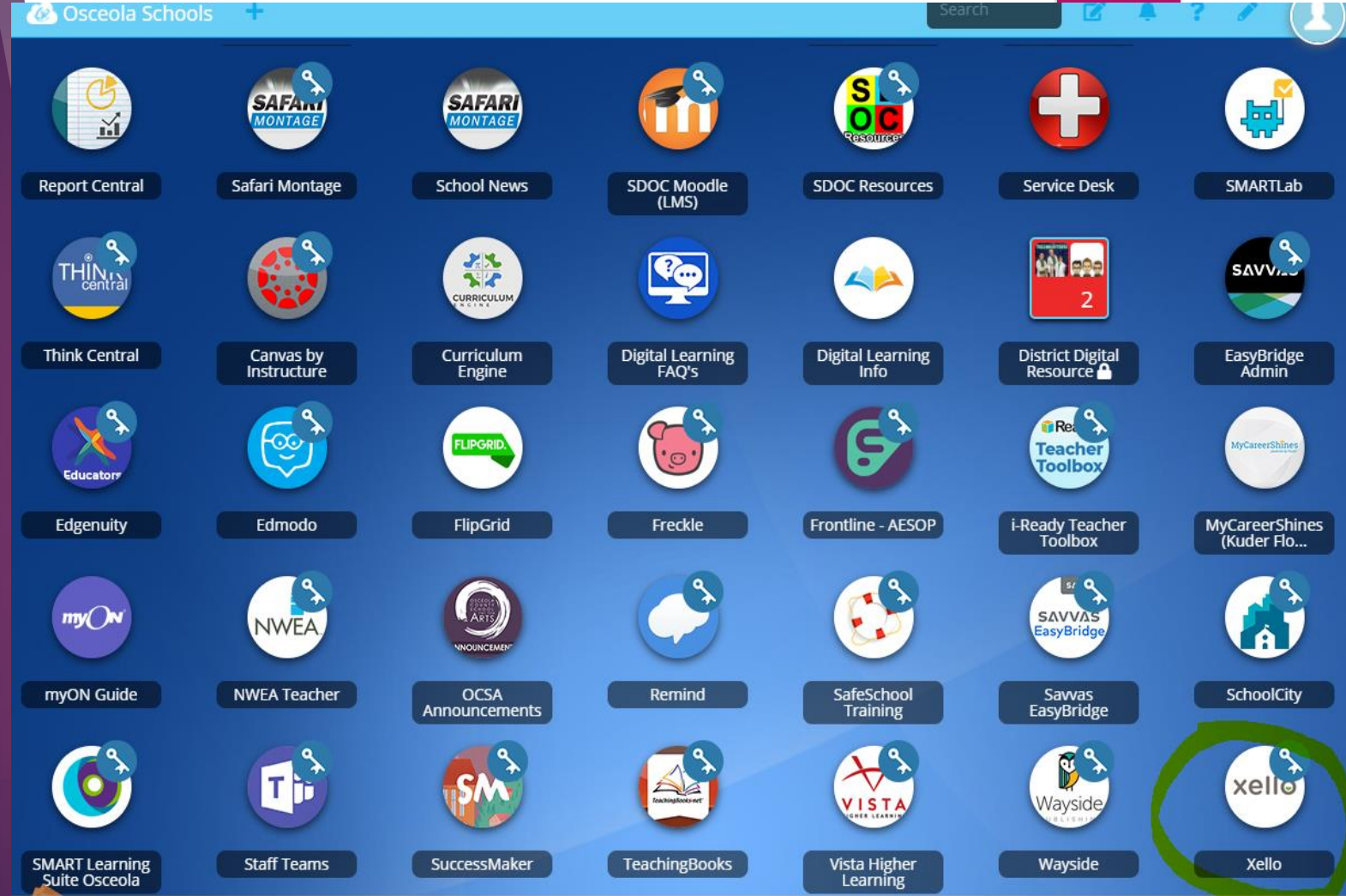
- ▶ **Get organized/prioritize deadlines**
- ▶ **Complete applications**
 - ▶ **Letter of recommendations**
 - ▶ **Review essays**
 - ▶ **Submit and pay application fee (fee waiver if applicable)**
- ▶ **Request transcripts from Counselors via Xello**
- ▶ **Send test scores**
- ▶ **Sit back and wait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

VALENCIA COLLEGE TRANSITION COACH

- ▶ Ms. Amanda Tattoli
- ▶ She is available on our **REMIND, TEAMS , phone and email**

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
 - ▶ Upload acceptance letters and scholarships

The screenshot shows the Xello dashboard interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Xello logo and links for 'About Me', 'Explore Options', and 'Goals & Plans'. The main heading reads 'Hey KAREN!'. Below this, there is a 'Core Lessons' section with a progress indicator of 0% and a 'Grade 12' badge. A large blue box contains a 'WS' icon and the text 'Welcome to Xello Seniors!' with a 'Get Started' button. Below the lessons section is a 'Senior Survey - Beginning of the Year' with a 'View All Lessons' button. To the right, there is a 'Goals & Plans' section with a grid of links: 'About Me', 'Explore Options', 'Goals & Plans', 'Matchmaker', 'Careers', 'My Plans', 'Personality Style', 'Schools', 'College Planning', 'Mission Complete', 'Majors', 'Learning Style', 'Saved Options', and 'Skills Lab'. Below this is an 'Assignments' section with two entries: 'Build a Resume (Seniors)' and 'Personal Essay/Statement', both marked as 'New' and due on September 30, 2020. A file named 'Resume Instructions.docx' is shown as submitted for the resume assignment.

Xello

xello

About Me

Explore Options

Goals & Plans



Hey KAREN!

0% Core Lessons Grade 12

WS

Welcome to Xello Seniors!

Get Started

SY Senior Survey - Beginning of the Year

View All Lessons

About Me Explore Options Goals & Plans

Matchmaker Careers My Plans

Personality Style 🔒 Schools College Planning

Mission Complete 🔒 Majors

Learning Style Saved Options

Skills Lab

Assignments

Build a Resume (Seniors) New

By: Osceola County School District
Due: September 30, 2020

Status: Not Submitted

Resume Instructions.docx

Personal Essay/Statement New

By: Osceola County School District
Due: September 30, 2020

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.
 - ▶ Open OCT 1st
 - ▶ TEAMS will have a Financial aid channel with all of the information as a reference



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 can not 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 21/22 FAFSA will be based on 2019 income. If you had a reduction in 2020 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. We will be setting up appointments on Fridays



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.



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 65 scholarships !

Applying for Education Foundation Scholarships

Deadline: *February 15, 2019*

Qualification

- Student must be an **Osceola County resident**

Before you Begin

You will need the following:

- Family's annual income range
- GPA – weighted and unweighted
- Highest SAT score and highest composite ACT score
- Please know if you are in the top 25% of your graduating class
- SAT/ACT appropriate photo to be uploaded
- Name and email address of a teacher, coach, or school administrator to request a letter of recommendation
- Number of volunteer hours – location where served, the amount of hours served at each location, duties and responsibilities, name and contact information of the person who can verify your volunteer hours. For example: Salvation Army, 25 hours, responsible for stocking shelves, Mrs. Smith, 407-123-4567 or smith@email.com
- List of all activities you participated in at least 20 hours during High School. You will need the name of the activity, the years participated, and any leadership titles held. For example: Soccer, three years, Team Captain.
- You will be required to write a 250-word statement answering the question, "What are your educational/career goals and plans to achieve them?".

\$

- ▶ **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 October 1st. FAFSA.GOV**

Herff Jones

- ▶ Mark Satterfield- Herff Jones OCSA representative
- ▶ To Order, visit www.herfforlando.com
- ▶ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-q4-QyLm62eWiEY2AlgPGskM6M24KeHI/view>
- ▶ <https://herffjones.wistia.com/medias/2es77m7dpe>
- ▶ <https://www.herffjones.com/catalogs/graduationcatalog/>
- ▶ <https://www.herffjones.com/catalogs/hs-ringcatalog/>



Questions!