

# 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Reminders

*From your School Counselor...*

- Being prepared for all possibilities
  - Take challenging classes- focus on what you need to graduate but don't always take the easy way out if you have more challenging options
  - Always know where your grades stand- log into Focus at least once a week
  - Take advantage of tutoring options- NHS tutoring on Tues and Thurs 2:00-3:00 in the Library
  - Talk to your teachers and your School Counselor if you start having any trouble in your classes. The sooner you seek out help, the faster we can get you back on track
  - Keep in mind how your GPA is impacted by your semester grades
    - You have different types of GPA
      - Standard unweighted GPA- includes all high school courses ever attempted and only counts for diploma requirements
      - Standard weighted GPA- includes all high school courses ever attempted and advanced level classes earn more points; only used for your information
      - Ranking weighted GPA- includes all high school courses taken while in grades 9-12 and advanced level classes earn more points; use to determine final class rank
      - College admissions and Bright Futures GPA- colleges/universities only use core academic classes to recalculate your GPA and advanced classes earn more points
      - NCAA eligibility GPA- includes only core academic classes that are approved for NCAA use and advanced classes earn more points; used to determine eligibility to play Division 1 or 2 sports in college
  - Start developing your life experiences now- utilize community service opportunities, extracurricular activities, and possible part-time employment to get an idea of what you want to do as a career
  - Work on your Florida Bright Futures eligibility- GPA requirements, SAT and/or ACT test scores and Community Service Hours (at least 100)
- Explore your career options
  - Go to [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org) and click on Find a Career to take an interest inventory and get started on your career research
  - Also use the Occupational Outlook Handbook at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> to get more in-depth information about specific careers that you may be considering
- Researching post-secondary educational options
  - Apprenticeships- generally for the hands-on type careers (construction, electrical, HVAC, masonry, etc). Go to <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/apprenticeship-programs/> for a list of registered programs
  - Technical/Vocational Programs-this includes automotive, cosmetology, culinary, entrance level law enforcement, computer repair and design, and so much more. Most programs take less

than 2 years to complete and can get you into high paying jobs. Be wary of for-profit schools- they can be good but costly. Check out the technical programs offered at St. Johns River State College by going to <http://www.sjrstate.edu/vocacert.html> or the programs offered at Florida State College at Jacksonville <http://www.fscj.edu/academics/areas-of-study>

- Military- there are many different options with the military. You can enlist in active duty directly or you can go into the reserves and then start college at the same time. There are also military academies for each branch if you want to get your degree and become an officer. Entrance into a military academy is fierce so you need to start during your junior year to apply. If you are interested in enlisting or going into the reserves, sign up to take the ASVAB December 6<sup>th</sup> here at RHS. (see sign-up sheet in the Guidance office)
- Two year degrees- some 2 year degrees lead directly to a career area while many students may choose to get their general A.A. transfer degree to continue onto a larger university to finish their Bachelor's degree. If you have a specific university that you want to eventually enroll in be sure the check out the state college in that area. They may have a direct link program with the university. For example, Santa Fe College in Gainesville provides direct enrollment to UF once you complete your AA degree. Tallahassee Community College (TCC) has a similar program with FSU.
- Direct university admissions- do your research early. You should have a list of the 4-5 schools you plan to apply to by the end of your Junior year. University admissions process begins very early in your senior year. Most universities want you full application and financial aid forms turned in by November 1<sup>st</sup> each year to have a chance at admissions. When you visit the universities website click on their admissions page, then they should have information about Freshman admissions. You need to pay specific attention to the Freshman Profile. This is a general guideline of the GPA and test scores you will need. Be sure to talk with your counselor soon if you plan to take this route.

Helpful Resources:

RHS School Counseling website: [www.rhsschoolcounseling.weebly.com](http://www.rhsschoolcounseling.weebly.com)

Khan Academy (for online tutoring videos): [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)