



# SEMINOLE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR CONNECTOR

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Grades 9-11 Edition

September 2023

Greetings SCVS students and families. This newsletter is from your School Counselor and has important high school related information and updates. Please reach out if you have any questions.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students receiving a standard high school diploma from Seminole County Public Schools must meet the below requirements. It is highly recommended that college bound students complete a minimum of two credits of the same world language. This is also a requirement for the Bright Futures scholarship.

SUBJECT	CREDITS	DESCRIPTION
English	4 credits	English I, II, III, IV or higher-level courses AND a passing score on the 10 <sup>th</sup> grade state standardized ELA/Reading assessment
Mathematics	4 credits	To include Algebra 1, Geometry, AND a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC. Four math credits must be earned in 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade. Industry certification that leads to college credit may be substituted for up to 2 math credits (excluding Algebra 1 and Geometry).
Science	4 credits	To include Biology, two additional equally rigorous science courses, and one additional science course credit. Industry certification that leads to college credit may be substituted for up to 1 science credit (excluding Biology). Hagerty High School requires Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses for graduation as part of the four-course science graduation requirement.
Social Studies	3.0 or 3.5 credits	For students entering grade 9 prior to the 2023-24 school year, to include World History, American History, American Govt. (0.5), and Economics (0.5). For students entering Grade 9 in the 2023-24 school year and thereafter, to

		include World History, American History, American Government (.5), Economics (.5), and Personal Financial Literacy (0.5).
Physical Education	1 credit	To include Personal Fitness (0.5) – A Hands Only CPR component is embedded within the curriculum for this course and PE elective (0.5 credit). See Waiver Section for course substitutions.
Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit	
Electives	8.5 or 9 credits	For students entering grade 9 prior to the 2023-24 school year, 9 elective credits are required. For students entering grade 9 in the 2023-24 school year and thereafter, 8.5 elective credits are required. College bound students are highly recommended to complete a minimum of two credits in the same world language
Total	26 credits	

## HOMEROOMS

High school students are required to attend a once-a-month virtual homeroom that will last approximately 30 minutes. Students have received notification from their homeroom teacher about the dates and times.

## CREDIT CHECKS

SCVS School Counselors, Mr. Rob Washburn and Mrs. Betsy Gendreau, are scheduling in person or virtual credit check meetings starting in October. Stay tuned for further information regarding scheduling these meetings.

## PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Now is the time for high school students to start thinking about your plans after high school. Will you attend college, attend a trade school, join the military, or go to work full time?

Explore Careers & Identify your interests:

Visit the US Bureau of Labor Statistics to find the most updated information on hundreds of occupations that provide most of the jobs in the United States.

<https://www.bls.gov/>

For College and Career resources visit

<https://www.Floridashines.org>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

To utilize an interest inventory, visit Next Move:

<http://www.mynextmove.org/>

Research Colleges, Universities, and Technical/Vocational Schools:

~Universities are typically larger and have vast offerings in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Colleges typically are smaller and offer 2 year degrees, technical/vocational programs, and some also offer undergraduate and graduate programs.

~Vocational and technical programs are shorter programs that will prepare students for immediate employment.

<https://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/vocational-trade-school/>

~Seminole State College has several different campus locations as well as an online degree program:

<https://www.seminolestate.edu/hs-seniors>

## MILITARY OPTION

Visit [www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

Take the ASVAB test. ASVAB Career Exploration Program is a career planning resource designed to help young people align their strengths and discover career options. Contact your SCVS Counselor for more information.

## COLLEGE 101 WEBINARS

Planning your education after high school is a big step that can come with a lot of questions. Learn how to select a college, how to apply, and how to fund your journey during College 101 webinars this fall. These webinars are FREE and packed with great information about the next steps to take to go to college.

<https://www.floridashines.org/>

## COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

If you plan to attend a 4 year university, grades 11-12 are encouraged to take the **SAT and/or ACT**.

**October 25th** - SCVS students in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> can take the **PSAT** at no cost at their zoned high school from 7AM-12PM.

The PSAT won't count towards your college admissions applications, but it is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship. Some of the highest scoring students may win scholarship money. Use the PSAT as practice for the SAT and ACT and an important guidepost on your college admissions journey. SCVS test coordinator Trish Horel will be emailing detailed information on how to sign up. Contact Trish Horel with questions. [Horelpa@myscps.us](mailto:Horelpa@myscps.us)

**October 31st-** SCVS 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are signed up to take the **ACT** at no cost at their zoned high school from 7AM- 12 PM. SCVS test coordinator Trish Horel will be emailing detailed information on how to sign up. Contact Trish Horel with questions. [Horelpa@myscps.us](mailto:Horelpa@myscps.us)

Students can register to take the SAT or ACT exams on select Saturday dates. Fee waivers are available for eligible students. Use the College Board (SAT) and ACT websites below for more information on cost and scheduling.

SAT <https://www.Collegeboard.org>

ACT <https://www.act.org>

## STATE OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes lottery funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. It is YOUR responsibility to apply and check the requirements that include minimum GPA, test scores, and volunteer or paid work hours.

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>

Updated forms for the Bright Futures community service/paid work hours requirement are available on the SCVS website under the School Guidance tab.

<https://virtualschool.scps.k12.fl.us/>

## CHECK EMAILS AND COMMUNICATE

Check your school email through the CLEVER portal- Office 365 at least 2 TIMES PER WEEK

COMMUNICATE with your SCVS teachers and School Counselor if you have questions or need help with something. Use the information below to contact your SCVS School Counselor:

### **Rob Washburn**

Certified School Counselor

Assisting students with last name A-K

Email: [Rob\\_Washburn@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Rob_Washburn@scps.k12.fl.us)

Phone number: (407) 602-5061

### **Betsy Gendreau**

Certified School Counselor

Assisting students with last name L-Z

Email: [Betsy\\_Gendreau@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Betsy_Gendreau@scps.k12.fl.us)

Phone: (407) 494-0643

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS  
SCHOOL YEAR!