

SENIOR CHECKLIST

September

- Welcome back to your final year of high school! The **School Counseling Department** is ready to help you succeed in high school and plan your future.
- We can help you with questions and concerns in the following areas:
 - Academic Information
 - Career Decision Making
 - Personal/Social Information
- My counselor's name is: Mrs. Fish (last name A-I), Mr. Bell (last name J-S), Mrs. Albee (last name T-Z).
- The BRACE Advisors name is Mia McFadden
- The ESE specialists name is Mrs. Lori M. Carlson
- Your counselor and BRACE Advisor will provide information and assistance to you through classroom guidance lessons and activities throughout the year.
- If you need more assistance, ask about participating in a small group or make an appointment with your counselor/BRACE Advisor.
- If you are an ESE student, the ESE specialist will work with you, your family, and your counselor. Find out when your next Transition IEP meeting will be held and what types of accommodations you are entitled to for coursework and tests including the SAT and ACT.

- If you are an LEP student, talk to your counselor and all your teachers about your needs. Make sure you are in the courses that are right for you!
- No plans yet? **NOW IS THE TIME** to identify your career goal! See your counselor, ESE specialist, or BRACE Advisor.
- Review your schedule one more time. Are you taking the most challenging courses you can, such as **Advanced Placement, honors, or dual enrollment courses?**
- See your BRACE Advisor to plan out the steps necessary to prepare for your career goal.
- If a college degree is required, meet with your guidance counselor, ESE specialist, or BRACE Advisor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic, career, and personal goals.
- APPLY EARLY!** Most colleges have online applications. Get those applications in early.
- Register for SAT or ACT or both. If you will need special accommodations, be sure to apply for them within the appropriate time.
- Plan visits to campuses, places of employment, and technical centers.
- Gather the information needed for college applications, including teacher recommendations.
- List your achievements, honors, and activities.
- If you are an ESE student, ask the ESE specialist when you will be meeting with a community agency representative.
- If you are behind in credits, see your counselor/ESE specialist to discuss options.

October

- Character Trait 1 – **COOPERATION** is working with others to accomplish a common purpose.
- Do you want to see your grades, test scores, or schedule? That and much more information are at your fingertips! At school, go to <http://web/dwh> and click on **Virtual Counselor**. At home, go to www.browardschools.com/virtualcounselor.
- Check now to make sure your student record is correct: grades and credits, name, birth date, and social security number. Notify the registrar of any errors.
- Take the **ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). This test can provide information regarding your aptitude and interest for postsecondary education and military career areas. (Note: ESE accommodations cannot be provided on the ASVAB.)
- Sign up for the **ACT** or **SAT**. Fee waivers are available to students who qualify. If eligible for special administration, be sure to complete the request form at least six weeks before the test.
- If required, register for SAT Subject Tests. Do so just as soon as you finish the 2nd year of foreign language and other advanced courses and if you plan to apply to a competitive college/private college. Most private colleges require 3 SAT Subject Tests for admissions.
- Some college applications require an essay. Develop an outline and ask your English teacher for assistance.
- Contact military recruiters to discuss enlistment procedures.
- Ask your counselor/BRACE Advisor/ESE specialist about any career shadowing or internships.
- Review the **Bright Futures Scholarship** requirements and your progress toward qualification by checking your status at www.FACTS.org.

- Plan to attend the **Greater Fort Lauderdale National College Fair** on October 12, 2015, at the Broward County Convention Center.

November

- Character Trait 2 – **CITIZENSHIP** is knowing, understanding, and displaying a high regard for rules, laws, government, heritage, and for those who have served and sacrificed for community and country.
- Complete your college applications as soon as possible. Don't wait for test scores.
- Apply for housing if you plan to live on campus.
- First semester grades are extremely important to both employers and admissions offices.
- If your school offers a Career Day, take advantage of this opportunity to talk to professionals from the working world.
- Continue using **CHOICES** available on the Internet. This program can help you identify your interests and match your personal inventory with possible occupations. Search for colleges or technical schools. Go to <http://www.FACTS.org>.
- You may be able to take a course through Broward Virtual School. Find out more from your counselor or visit www.bved.net.

December

- Character Trait 3 – **KINDNESS** is being helpful, thoughtful, caring, compassionate, and considerate.
- Did you order your cap and gown?
- Finish filing all your college applications.

- Continue your scholarship search. The BRACE Advisor can help you.
- Begin a serious search of the local job market. Prepare to mail out your resume.
- Check out the Broward County technical schools:
 - Atlantic Technical: <http://www.atlantictechcenter.com>
 - McFatterTechnical: <http://www.mcfattertech.com>
 - Sheridan Technical: <http://www.sheridantechical.com>

January

- Character Trait 4 – **RESPECT** is showing consideration, understanding, and regard for people, places, and things.
- Attend the Money Matters Financial Aid Workshop. Ask your BRACE Advisor for the dates and times.
- The Federal Financial Aid form, **FAFSA**, should be filed as soon as possible after January 1st in order to have the best chance to qualify for financial aid, including scholarships. Go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

February

- Character Trait 5 – **HONESTY** is being truthful, trustworthy, and sincere.
- Begin the process of enrollment in a technical program at a technical center if this is part of your future plan.
- Keep track of your academic progress by going to <http://web/dwh> and clicking on **Virtual Counselor**. After students log on at school, Virtual Counselor is available through the Internet at www.browardschools.com.

- Don't catch SENIORITIS! If you don't meet the graduation requirements, you won't be walking across that stage! All college acceptances are provisional and can be revoked!
- Mail your resume to companies and businesses. Attend job fairs.
- Men 18 years of age and over must register for the Selective Service in order to receive federal financial aid.
- February is your first opportunity to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship. Your transcript is sent automatically, but you must complete the online application at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org>. It is essential that this form be filled out correctly.

March

- Character Trait 6 – **SELF-CONTROL** is having discipline over one's behavior or actions.
- Every senior needs a back-up plan. See your BRACE Advisor for other opportunities.
- Still undecided about your plans? See your BRACE Advisor about information on apprenticeship programs, the course offerings at Atlantic, McFatter, and Sheridan Technical Centers and Broward College.
- Set up interviews for employment.
- If you are planning to attend Broward College or another Florida community college, apply now.
- Apply for the BRACE Scholarship.

April

- Character Trait 7 – **TOLERANCE** is recognizing and respecting differences, values, and beliefs of other people.
- If you are an ESE student, contact the **community agency representatives** to discuss your eligibility to receive their services.
- If you applied for financial aid, review the SAR (Student Aid Report) that you received back.
- Submit the SAR to the institution you plan to attend.
- If you are planning to work after graduation, continue to apply and interview for positions.

May

- Character Trait 8 – **RESPONSIBILITY** is meeting obligations by being reliable, accountable, and dependable to self and others.
- Complete the enrollment process and register for the technical program at the technical center if this is part of your future plans.
- Complete your enlistment paperwork for the military.
- Clear all senior obligations with the bookkeeper.
- Review your financial aid award letters. If you have any questions, contact your BRACE Advisor and the financial aid office of the individual colleges.
- Make sure that you **accept** the financial aid award from the college you decide to attend and decline offers from the other schools.
- Notify your BRACE Advisor of any awards or scholarships you will receive.

- ❑ If you are an ESE student, be sure to have the most recent copies of your Transition IEP and other important documents. These items will need to be presented to the Office of Disability Service at any postsecondary school.

Summer

- ❑ **Do your best on exams!** Those grades still count.
- ❑ Fill out your senior survey and final transcript request form.
- ❑ Congratulations! That important day has finally arrived and you've made it!
- ❑ Remember that life is a series of all choices! Your plans may change, but you have the ability to make good decisions.
- ❑ Keep these websites handy!

Florida's official student advising site: <http://www.FACTS.org>

Career planning: <http://www.mappingyourfuture.org>

BrightFutures

Scholarship: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf

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

College Board: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

College Search: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool>

FastWeb Scholarship Database: <http://www.fastweb.com>