

# STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SENIOR YEAR



- Take an SAT and/or ACT by the end of Junior Year**  
Regardless of your educational plans, every student should plan to take one! Having a test score will only help you... not having one can be **DETRIMENTAL!** Students with free or reduced lunch receive waivers for test fees. Go to Rotary Futures for waivers. Register for tests online:  
**SAT:** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)    **ACT:** [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- CHECK YOUR BRIGHT FUTURES STATUS ONLINE.** Check your status at [www.FloridaShines.org](http://www.FloridaShines.org) > Go to College > Pay for College. Shows Bright Futures GPA and any missing requirements. Remember—your Bright Futures GPA is **NOT** your report card GPA. Seniors **APPLY** online for Bright Futures (and other Florida grants) after October 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year.
- Meet with your guidance counselor.** Make sure you have met graduation requirements and have an appropriate senior schedule.
- Visit Colleges or Schools and visit with College Reps at VHS.**  
Campus visits are very important to the decision-making process. Schedule campus tours online. College reps will visit VHS in the fall. Visit Rotary Futures for a schedule of these visits.
- Beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, visit Rotary Futures to begin the scholarship search!** 500 scholarships valued at over \$60 million dollars are in the Student Scholarship Management System located in the Rotary Futures College Resource Center. Rotary Futures opens August 1<sup>st</sup>, and this is the time for seniors to start the scholarship search!
- Complete the FAFSA4caster - [www.FAFSA4caster.GOV](http://www.FAFSA4caster.GOV)**  
FAFSA4caster is a free financial aid calculator that gives you an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid. This information helps families plan ahead for college.
- Plan to apply to at LEAST 3 schools by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** (Reach, Target, & Safety)  
Applications are online and will start opening in the summer. **\*DO NOT WAIT FOR FALL TEST SCORES OR GPA IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS.\***
- Confirm that VHS has your correct information.** Check with the registrar to make sure VHS has the correct mailing address, phone number, social security number & date of birth info. Failure to have the correct information can delay processing of transcripts, test scores, and scholarships, including the Bright Futures scholarship.
- Stay informed!** Read the Pathfinder and check the VHS and Rotary Futures websites. Listen to announcements. Make sure VHS has your correct address to receive important mailings.
- Visit the Rotary Futures College Resource Center!** The staff and volunteers of Rotary Futures are available to assist parents and students through this entire process. Open Tuesdays - Fridays 7:00 am - 3:30 pm. Closed Mondays and most school holidays. Check our website for our part-time summer hours. **LIKE us on Facebook to get notices and reminders!** Website: [www.rotaryfutures.org](http://www.rotaryfutures.org)  
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