

SJVS Post-Secondary Readiness Milestones

9th Grade

- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Attend the NACAC College Fair in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- Participate in and track extracurricular activities: sports, clubs, and community service (required for Bright Futures scholarships).
- Turn completed community service hour letters to the school counseling office.
- Create a Raise.Me account to start earning scholarships.
- Start thinking about life after high school, talk to people about careers you might find interesting.
- Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.

10th Grade

- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Students with disabilities need to apply for PSAT/ACT/SAT/AP test accommodations (specific deadlines and requirements apply)- www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html and ACT: www.actstudent.org/register/disab/
- Take the PSAT at your zoned school in October (FREE- for 10th graders).
- Attend the NACAC College Fair in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- Review your PSAT score report with your parents (Dec/Jan). PSAT scores are in your CollegeBoard account.
- Link your CollegeBoard and Khan account to receive personalized practice recommendations for SAT based on PSAT results.
- Attend information session for Dual Enrollment to understand application deadlines, process, and requirements (Jan).
- Take the PERT or ACT or SAT by December if you are interested in Dual Enrollment classes your junior year <http://www.sjrst.edu/testingcenter.html>.
- Visit at least 3 college or other postsecondary websites to review programs, admissions requirements, freshman profile, costs, and AP equivalents.
- Keep up participation in school activities and volunteer efforts and keep tracking your progress.
- Update your Raise.Me account to keep earning scholarships
- Turn completed community service hour letters to the school counseling office.
- Look for a job, internship or volunteer position to help you learn about your field of interest.

11th Grade - FALL

- Review transcript on HAC and complete the credit check to look for errors and remaining credits needed
- Attend college visits on campus.
- Update your Raise.Me account to keep earning scholarships
- Explore career and college opportunities on www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Attend the NACAC College Fair in October as well as other college and career fairs in the area.
- If applicable, register for PSAT at your school (cost – about \$20). Take the PSAT in October.
- Participate in test prep for ACT/SAT.
- If interested in going into the military, make sure you talk to a recruiter and take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Contact your counselor about eligibility for ACT/SAT fee waivers (free and reduced lunch as well as several other criteria).
- Register for ACT and/or SAT for the spring (check current costs on website) www.act.org, and www.collegeboard.org Make sure to use your school code so results come to your school - 100809

11th Grade - SPRING

- Research post-secondary institutions and programs of study to aid in senior year course selection.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT – SEND SCORES TO AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL IN FLORIDA for Bright Futures purposes.
- Complete and submit community service hours
- Visit college campuses – set an appointment with the admissions office and notify Ms. Lee to have absence excused.

Summer Before Senior Year

- Complete online courses.
- Visit college campuses.
- Work on community service hours.

SJVS Post-Secondary Readiness Milestones

Senior Year, Semester 1

- Discuss credit check with counselor.
- Complete testing requirements.
- Complete online courses.
- Update resume.
- Request letters of recommendation in person at least 3 weeks in advance.
- Transcripts show the cumulative weighted and unweighted GPA, class rank, letter grades, and service hours
- Apply to universities and colleges.
- Apply for financial aid.

Senior Year, Semester 2

- Check transcript for accuracy.
- Complete any missing graduation requirements.
- Check your Bright Futures Eligibility; update with accurate institution information.
- Apply to state colleges.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Request a final transcript be sent to your post-secondary institution

Ordering Transcripts

- Order transcript on SJVS website and review for accuracy.
- Transcripts show the cumulated weighted and unweighted GPA, class rank, letter grades and service hours.

SAT and ACT

- Students register online (sat.org and act.org).
- Registration deadlines are usually a month before the test date.

Community Service Hours

- Must be a NON-PROFIT organization.
- Documented on letterhead with the number of hours worked, description, contact signature, parent and student signature.

Submit to Mrs. Jones in the Guidance office.

Financial Aid

- Federal Aid – FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid); www.fafsa.gov ; opens October 1st of senior year
- State of Florida Aid – Bright Futures; www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org ; opens October 1st of senior year
- Institutional Aid – Apply via the college/university you will attend.
- Private Aid – free money from organizations interested in helping students; check your (or your parent's) place of employment; corporations, local businesses, fastweb.com, finaid.org, collegenet.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Scholarship opportunities are on the District Webpage website: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/scholarships/>

Bright Futures

- You must APPLY for Bright Futures by submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application.
- Read over the Bright Futures Student Handbook.
- Know the requirements for the Florida Academic Scholar and the Florida Medallion Scholar.
- Bright Futures GPA is NOT the same as the transcript GPA. Honors, AP and dual enrollment classes are weighed equally with 0.5 per credit (not 1.0 for AP or DE). Two academic electives will be accepted toward the GPA if it benefits the student.