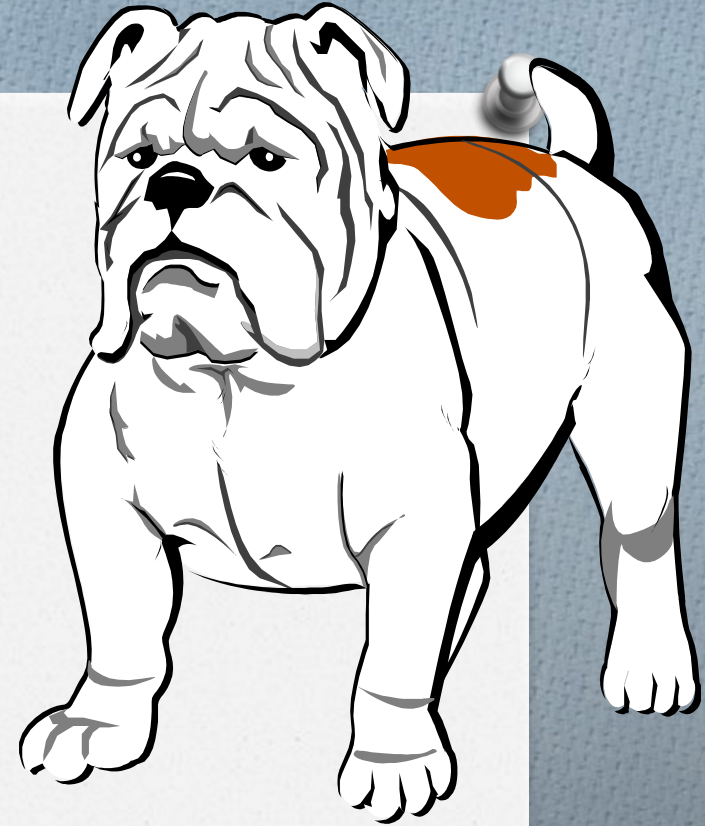


**Class of 2024
Senior Information**

**Shannon Francis LPC~S, NCC, NCSC
Academic Senior Counselor and
College/Postsecondary Counselor**

Shannon.Klapatch-Francis@stpsb.org

(985)892-7712 x 2070



Senior Year

TOPICS WE WILL COVER TODAY:

- Graduation Requirements
- Grades and Attendance
- Senior Exemptions
- Honor Grad and Rank in Class
- College Application Process
- Requesting Transcripts and Test Scores
- Financial Aid
- Scholarships
- TOPS
- Collegiate Athletics

What's the Difference?

TOPS Tech

2 Year College

23 Credits

2 Social Studies
and 2 Science

4 English and 4 Math

9 Career
Technical Electives
Industry Based
Certification
Required

Both Options

Diploma

Jump Start
Career
Pathways

Industry
Based
Certifications

TOPS University

4 Year College

24 Credits

4 Social Studies
and 4 Science

4 English and 4
Math

Industry Based
Certification
Optional

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

□ LEAP 2025 Tests

Students must pass 3 tests in the following categories:

English I or English II

Algebra I or Geometry

Biology or American History

□ FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- All seniors must have a FAFSA on file to graduate May 2024
- This is also the TOPS application
- The FAFSA cannot be completed until December and the information is based on your 2022 Federal Tax Information
- TBA FAFSA Information Night with LOSFA Representative
- QR CODE

GRADES AND ATTENDANCE

- ❑ Self motivation is key!
 - ❑ Students are responsible for turning in doctor and parent notes to students services within two days of returning to school.
 - ❑ All attendance policies will be followed in accordance with state/local attendance laws. (pg. 15 of district handbook)
-

Senior Exemptions

- ❑ **Senior Exemptions**
- ❑ If a Senior with an "A average" in a course and 5 or fewer non-exempt absences in the course for a semester, then exempt from the semester exam. Seniors cannot have more than five parent notes to be exempt.
- ❑ If a Senior with a "B average" in a course and 3 or fewer non-exempt absences in the course for a semester, then exempt from the semester exam. Seniors cannot have more than three parent notes to be exempt.
- ❑ Senior Semester Exam Exemptions will not apply in dual enrolled courses.

FHS HONOR GRADUATES

- Determined by cumulative weighted GPA
 - FHS Honor Graduate:
 - Cumulative GPA ranging between 3.5 and 3.999
 - Recognized at graduation with white cord
 - FHS Top Honor Graduate:
 - Cumulative GPA of 4.0 and above
 - Recognized at graduation with gold cord
-

RANK IN CLASS

- ❑ Rank in class is determined upon graduation. It is based on the quality points a student earns in grades 9-12 only.
- ❑ Rank in class is calculated using a maximum of 28 high school credits, of which a maximum of 16 credits may be weighted.
- ❑ The student(s) who earns the most quality points will be ranked number one in the graduating class.
- ❑ Recognition at graduation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT

St. Tammany Parish Public School System will recognize graduating seniors who complete service hours in the following categories:

- Seniors that earn a minimum of 80 service hours between 9th and 12th grades.
- Seniors that earn a minimum of 100 hours between 9th and 12th grades.
- Seniors that earn a minimum of 120 hours between 9th and 12th grades.

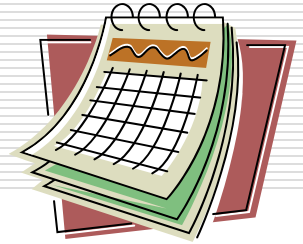
All seniors that meet a minimum of 80 hours will receive a diploma endorsement seal on their diploma and a pin to wear on their stole at graduation.

Detailed Information re: forms and qualifying site placements can be found on senior google classroom under counseling corner.

Important To Do List for Students

- ❑ Check your email frequently
- ❑ Check Senior Google classroom Counselor Corner
- ❑ Check the website under the counseling tab
- ❑ Complete a personal brag sheet and turn in to Ms. Francis
 - to assist with letters of recommendation, college forms, etc.
 - A copy is also available to print on Google Classroom

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



- Choose admission decision deadline:
 - Early Decision – binding (Discuss with Ms. Francis)
 - Restrictive Early Action – Non Binding
 - Early Action – not binding and you receive admission decision earlier
 - Regular Decision – deadline varies from college to college

The deadlines for admissions and financial aid/scholarships are frequently not the same, even if there is only one application for both. Check college website for specific deadlines.

Private/selective schools – may require additional paperwork which may include essays, letters of rec, secondary school reports.

- APPLY NOW – Yes, do not wait for your ACT scores
- Request high school transcript
- Send test scores to colleges(s) ~ ACT/SAT
- Apply for Housing

COMMON APP TIPS

- ❑ Create an account at www.commonapp.org.
- ❑ How does it work?
 - Start by adding colleges
 - Each college you add has its own set of specific requirements and supplements.
 - Answer **ALL** the questions in the Common App tab. For each college you selected you will:
 - ❑ Answer college specific questions
 - ❑ **Invite** and manage **recommenders**
 - ❑ Complete other supplements (if applicable)

NOTE: Once you invite Ms. Francis she will complete your secondary school report which includes sending your transcript. Your brag sheet is required to complete this part so send it to her as soon as possible.

REQUESTING HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

- ▶ It is not necessary to make a request for your transcript to be sent to Louisiana public 4-year colleges, universities or community colleges. They can retrieve your transcript from the State Transcript System.
- ▶ Students using an online platform like the common application, coalition or universal application do not need to request a transcript.
- ▶ Mailed transcript – If you need your transcript mailed you will complete a transcript request form. The forms are in the counseling office.
A student must pay Mrs. Fox before a transcript is mailed.

REQUESTING COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS (Seniors in Dual Enrollment Courses)

College applications will request your college transcript for Dual Enrollment courses you took in high school. It is your responsibility to make this request.

Southeastern Louisiana University

- Access the website below and follow the directions:

http://www.southeastern.edu/admin/registrar/transcript_request/index.html

Northshore Technical Community College

- Use link below to order NTCC college transcript:

<https://www.northshorecollege.edu/admissions/transcript-request>

SEND YOUR TEST SCORES TO THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- If the student took the ACT/SAT and did not send scores to a college or university, then he/she will need to send them.
- Students create an account on the appropriate website to send their scores.

www.myact.org or www.collegeboard.org

- Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can receive up to 4 waivers to take the ACT. See Ms. Jackson for more information re: a waiver.

ACT

COSTS:

- ACT No Writing: \$68
- ACT Writing: \$93

REGISTER: myact.org

- Make sure to put FHS code 1595**
- FHS will be a testing site for the September, October, and February test.**

Only the September, April, and June test offer a test release

504/ IEP Testing Accommodations:

Applications must be submitted to ACT to determine if you are eligible to receive testing accommodations. See Ms. Jackson in the front office.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Protocol

- Complete a brag sheet
 - Make your request in person
 - Give your teacher/counselor a copy of your brag sheet
 - Give your recommender a minimum of 3 weeks to submit your request
-

HOW AND WHEN DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

How? Complete the FAFSA Form

When? Opens DECEMBER 2023

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

This is a 2 step process:

1. Create an FSA ID – www.fsaaid.ed.gov
Both Student and Parent create their own FSA ID
2. Complete the FAFSA – Use 2022 tax info
 - www.fafsa.gov
 - Opens December 2023
 - Provide Ms. Francis with copy of confirmation email for graduation documentation

FAFSA COMPLETION

Where do I go for help?

- ❑ FAFSA/TOPS Meeting – TBA

 - ❑ Lela's FAFSA Completion guide and workbook ~ located under resource tab <https://lela.org>

 - ❑ FAFSA HELP LINE: 844 GO FAFSA or (844) 463-2372

 - ❑ LOSFA Assistance
 - <https://mylosfa.la.gov>
 - Meet Lex 24/7 help (bottom right hand side of homepage)
-

HOW DO I FIND SCHOLARSHIPS?

- Academic – apply through the college/university
 - Based on GPA and ACT scores
 - Admission and scholarship application – check college website

- Local Scholarships
 - Scholarship chart in the back of senior handbook
 - Listen to announcements, check email, senior google classroom

- Scholarship search engines – websites
 - Example: www.fastweb.com
 - Create an account

TOPS & TOPS TECH

TOPS (4 year award)

Level of award	Minimum core GPA	Minimum ACT composite Subject to change, based on state average	Award pays Actual \$ amount varies, based on college's tuition
Opportunity	2.5	20	Tuition
Performance	3.25	23	Tuition + \$ 400 @ yr
Honors	3.50	27	Tuition + \$ 800 @ yr

TOPS rewards eligible high school graduates with financial awards to be used at public Louisiana Universities and members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

TOPS TECH

Minimum core GPA	Minimum ACT composite	Award pays Actual \$ amount varies, based on program addressed
2.5	17	Non-academic programs for vocational or technical education certificates or diplomas

TOPS Tech is a merit-based tuition award for students seeking vocational or occupational certification in a technical post-secondary program in the state of Louisiana.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR TOPS?

- ❑ **Complete the FAFSA form on or after December 2023**
- ❑ **Achieve a composite ACT score of at least 20 on or before April 17, 2023 test or 17 for TOPS TECH**
- ❑ **Missing or incorrect information can delay your award**
 - **High School Code - 191659**
 - **Social Security Number**
 - **Month and Year of FHS Graduation**

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

□ NCAA

- At the COMPLETION of junior year, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center:
www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - ACT/SAT code for NCAA is 9999 (Student must send scores officially)
 - Fee waivers are available for students on free or reduced lunch.
 - Counselor will upload transcript when notified through NCAA
-

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

□ NAIA

- Register at www.playnaia.org
 - ACT/SAT code for NAIA is 9876 (Student must send scores officially)
 - Fee waivers are available for students on free or reduced lunch
 - Final transcript is sent at completion of senior year.
 - Visit NAIA site for a list of participating schools
 - NAIA offers fewer sports and recruiting restrictions.
-

RESOURCES

- ❑ Senior Handbook –
 - ❑ Google Classroom – Counselor Corner
 - ❑ FHS Website –
<http://fontainebleauhigh.stpsb.org>
 - ❑ LOSFA Student Hub~
<https://mylosfa.la.gov/applications/student-hub/>
 - ❑ Announcements and Emails
-

UPCOMING DATES

- ❑ 8/31 Northwestern Lunch Visit
 - ❑ 9/12 Jostins Meeting with Seniors
 - ❑ 9/19 Jostins order placement @lunch
(parents are welcome to attend)
 - ❑ 10/25 Mississippi State Lunch Visit
 - ❑ 4/24 Seniors last Day
 - ❑ 5/3 Graduation 7:00p.m.
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