SEACOAST
COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2025

Newsletter

COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING



Welcome to our first Seacoast Collegiate High School College Counseling Newsletter! Each montly newsletter will highlight important college-related information, deadlines, and tips for students and parents. It is our goal that this will be a resource for all students even before they officially begin the college search process. It is never too soon to start becoming familiar with the college process and terminology! If you have any questions about any of the articles or information, please contact the counseling department. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it helpful for both students and parents!



Donna Armstrong, Stacey Greenway and Mindy Larson
Your Seacoast Counseling Team



PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

The Seacoast Collegiate High School counselors support students and families through High School and dual enrollment at Northwest Florida State College by fostering academic growth, leadership, and meaningful engagement in school opportunities.

SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

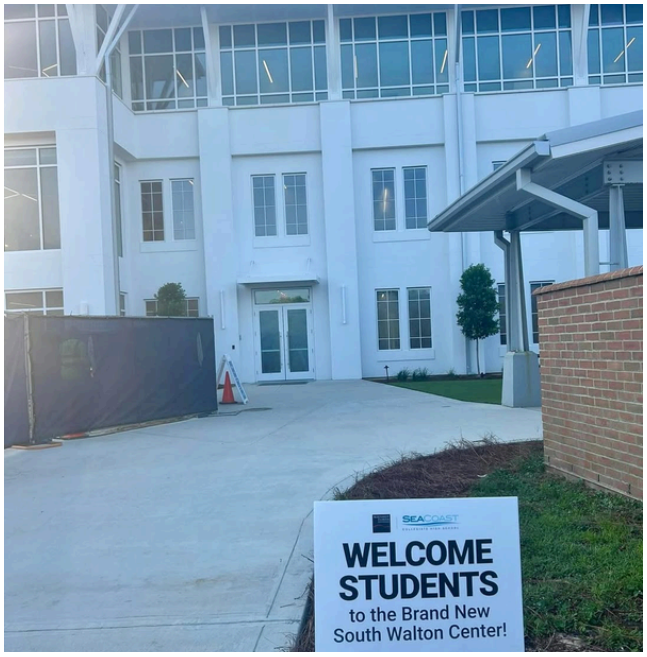
newsletter



SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL HAS A NEW HOME

On August 28, 2025, Seacoast Collegiate High School (SCHS) and Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) celebrated the grand opening of the expanded South Walton Center with a ribbon cutting alongside state and local leaders. The new facility, supported by more than $20 million in state, local, and philanthropic investment—including major contributions from Triumph Gulf Coast and the Glavine Family Foundation—houses both SCHS and NWFSC, providing dual enrollment, workforce training, and advanced academic pathways for more than 500 students. This partnership expands access to high-quality education in Walton County, strengthens the local talent pipeline, and marks a milestone in SEASIDE SCHOOL's 30th year of educational leadership.





Navigating College Admissions Deadlines

When applying to universities, students have a variety of options and due dates. It is each student's responsibility to manage deadlines and application requirements. To assist in the application process, seniors are encouraged to attend application workshops and schedule individual meetings with counselors.The following are the types of deadline decisions from which they may choose:



Early Decision (ED): A binding option for students certain about their first-choice school. If admitted with sufficient financial aid, they must enroll and withdraw all other applications. Students may apply ED to only one college but can submit regular decision applications elsewhere. Deadlines are typically mid-October, with decisions by January. While ED can show strong interest, it only helps if the student is already a good fit for the school.

ED II (Early Decision II) is identical to Early Decision but with later deadlines, usually around January 1. Applicants receive decisions in early February instead of waiting until April. Many students choose ED II if they were denied at their first-choice ED school.

Rolling Admission: Student applications are reviewed by the institution as they are received. The sooner the application is completed and submitted, the sooner the admission decision is made and the student is notified. Students have until May 1st to accept or decline the offer of admission.

EA or Early Action: This is a great choice for many students, as they will apply early and find out the admission decision well before the general response date without the commitment. Students may apply to many institutions early action and may also apply to other institutions regular decision. If accepted, the student usually has until May 1st to accept or decline the offer of enrollment.

Regular Decision: Institutions have set dates throughout the application cycle as to when applications must be submitted for review. Students will be notified of the admission decision in a clearly stated period of time. Students may apply to many institutions regular decision. Regular decision is non-binding and the student has until May 1st to accept or decline the offer of admission.

SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING UPDATES

Which colleges are now requiring test scores?
Find out here.

The ACT®

Changes to the ACT exam for 2025

- **Optional science section:** Like the writing test, the science portion of the exam is now optional. The official composite score will now be based only on the English, Math, and Reading sections. However, some colleges may still require or recommend the science score.
- **Shorter test and fewer questions:** The required portion of the exam is significantly shorter, with 44 fewer questions. This gives students more time per question to think and respond.
- **Reduced math answer choices:** To reduce test fatigue, the math section now has four multiple-choice answer options instead of five. Other sections already used four choices.
- **Online and paper versions:** The ACT continues to offer both paper-and-pencil and online testing options, though all test-takers will transition to the new format by September 2025.

For more information and future ACT test dates, click HERE

SAT®

Here's a breakdown of the main changes implemented by the College Board for the digital SAT:

- **Computer-Based Testing**: The SAT is now administered entirely on a computer.
- **Shorter Test:** The test duration is reduced to about two hours from the previous 3 hours
- **Unique Tests for Everyone:** . Each student receives a unique version of the test, which prevents cheating and ensures a more secure environment.
- **Device Flexibility:** Students can take the test on a personal or school-issued laptop or tablet, or request to borrow a device from the College Board if they don't have one.
- **Built-in Resources**: The Bluebook™ application includes built-in features like a Desmos graphing calculator and tools to help with digital testing.
- **No Essay Section:**The essay portion of the SAT was eliminated with the transition to the digital format.

For more information and future SAT test dates, click HERE

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HOW TO AFFORD COLLEGE

FAFSA

In order to file for financial aid at any college, students and families should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA), which is your application for money from the government, and the initial step in applying for aid from the colleges as well. Final award determinations will be based on your Federal Tax Forms, and federal and institutional deadlines may appear very generous.

You should complete the FAFSA as early as possible when it opens October 1st of senior year, and submit it not long after your applications. The earlier these forms are submitted to the Financial Aid offices of your schools, the more money there will be available to you while your candidacy is considered. Also, many individual colleges have earlier deadlines than the government for FAFSA submission. We can not emphasize enough that it's critical to file the FAFSA in early October.

Read More



Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

BigFuture

Florida Bright Future Scholarship

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

We help students apply for the Bright Futures Scholarship during the fall of their senior year. While SCHS does not require service hours for graduation, we encourage students to acquire at least 100 service hours or 100 work hours to meet the FLBF requirements. Students may begin accumulating service hours beginning the summer before ninth grade. They must complete the Community Service Report Form and submit it to the College Counseling Office. Students are encouraged to keep a copy at home. All hours must be completed and submitted by the graduation date to count. Click here to view all Bright Futures Academic requirements.

SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL



Tips for College Visits by IECA

A campus visit is the best way to evaluate whether a college suits you. Here are our members' top 10 tips for making the most of your college visits.

1. Learn about the college before you visit.
Read materials from the college and check out their website and social media.

2. Evaluate the environment of the campus.
Is the campus too big or too small for you? Do you like the nearby town, or do you feel isolated? Consider how you would get around campus—particularly in the rain or snow—and what transportation you would use to get home.

3. Visit the admissions office and participate in the information session.
Register early for tours and admission information sessions since these fill quickly. This also demonstrates your interest to the college. Ask questions that help you clarify the academic program at the school and the type of student who is most comfortable and successful there. Dress nicely, but not out of character.

4. Take the student-led tour of campus.
Take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions about campus life from a peer. Recognize, however, that tour guides are not necessarily typical of all students since they are often paid to formally represent the school.

5. Check out the dorms.
Find out about the dorm options available, such as all-freshman or coed floors. Arrange in advance to spend the night in a dorm, if possible. Picture yourself living in a dorm. Are you comfortable with where it is located on campus?

6. Arrange for campus meetings with department heads in the subject that interests you most.
Also meet with coaches in sports where you excel, as well as former graduates from your high school. Bring a resume that highlights your experience in your area of expertise. Ask about opportunities based on your skills and interests.

7. Sit in on classes and check out the library.
How is the rapport between students and faculty in the classroom? Look through the books and explore the technology available at the library. Look for group study spaces and quiet places to study.

8. Look into life beyond academics.
Check out the athletic facilities, theater, and student center. Read the notices posted in the dorms or on bulletin boards. Can you see yourself joining in? Pick up the school newspaper for hot topics on campus.

9. Eat lunch in the student center and watch student interactions.
Talk with students all over campus about their impressions of the school. Look at the students themselves. Do you feel comfortable among them?

10. Write down your impressions of each college you visit.
After a while, the visions of different schools start to blur if you don't immediately stop to record your thoughts! Keep a list of pros and cons for comparison. Also consider taking some photos to help you keep track of the campuses you visit.

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Planning Ahead

College Representative Visits at Seacoast Collegiate High School

September 22nd - Samford University 1:10 - 1:45 1st (floor commons SCHS)

October 9th - Florida State University 11:30 Presentation for 11th and 12th grade; 3rd floor commons - NWFSC

October 29th - Troy University 8:00 - 3:00 (1st floor NWFSC)

(More visits are being added for October and will be shared as we book them)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER

15 - **Early Application Deadline ROUND 1** - Auburn University
23 - **SENIOR** Parent Meeting: 3:30 PM SCHS Room 119/120
26 - **SENIOR** College Application Workshop

OCTOBER

1 - **FASFA Application Opens** anyone applying to Private Institutions should complete CSS Profile
7 - ALL SCHOOL - Financial Aid/Paying for College Meeting (VIRTUAL - meeting link will be emailed)
15 - PSAT Exam for 9th grade at SCHS

Early Application Deadlines:

- University of Central Florida (UCF) - Supporting materials due by Nov. 15
- University of West Florida (UWF) - Rolling admissions after Oct. 15
- Florida State University (FSU) - Supporting materials due by Oct. 22
- ROUND 2 - Auburn University

16 - PSAT Exam for 10th grade and NMSQT for 11th grade at SCHS
17 - FREE SAT for **SENIORS** at SCHS
TBD - JUNIOR and Parent Meeting: Officially LaunchingCollege Admissions Counseling with WHY?

NOVEMBER

1 - **Early Application Deadlines:**

- University of North Florida (UNF)
- University of South Florida (USF) - Supporting materials due by Nov. 15
- University of Florida (UF) - Supporting materials due by Nov. 8
- University of Miami - Final Credentials due by Nov. 21
- University of Alabama

3 - Florida International University (FIU) - Supporting Documents also due Nov. 3
10 -Tulane University
15 - ROUND 3 - Auburn University