NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING



DREAMING BIG IN ACTION

Beginning in January, our Careers on Campus initiative will bring leaders from high-wage, high-need professions directly to our students. Each month, community professionals—selected based on our student's career interest surveys—will visit campus to share their career journey, discuss pathways into their field, and connect with students who want to learn more.

We launch on January 23rd with two exciting areas: Private Equity and Health Care Professions. From January through May, additional experts will join us monthly to broaden students' understanding of the many opportunities available to them after graduation.

This initiative is a key part of our Dream Big program, which is designed to expand students' exposure to real-world careers, help them explore their strengths and interests, and create pathways for future job shadowing, field experiences, and internship opportunities.



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

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

SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

CAREER EXPLORATION AT SEACOAST



A JOURNEY OF EXPLORATION

Choosing a college major is an important milestone, but it doesn't need to feel overwhelming. At Seacoast Collegiate High School, we encourage families to view this decision as a process of exploration. With curiosity, reflection, and the right tools, students can uncover career paths that match their interests and strengths. Our students use Xello to support this process every step of the way.

START WITH SELF-DISCOVERY

Before choosing a major, students benefit from understanding their strengths, interests, and values. Xello's interactive assessments help teens identify what motivates them and what kinds of careers may be a good match.

Parents and students can review results together and ask:

- Which careers sound exciting or surprising?
- What strengths feel accurate?
- Which paths match my skills and personality?

These conversations help build confidence and direction.



EXPLORING INTERESTS INSIDE & OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

It's normal for interests to change. Only 46% of graduates work directly in their major, showing how flexible and transferable skills can be. A strong high school course load—combined with extracurricular activities, clubs, volunteer work, summer programs, and part-time jobs—allows students to "test drive" different areas of interest. Even brief conversations with adults about their careers can offer clarity about what a field is really like.

HOW XELLO SUPPORTS FUTURE PLANNING AT SCHS

Xello gives Seacoast students a structured way to explore careers, plan coursework, and prepare for college.

Key Xello Features:

- Career & college profiles with videos, descriptions, and salary information
- Career clusters organized by interests and skills
- Resume and portfolio builders

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

As students explore colleges, early conversations with counselors and advisors are helpful—even for those confident in their path. Since 35%–80% of students change majors, exploration is normal and healthy.

With encouragement at home and tools like Xello at Seacoast Collegiate High School, students can confidently navigate their unique path toward college and future careers.

JUNIOR COLLEGE PLANNING SEMINARS

At Seacoast Collegiate High School, junior year is an exciting turning point as students begin preparing for life after high school, and our Junior College Counseling Seminars are here to guide them every step of the way. Beginning in January and continuing monthly through May, these sessions help students build confidence, gain clarity, and stay organized as they learn about the college application process and explore post-secondary options. Whether a student is aiming for a four-year university, exploring career pathways, considering trade programs, or still discovering their interests, our seminars provide the knowledge, tools, and personalized support they need to make informed decisions and feel fully prepared for the journey ahead.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN IN JUNIOR SEMINARS

College Research & Exploration
Students learn how to research schools, identify what matters most to them, and develop a balanced and intentional college list. From academic programs to campus culture, we help them match opportunities with their goals and strengths.

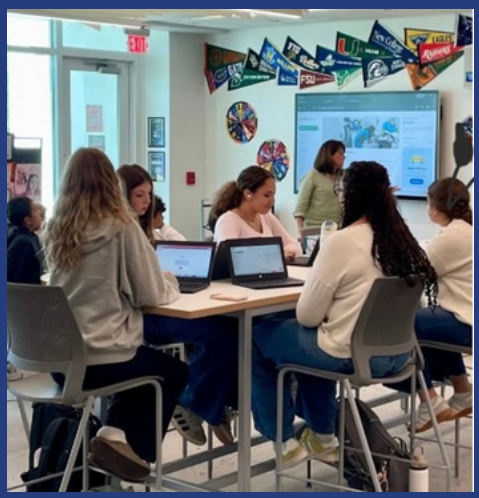
Organization & Timeline Planning
One of the biggest keys to a smooth senior year is staying organized. Students learn how to manage deadlines, track requirements across different schools, and use planning tools to keep everything on schedule.

College Application Components
Students begin breaking down the core elements of college applications—personal statements, supplemental essays, résumés, and activity lists. We provide examples, writing strategies, and planning tools so they can approach these tasks with confidence.

Standardized Testing Guidance
Juniors receive information on preparing for standardized tests such as the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. Seminars include tips on study resources, test-taking strategies, and recommendations for when and how often to test.

Letters of Recommendation
We walk students through the process of selecting recommenders, making thoughtful requests, and understanding what colleges are looking for in teacher and counselor letters.

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Seminars introduce students to financial aid basics, including FAFSA, Bright Futures, scholarships, and college cost tools like net price calculators. Families gain a clearer picture of financial planning and available resources.
Exploring All Post-Secondary Options



SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING OPTIONS

At Seacoast Collegiate High School, preparing for U.S. college entrance exams is an important step in helping students plan their post-secondary paths. College entrance exams—like the SAT, ACT, and the emerging Classic Learning Test (CLT)—are standardized assessments that measure skills such as reading comprehension, critical thinking, problem-solving, and math and writing abilities. Colleges use these scores in a variety of ways, including admissions decisions, scholarship awards, and academic placement, as they offer a consistent way to compare students from different backgrounds. While many institutions have moved to test-optional policies, strong scores can still strengthen an application and open doors to additional financial aid. Because requirements vary, students are encouraged to research the expectations of each college they plan to apply to and consider how testing fits into their overall application strategy.

The ACT®

For more information and future
ACT test dates, click HERE

SAT®

For more information and future
SAT test dates, click HERE

CLT

For more information and future
CLT test dates, click HERE

HOW TO AFFORD COLLEGE

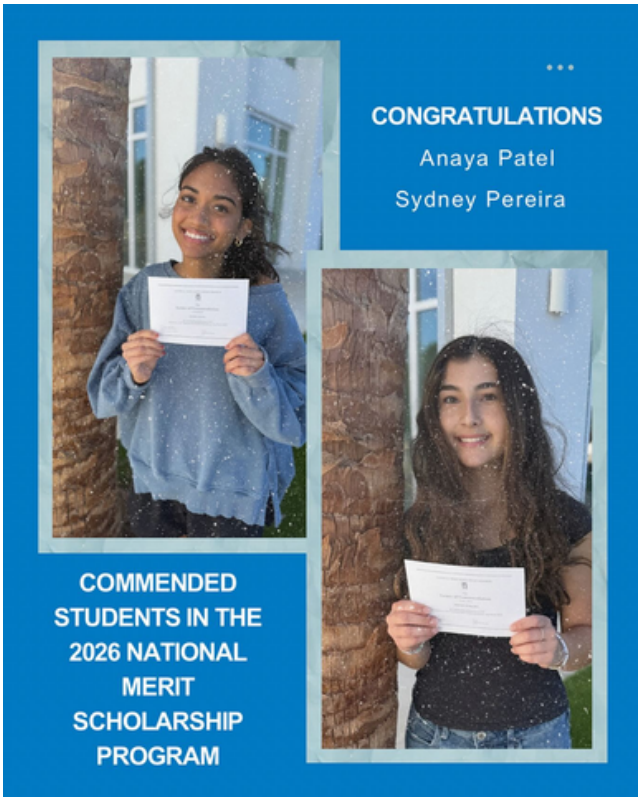
FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

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.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

BigFuture

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs



SCHS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Congratulations to Anaya Patel and Sydney Pereira, recognized as Commended Students in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program! This honor highlights their exceptional academic promise and dedication to excellence. We're so proud of you both!

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COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL



IMPACT: HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

IMPACT has become a popular topic among college admission officers in recent years, and Thanksgiving feels like the perfect time to pause and reflect on the ways we influence the people around us. Impact simply means the strong effect one person or action can have on another. Every day, through our words and choices, we make an impression—sometimes without even realizing it. A kind comment, a helping hand, or a small act of generosity can truly brighten someone's day.

Since the release of Harvard's 2016 report *Turning the Tide*, many colleges have made a point to look for applicants who make meaningful contributions to others—whether through service, leadership, or simple, everyday kindness. Why does this matter so much to admissions teams? Because they're looking to build a community of students who support, inspire, and learn from one another. On a college campus—whether in the residence halls, classrooms, or the local community—students have countless opportunities to positively influence the people around them.

As you take time this season to appreciate what you're grateful for, consider how you can strengthen the positive impact you make at school and in your community. Are you someone who reaches out when a classmate is having a tough day? Do you participate fully and respectfully in class discussions? Do you take initiative when something needs to be done?

Think about all the ways you contribute outside the classroom, too—in clubs, sports, student government, performing arts, or other groups. Don't forget the impact you make at home, whether that's helping siblings, pitching in with chores, or supporting extended family. And consider how you can serve the broader community—through volunteering, faith-based groups, youth programs, theater, sports, hospitals, or local nonprofits.

Each of us has the ability to make a meaningful difference. Find the place where your talents and passions meet a need—and let your impact shine.

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PLANNING AHEAD



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER

1 - FSU - Regular Decision Application Deadline
5 - University of Alabama Priority Application Deadline
5 - Florida Civic Literacy Exam - SCHS
6 - SAT Exam Date (November 25 late registration deadline)
13 - ACT Exam Date (November 24 late registration deadline)
15 - USF - Regular Decision Application Deadline
17 - FIU - Regular Decision Application Deadline

JANUARY

15 - UF - Regular Decision Application Deadline
15 - Embry Riddle University - Regular Decision Application Deadline
15 - University of Miami - Regular Decision Application Deadline
15 - University of Tampa - Regular Decision Application Deadline
15 - Tulane University - Regular Decision Application Deadline
23 - Lunch at the Coast - CAREERS ON CAMPUS
24 - CLT Exam Date
30 - UWF - Priority Application Deadline

FEBRUARY

1 - Auburn University - Regular Decision Application Deadline
14 - ACT Exam Date (January 7 registration deadline)

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