

# BRIGHT FUTURES Scholarship Program

Okeechobee High School  
Financial Aid Night  
January 17, 2018

# WHAT IS A BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP?

- Tuition payment for Florida post-secondary schools (college/university, vocational schools)
- Merit-based
- Based on academic history (GPA), test scores, and community service hours
- 4 Award Levels - Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), Gold Seal Vocational (GSV), and NEW Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)
- A student may receive funding for only one award. The highest award earned by the student will be selected.



# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by your post-secondary institution
- Earn a Florida standard high school diploma or equivalent
- Be accepted by and enrolled in an eligible Florida public or private school
- Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours or equivalent per term
- Use the award within 2 years of graduation
- Must not be found guilty of, or plead no contest to, a felony charge
- Must submit a completed, error free, Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during your last year in high school no later than August 31 after high school graduation
- Must meet the eligibility requirements for the award level for which you wish to qualify for (Requirements must be met by high school graduation, but test scores taken through June 30 are accepted for evaluation purposes.)



# HOW TO APPLY

- Apply online at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)
- Click on State Grants, Scholarships, and Applications
- Click on Student Application (for new applicants)
- Before you proceed to the application, it is important to read the 7 Application Essentials first and the BF Handbook.
- Click on Save/Submit and Print your application.
- Saved Results Page---print a copy for your records
- No longer required to complete FAFSA but encouraged to apply! [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)



# FAS

# FMS

\*weighting is on Bright Futures Scholarship weighting system

Minimum Weighted GPA: 3.5

16 core credits:

4 English

4 Math (Algebra 1 and higher)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

2 Foreign Language

Minimum Test Scores:

SAT Reading and Math: 1290  
OR ACT Composite 29

Community Service:

100 hours

Minimum Weighted GPA: 3.0

16 core credits:

4 English

4 Math (Algebra 1 and higher)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

2 Foreign Language

Minimum Test Scores:

SAT Reading and Math: 1170 OR  
ACT Composite 26

Community Service:

75 hours



# Gold Seal Vocational

Minimum Weighted Core GPA: 3.0

16 core credits:

4 English

4 Math (including Algebra 1)

3 Natural Science

3 Social Science

1 Fine/Practical Art

1 Physical Education

Plus a minimum of 3 Career/Technical Education credits in one vocational program (3.5 unweighted GPA in career courses)

Minimum Test Scores:

SAT Math 440 and SAT Critical Reading or EBRW 440

ACT English 17, Reading 19, Math 19

PERT: 103 Writing, 106 Reading, 114 Math

Community Service: 30 hours

# Gold Seal Vocational

- Can only be used to fund a career education or certificate programs.
- Upon completion of an AS degree program that articulates to a BS degree, GSC may be able to transfer for up to 60 credits towards Bachelor of Science degree

To qualify:

- Students must meet the general requirements for Bright Futures
- Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit; and
- Complete 30 community service hours

# MATH CREDITS

- ⦿ Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B count as 1 credit.
- ⦿ Acceptable Math credits: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and above.
- ⦿ The following courses CANNOT be used as one of the 4 BF required math credits for FAS/FMS:

Liberal Arts Math and Pre-Algebra





# EARLY AND END-OF-YEAR EVALUATIONS

Transcripts are submitted electronically to FDOE

- Early Evaluation(7<sup>th</sup> semester)

You cannot lose an award based on early evaluation, unless you fail to graduate from hs.

- End-of-Year Evaluation (8<sup>th</sup> semester)

If your GPA improves and/or other requirements are met during your final high school semester, you may then qualify for an award or higher award level based on the evaluation of your final transcript.



# AWARD NOTIFICATION

- Award eligibility determination will be posted to a student's online Financial Aid Recipient History screen. Login credentials will be sent to student after completing the application.
- Early evaluation award notification—posting in March
- End-of-year evaluation award notification---posting in August
- Students must accept their award within their first 2 years after high school graduation or forfeit the scholarship.
- Notification of award will be made available to institution listed on your application. (Must notify changes of institution by Aug 15 for Fall Term.)



# FUNDING AMOUNT

- Funding begins the FALL term after your high school graduation. SUMMER funding is given for FAS only.
- Scholarship value is dependent upon legislative funding each summer.
- Pays a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type.

# SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

- ⦿ Very IMPORTANT!!!
- ⦿ Your SSN is used in matching your transcripts to your test score records. This is how colleges and Bright Futures match up your application with your transcripts.
- ⦿ If not reported, this can result in an error in your award amount or delay disbursement of an award.
- ⦿ Make sure your SSN is on file. Check with Mrs. Vikojan in Guidance.

# PREPAID COLLEGE PLAN & BRIGHT FUTURES

If you have a prepaid college plan, you can use both the prepaid and BF scholarship. Bright Futures can be used to cover expenses that the prepaid plan doesn't cover.

# BRIGHT FUTURES CONTACT INFO

● [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)

● 1-888-827-2004 (OSFA)

● <https://www.floridashines.org>

# CONTACT INFO

Senior Counselor: Drema Brewer

Phone: 863-462-5025 ext.3106

E-mail: [brewerdr@okee.k12.fl.us](mailto:brewerdr@okee.k12.fl.us)

# LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Last year, over \$600,000 in local scholarship money was awarded to OHS students.





# OHS College and Career Center

Located in the Guidance Office

**Melanie Tabbert**

**Career and Technical Education Specialist**

**Melanie.tabbert@okee.k12.fl.us**

**Michelle Coleman**

**Graduation Coach**

**colemanm@okee.k12.fl.us**

# Scholarship Night Recognition

Joined the Military

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

IRSC Scholarships including Take Stock

Local Scholarships



# 2017 Scholarship Night

Total of Local Scholarships: \$604,453

- Number of students who applied: 178
- Number of students awarded a scholarship: 144
- Number of Local Donors: 107
- Number of total scholarships: 333

Bright Futures Total: \$346, 000

Outside Scholarships including Military: \$2,204,000

**GRAND TOTAL: \$2,884,453**

# 2018 Local Scholarship Process

- ① Select the Scholarships for which you qualify

**Text @2018money to 81010**

- ② Complete forms and documents
- ③ Assemble your scholarship packets
- ④ Turn packets in on time

# You will need these Forms:

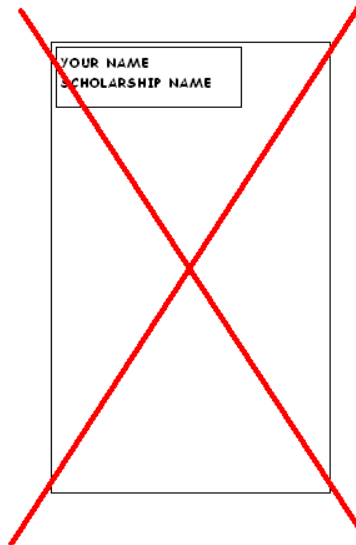
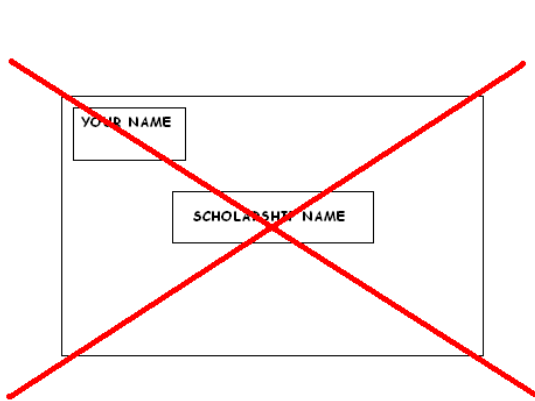
- Application Form
- Transcript. Request a transcript in the Guidance Office with Mrs. Vikojan. One day wait time.
- Resume - one page
- Personal Statement - Who are You? What are your goals?
- (2) Reference Letters.
  - Only one letter may be an OHS Staff member.
  - One letter should come from a community member such as a pastor, employer, or coach

# Assemble your Documents

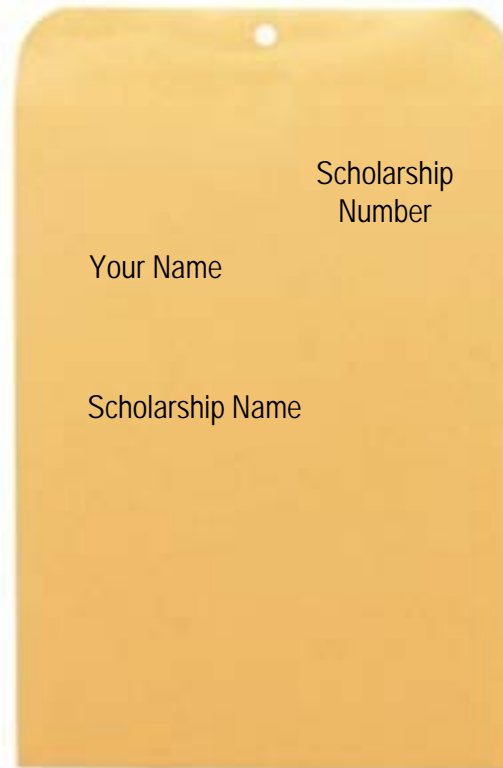
- Put documents in order
- Make copies
- Make a special packet for Mrs. Tabbert to keep on file
  - Include the VERIFICATION FORM in this packet
  - TABBERT packet is due February 21st

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING CONT.

- Put all of your documents into a clasp mailing folder and label them like this:



**DO NOT SEAL**



# TURN IN YOUR PACKETS

- ⦿ Reminder: Make 1 extra copy of your entire packet (essays and all) for Mrs. Tabbert to keep on file. Include the Local Scholarship Verification Sheet. This packet is due **February 21st by 3:00 pm**.
- ⦿ Bring your scholarship packets to Guidance Office Career Center when completed, but no later than **3:00 pm on February 28th**. No late packets accepted. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- ⦿ We have boxes with numbers and you will file your packets
- ⦿ Donors review packets and select recipients
- ⦿ You will be notified if you are receiving a scholarship but not which one or how many



# SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

May 10, 2018

6:00pm - 9:00pm