

## South Tech Academy

# School Counseling Newsletter

**Weekly Update January 22, 2021**

### **2nd Semester Schedules – Check for Accuracy**

Please check to make sure that your 2nd semester schedule is accurate. The 1st semester will be ending on January 29th and the first day of the 2nd semester will begin on February 2nd. It is important that you check your 2nd semester schedule to make sure that it is correct. To see your 2nd semester courses: -Go to your SIS Gateway on your district portal. -Click on CLASS SCHEDULE on the left side of the screen. -Click on SEMESTER 2 in the middle of the screen. If there are corrections that need to be made, please fill out the [Schedule Change Request form](#)



### **Common Application Midyear Reports**

Seniors, if you applied to colleges or universities through The Common Application, please be aware that your school counselor will submit any required midyear reports and transcripts with first semester grades to The Common Application as soon as possible when these grades become available on SIS after the first semester ends on January 29th. We have already notified colleges within our School Profile on The Common Application that the start of our school year was delayed due to Covid, and that our first semester ends on January 29th with midyear grades available sometime after February 1, 2021.



## **UCF's SPARK Form Mid-Year Update**

Once midyear grades are available, seniors who have applied to UCF will need to update their SPARK Form. To assist in submitting these grades, SPARK Forms have been unlocked through Friday, February 5, 2021. Applicants should [log into their SPARK Form](#) account with a copy of the most current high school transcript handy. From there, proceed to check the accuracy of your previously-submitted courses. If your schedule changed since you initially submitted your SPARK Form, make the appropriate update. Indicate your grades for courses where semester grades have been issued. If your school ranks, and the rank/size has changed or was not initially provided, please update that information on the school information tab. [A list of FAQs](#) is available to assist you in this process. If you have questions regarding this mid-year update, please contact [ucfsparkhelp@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfsparkhelp@ucf.edu).



## **FSU's CARE Application Deadline Extended**

The Florida State University [Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement \(CARE\)](#) provides preparation, orientation, and academic support for students who are among the first in their family to attend college and may face unique challenges in college because of educational or economic circumstances. They have decided to extend their CARE Summer Bridge Program application deadline to March 1. Interested students can apply to CARE now at [care.fsu.edu/apply](https://care.fsu.edu/apply). If you have already submitted your FSU application and now want to apply to CARE, please contact their office so they can add the CARE supplemental application to your Application Status Check.



## Palm Beach State College

Palm Beach State College is excited to provide you with various opportunities to engage students through the admissions process. We have multiple events that students are welcomed to take advantage of, virtually, now through May.

- **SENIOR Night** - An event focused on supporting high school seniors as they begin the transition process to college. We discuss PBSC programs and the opportunity to complete the admissions application on the spot. After each session, students will have a chance to win a **\$500 scholarship** to help with tuition and books at PBSC.

Students can register here:

<https://palmbeachstate.campuslabs.com/engage/events?query=senior%20night>

- **Parent Night** - PBSC created a workshop for parents of dual enrollment and incoming freshmen to understand the process of admissions and answering any questions that parents have along with information on financial aid and more.

Parents can register here:

<https://palmbeachstate.campuslabs.com/engage/events?query=parent%20night>

- **Dual Enrollment** - The Dual Enrollment Office will host monthly virtual sessions for students and parents that are in the dual enrollment or early admissions program. The presentation will include an overview of the program requirements and deadlines for the upcoming term. The event will count as the student's dual enrollment orientation if attended.

Students can register here:

<https://palmbeachstate.campuslabs.com/engage/events?query=Dual%20enrollment>

- **Admissions & Application Session** -

Students can register here:

<https://palmbeachstate.campuslabs.com/engage/events?query=admissions>

## **Big Future Days**

College Board is hosting virtual events for high school students to connect directly with college admissions representatives and take action on the most important steps for college. Students will be able to explore colleges, participate in live Q&As and online chats with admissions representatives and current students, download college planning resources, and drop in with questions for a college adviser. You can register for any event and more than one. You can attend all or parts of the event. Click the events below to learn more about the colleges and states included in that region.

[BigFuture Days West](#): Southwest: Saturday, February 6, 4:00–8:00 PM

[BigFuture Days Southeast](#): Tuesday, February 23, 5:00–9:00 PM

[BigFuture Days Northeast](#): Sunday, March 7, 4:00–8:00 PM

[BigFuture Days Midwest](#): Thursday, March 11, 5:00–9:00 PM



## **Fall Dual Enrollment Book Return**

Please return all Fall 2020 dual enrollment books to Booksmart in return for a receipt. Forward a copy of the receipt to Ms. FanFan @ [Darnley.FanFan@pbcharterschools.org](mailto:Darnley.FanFan@pbcharterschools.org) so you may be removed from the obligation list. Remember, all obligations need to be met prior to graduation!

**Dual  
Enrollment**

# FAFSA and College Application/Information Assistance

## JUNIORS (hosted by Cindy)

**When: Jan 12, 2021 04:00 PM**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://palmbeachstate.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Future dates:**

**Jan.28, Feb.9, Feb.23**

## SENIORS (hosted by Lucil)

**When: Jan 14, 2021 4:00 PM**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://palmbeachstate.zoom.us/j/12345678901>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Future dates:**

**Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25**

## Palm Beach State College TRiO Program

Palm Beach State College TRiO Program The TRiO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Education and is sponsored by Palm Beach State College. The mission of the TRiO is to help students of all backgrounds enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. TRiO programs help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education. There are several ways that South Tech students can take advantage of this resource. You can [complete an application](#) to receive services, [book a one-on-one appointment](#) with an advisor, or attend the next [FAFSA Night on January 25th at 6 pm](#). For questions or more information about their services, you can contact the South Region EOC at 561-815-3020 or [tragerc@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:tragerc@palmbeachstate.edu).



## All-In on HBCU's Event & Virtual Meeting LINK Calendar

### #ALLINONHBCUs

The School District of Palm Beach County is collaborating with districts around the state on the implementation of a college access event highlighting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). All-In on HBCUs is a two-week initiative with participation from 34 HBCUs from across the country. This event will connect Florida students and families of all grade levels with information about the outstanding post-secondary opportunities available at HBCUs. All-In on HBCUs will kick-off Tuesday, January 19 at 3 p.m. with an exciting and interactive virtual program celebrating HBCUs. Each day, representatives from participating institutions will be available for one-hour information sessions. Links for all sessions are available on [www.palmbeachschools.org/HBCU](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/HBCU).

All sessions are virtual, free, and open to anyone who is interested in learning more about HBCUs. Links for all sessions are available on the [district's website](#).

South Tech students who attend sessions through the All-In on HBCUs event can earn community service hours by completing this [Google Form](#).



### **South Tech Academy Scholarship Bulletin #11**

The most recent [South Tech Academy Scholarship Bulletin](#) is now available. This is a great way to find opportunities to fund your college education!

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



VolunteerMatch

## 11th Annual Alcohol Prevention Media Contest

**"Unmask Your Potential Alcohol  
Free. Unmask Your Potential  
Vape Free."**

**Due by: January 31, 2021**

This contest is open to all Palm Beach  
County students grades K to 12.

**Earn community service hours!  
Students can earn community service  
hours.**

Posters: 2 hours earned for each poster  
submitted (max 10 hours per student)

Video PSA: 5 hours earned for each  
video submitted (max 10 hours per  
student)

All entries must include an entry form  
([bit.ly/BusPosterEntryForm](http://bit.ly/BusPosterEntryForm))

## Virtual Community Service Opportunities

Search for virtual Community Service  
opportunities here:

<https://www.volunteermatch.org/virtual-volunteering> - Be sure to submit the  
Community Service hours log to your  
School Counselor or Ms. FanFan, and  
keep a copy for your records.

## Community Service Opportunity: Historically Black Colleges & Universities

ALL IN ON HBCUs

January 19th - January 28th  
34 Historically Black Colleges and  
Universities (HBCU) presenting 1-hour  
sessions

1 HBCU Session Attendance = 1  
Community Service Hour

[Earn up to 10 Community Service Hours](#)



## Volunteers Needed

Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce  
ArtiGras Fine Arts Festival 2021 . [It all  
starts here!](#)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 19-28 HBCU College Fair  
February 4 - PBSC application assistance  
February 6 - ACT Test  
February 12 - SAT Registration Deadline  
February 19 - Herff Jones on campus  
March 12 - Herff Jones on campus

### **Mental Health Tip**

[Ten Things You Can Do for Your  
Mental Health](#)

### **Featured Article**

[College Board is Scrapping SAT's  
Optional Essay and Subject Test](#)

### **Featured Career**

#### **Court Reporter**

##### **Quick Facts**

2019 Median Pay:\$60,130 per year or  
\$28.91 per hour

Typical Entry-Level Education:

Postsecondary nondegree award Work

Experience in a Related Occupation:

None On-the-job Training: Short-term  
on-the-job training

## Meet your School Counselors!



### **Your School Counselor is Available to Help**

Your school counselor is here to help! We are available by email to answer any questions or concerns you have. Feel free to reach out to us at any time! We also have a ton of information posted on our School Counseling Google Classroom.

#### **School Counselors (by student's last name)**

[Christina Merrigan:](#) A - E 561-364-7933

[Jennifer Franco:](#) F - M 561-369-7008

[Brian Nugent:](#) N - Z 561-369-7055

### **Featured Post-Secondary Institution**

**McFatter Technical College**

**Davie, FL**

[Mcfattertechnicalcollege.edu](#)

Students are accepted on a non-discriminatory basis from anyone having the interest, ability, and desire to benefit from an occupational training program. Notable Programs: Fire Science and Fire Fighting, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT Paramedic), and Game Design and Interactive Media.