NEWS FROM GUIDANCE:
Welcome back for your Senior year! I'm very excited to join Pine Forest HHS as your class of 2015 counselor.

It's very important for you to stay on track in your classes, because one class or one grade could mean the difference in whether or not you will graduate or meet eligibility, admissions, or scholarship requirements.

Please see me if you have ANY questions or concerns, or just to introduce yourself. Make it a great year!

Mrs. Kimberl - 941-6150 x234
Kkimberl@escambia.k12.fl.us

2015 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
You are ultimately the one responsible for meeting ALL of the following requirements for graduation.
**24 Credits required to graduate**
4 cr. English
4 cr. Math (to include Algebra I & Geometry)
3 cr. Science (w/ Biology, 2 with labs)
3 cr. Social Science (World History, US History, Economics, Government)
1 cr. Fine/Practical Art
1 cr. PE
½ cr. Personal Fitness
7½ cr Electives*
*1 class online (new for 2015 will be covered by Econ)

2.0 GPA
Pass the FCAT Reading level 3 (or 19 on Reading Section of ACT or 430 on Verbal Section of SAT)
Pass Algebra I EOC w/ 75

Attention Athletes
If you planning to play college sports you will need to register online with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
Go to www.ncaaineligibilitycenter.org to learn about the initial eligibility requirements for Division I and Division II colleges.

SCHOLARSHIPS
It's never too early to start considering eligibility for scholarships...you can google thousands of them (just be cautious of those asking for money- all scholarship information is free!) Also, contact the financial aid offices of the colleges you are interested in and check their websites.

Bright Futures Scholarship & GPA
I know many of you are hoping to earn a BF scholarship. Remember...they do NOT count your cumulative high school GPA! To find out what your "Bright Futures GPA" is, go to www.facts.org and click on high school academic evaluation. To find out more information about the Bright Futures program and the new requirements that affect the 2015 graduating class, go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org or call them toll free at 1-888-827-2004. Other scholarship and grant information is also available on this website. Applications cannot be submitted until after December 2014.

ACT/SAT REGISTRATION
If you are planning to go to college, hoping to get a scholarship, or looking for an alternative to the FCAT requirement, then you need to take one or both of these tests ASAP! Information is available in the guidance office. These tests can be taken as many times as you want.
*Contact your college(s) of interest or check their website to see if they require the Writing section.
*If you are on free/reduced lunch, see Mrs. Kimberl for a fee waiver. 2 per eligible student per test.
Register online:
ACT: www.actstudent.org
SAT: www.sat.org

Additional Credits and Credit Recovery
You can enroll for Community Night School, Pensacola State College, or Escambia Virtual Academy for credits needed towards graduation. Please listen for important announcements and see Mrs. Kimberl for the required paperwork.

Websites for Fin. Aid, College/ Career Exp./ FCAT
- Scholarship and financial aid information: www.fastweb.com
- Bright Futures and other scholarship information: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
- Free application for Federal Student Aid: www.fafsa.gov (All college bound students need to complete this application after December)
- Financial aid, grants, loans, scholarships, educational planning: www.finaid.org
- Career, Interest, Education, and College exploration: www.fchoicest.org
- FCAT preparation: www.fcatrexplorer.com

PLAN For the Future
Diploma Designations

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements a student must:
- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2
- Earn 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology EOC
- Earn 1 credit in chemistry or physics
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics
- Pass the U.S. History EOC
- Earn 2 credits in the same world language
- Earn at least 1 credit in Advanced Placement (AP), IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

For more information on local public school district graduation programs, please contact the school counselor. The Florida Department of Education provides additional resources on the Graduation Requirements webpage at www.fldoe.org/highschool/grad-require.asp.

Postsecondary Options

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements:
- High school graduation with a standard diploma
- Admission test scores
- 18 credits of college preparatory academic courses
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Sciences
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)
- 2 approved electives

www.fldoe.org/forstudents/planning

The Florida College System

Includes 28 state colleges. These institutions offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted to an associate degree program.

www.fldoe.org/cs

Financial Aid

The Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/

Bright Futures

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida.

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/brightfutures