



# PICKENS HIGH SCHOOL

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Class of 2023 Students and Families,

This past Wednesday, 10/12/2022, we had a number of informational activities that took place during 12<sup>th</sup> grade advisement. To ensure that all seniors and families have access to the information shared on 10/12, we ask that you all please take the time to review the following information that is available on the PHS Counseling Website ( <https://pickenshigh.pickens.k12.ga.us/counseling/> ) to ensure that you are all up to date on the latest information regarding scholarships and post-secondary planning:

- 1) Download and review the **Senior Information Packet** - contains useful information and resources for you and your family regarding your senior year and post-secondary planning.
- 2) Complete the **Senior Information Sheet** - download a copy of this document, fill it out, and save a copy for yourself. You can fill out this form or use it to help you build a resume as you will need one or the other to hand out to those who you might ask to write a recommendation letter for you in the future.
- 3) Download and view the **Senior Presentation** - make sure to follow the directions on how to properly download this item so you can access the audio that has been recorded for each slide.
- 4) **Requesting Transcripts** – please send all transcript requests to [phstranscripts@pickenscountyschools.org](mailto:phstranscripts@pickenscountyschools.org) and the counseling secretary will take care of those for you. Directions for transcript requests are on the PHS Counseling webpage.
- 5) **Scholarships** - ALL local scholarships are listed on the PHS Counseling webpage. It is your responsibility to search these scholarship opportunities and apply for the ones that you feel you might qualify for. We encourage you to check the counseling webpage on a weekly basis to keep up with any new scholarship opportunities that you feel you might want to apply to.
- 6) **School Email** – please check your school email on a daily basis. This is where you will receive information about all things related to graduation, senior pictures, yearbooks, gap & gown orders, etc.
- 7) **Cap & Gown Orders** – Jostens came to PHS on 10/19/22 and meet with the senior class as a whole to discuss cap & gown orders. Included in this package is a copy of the cap & gown flyer that all seniors were given on 10/19. More information regarding cap & gown orders are on the PHS Counseling webpage. Please know that all cap & gown orders for the PHS Graduation ceremony that will take place in May of 2023 must be purchased through Jostens. We encourage all students and their families to make this purchase by November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The cap & gown orders will be at PHS for seniors to pick-up in March of 2023.

8) **Applying to College** – If you plan on attending a post-secondary institution after you graduate from PHS, then please begin completing your college applications to the schools that you are hoping to get into. Each post-secondary school has its own set of requirements and deadlines for admission. It has never been easier to apply to college than it is right now. You simply will need to visit the “admissions” webpage for the college you wish to apply to and look for an “apply or apply now” link. Every college has an admissions webpage that gives clear directions on how to apply to their school and will list what documents you will need to submit to apply there. These documents often are a copy of your high school transcript, copy of your transcript to any other college you may have taken dual enrollment classes at, a copy of your SAT and/or ACT scores, essays, recommendation letters, and/or verification of lawful presence document. Many colleges will require you to pay an application fee; however, please know that November is “Apply to College Month” and many colleges in the state of Georgia are waiving their application fees that month. Check your college of choice’s website for more information on this.

9) **FAFSA** – After you complete your college application(s), then you and your parents/guardians will need to make some time to complete the FAFSA. This is the first time in your financial aid process. Visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) to begin your FAFSA application today.

10) **GA Futures Account and GSFAPP** – Please ensure that you can access your GA Futures account. This is where you will track your HOPE GPA (different than your high school GPA) and complete the Georgia Student Finance Application (GSFAPP) online. The GSFAPP is the application used to apply for the HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships/grants. Please make sure to also submit your SAT and/or ACT scores to GA Futures as this is one of many requirements to potentially qualify for HOPE/Zell Miller.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to reach out to your school counselor and we will assist you as soon as we can. We are very excited for each and every one of you!

With Lots of Hope, Dragon Pride, and Well Wishes,

The PHS Counseling Team