

Back to School News September 2021



Pinellas Education
Foundation



Welcome Back to School Take Stock in Children Scholars!

We are excited to begin this school year with you and want to let you know we will be providing everything we can to support you including encouragement from our great volunteer mentors, college success coaching from the Take Stock in Children staff and an invitation to participate in some informative virtual workshops. Your coaching and mentor meetings will be in-person if possible with additional options for virtual meetings. More information will be coming from your school counselor and community liaisons. For now, please look over the important requirements listed below to keep your scholarship in good standing. We are looking forward to a successful semester with you! Please review the

➡ **Leaders 4 Life Scholarship** on the TSIC State website: <https://www.takestockinchildren.org/leaders-4-life>.



HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL AS A TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN SCHOLAR:

- ☀ Complete your annual thank you letter by October 15 online by clicking scrolling to the link at www.takestockinchildren.org
- ☀ Maintain a "C" or better in all classes
- ☀ Meet with your mentor as scheduled and communicate with school staff if you cannot keep your meeting time
- ☀ Communicate with your TSIC coach as scheduled and if you have any questions we can answer
- ☀ Keep absenteeism to less than seven unexcused absences per quarter and have no out of school or less than 5 in-school suspensions
- ☀ Participate in TSIC events and workshops, as scheduled

Now Accepting Applications!

We are accepting new applications for the Take Stock in Children program from September 1-December 17. If you have siblings, family, or friends in grades 6—9 that meet the requirements of the program, please have them apply **HERE!**

HELPFUL TIPS AND RESOURCES

- Explore your PCS Clever account and all it has to offer <https://www.pcsb.org/clever>
- KHAN Academy & SAT Test Prep <https://www.khanacademy.org>
- College Board <https://www.collegeboard.org>
- Join school clubs and get into leadership roles
- Ask your school counselor about tutoring services
- Use the Student Success Roadmap below to stay on track

School Assignments by Take Stock in Children College Success Coach 2021-2022

Peggy	Brittany	Bethany	Jodie	TBD
MIDDLE SCHOOLS				
James B. Sanderlin K-8 Lealman Innovation Academy Madeira Beach Fundamental Meadowlawn Middle Oak Grove Middle Osceola Middle Seminole Middle	Azalea Middle Clearwater Fundamental Dunedin Highland Middle	Academie da Vinci Carwise Middle Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy East Lake Middle Palm Harbor Middle Tarpon Middle	Clearwater Intermediate Morgan Fitzgerald Middle Largo Middle Pinellas Preparatory Middle Safety Harbor Middle	Alfred Adler Academy Bay Point Middle Disston Academy John Hopkins Middle Pinellas Park Middle Thurgood Marshall Middle Tyrone Middle
HIGH SCHOOLS				
Boca Ciega High Northeast High Seminole High	Dunedin High Lakewood High St. Pete Collegiate North	Countryside High East Lake High Palm Harbor University High St. Pete Collegiate South Tarpon Springs High	Hollins High Largo High Osceola Fundamental High Pinellas Park High Clearwater High	Gibbs High NorthStar Academy Richard O Jacobson Tech High at Seminole St. Petersburg High
ELEMENTARY/COLLEGE/OTHER SCHOOLS				
Pinellas Virtual Full-time St. Petersburg College – Early College/Early Admissions	Florida Cyber Charter Academy Florida Virtual Full-time	Tarpon Elementary Tarpon Fundamental Elementary (application support)	74th Street Elementary (application support)	

Kimberly Landry – Director

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Jodie Snyder – College Success Coach

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Bethany Blais – College Success Coach

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pcs.blaisb@pcsb.org

(727) 588-4816, x. 2108

Peggy Ramsberger, College Success Coach

peggy.ramsberger@pinellaseducation.org

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(727) 588-4816, x. 2126

Brittany McDonald, College Success Coach (and 21st Century Learning Advisor)

Mcdonaldb@pcsb.org

(727) 588-6000, x. 6287

New Coach TBD

TSIC Email

PCS Email

Phone

Dee Mortellaro, Mentor Manager

Dee.mortellaro@pinellaseducation.org

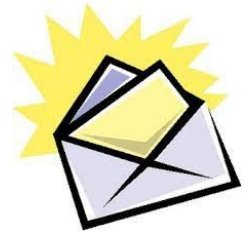
pcs.mortellarod@pcsb.org

(727) 588-4816, x. 2102



2021-2022 Annual Update and Thank You Letter

This link is on our website, www.pinellaseducation.org/tsic. Scroll down to the section for Middle and High School students and click the box for Sponsor Letter. The letter is due by **October 15, 2021**.



2021-2022 Take Stock in Children Coaching

TSIC scholars will meet with their TSIC coach once a semester if they are in grade 6-10 and once each quarter in grades 11 and 12 to explore college and career readiness. The TSIC coach is employed by the Pinellas Education Foundation or Pinellas County Schools and is not the same as a volunteer mentor. Additional academic coaching sessions may be required depending on student grades, behavior and attendance.

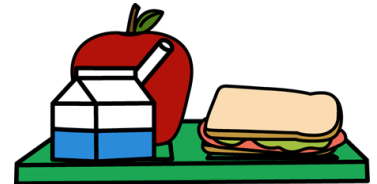


2021-2022 Take Stock in Children Mentoring

In-School – 2 Per Month Required (15 Meetings Minimum)

Fifteen (15) individual mentoring sessions should be coordinated and completed through the school liaison with an individual mentor or in small groups. There are 4 ways to participate:

1. Face-to-Face over lunch break with individual mentor
2. Zoom/Teams (coordinated and facilitated by liaison over lunch)
3. Use the TSIC Chat App on a phone or computer, www.takestockinchildren.org
4. Live or recorded Career Conversations (look for posted events in Teams, credit will only be given for three of these per year) Link to recorded Career Conversations: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/16143>



Supplemental Group Mentoring Sessions on Mondays

This is for students who don't have a mentor yet and students who need to catch up on their required two sessions each month. ***If the student is on track with two mentoring sessions each month, attendance is optional.***



Group mentoring – Mondays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Students must register to get meeting link, and cameras must be on for credit. Link to register: <https://calendly.com/tsic/group-mentoring-all-students>

For mentoring questions, please contact Dee Mortellaro, dee.mortellaro@pinellaseducation.org, office phone: (727) 588-4816 x, 2102, text only (727) 619-4333.



My College Success Coach is _____

Contact Phone: (____)-_____ Email: _____

1st Quarter

- Maintain “Active” status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 1st Quarter.
Circle your current Status: ACTIVE WARNING PROBATION 1 PROBATION 2
- What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q1? Date: _____
- Attend FAFSA, Financial Aid workshop. To apply for FAFSA financial aid, for the 2022-2023 year, you can apply between **October 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023** www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa
- Begin your **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). All students need to complete the **2022-2023 FAFSA**.

The FAFSA application: for students entering college for the 2022-2023 school year, your parents 2020 income tax records are needed. When attending college, the FAFSA needs to be filed for EACH year attending college.

Create a GPA goal to reach for each semester and review your 4 year final cumulative.

12th Grade GPA Goal Semester 1: _____ 12th Grade GPA Goal Semester 2: _____

4 Year Cum Goal: _____

- Remember your community service hours. **100** hours are currently needed for the Bright Futures Academic Scholarship & **75** are needed for the Medallion Scholarship. **Service hours earned to date:** _____
- You can review all Bright Futures requirements at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

- Stay involved in at least **one** school club this year. **What Club?** _____
- What are your top three choices for college:
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Early Decision deadlines are often October 1st. Complete all Early Decision applications first!

- Explore their application process. Look at their applications, essay/biographical requirements, average GPA, exam requirements, recommendation requirements, etc.
- Check out the virtual tours at websites of any colleges you are interested in attending.
- Log-in with them as this will get them to mail or email you additional information.
- If you feel very strongly about 1 or 2 schools, consider applying for early admission. These deadlines often close on or before November 1st. Check with that particular college for the dates.
- Be sure to have your scores sent to every school you may want to attend. Your scores will be updated every time you retake an exam, and this will get you on their mailing list

Create a GPA goal to reach for this year and review your 4 year final cumulative.

- **12th Grade GPA Goal:** _____ **4 year Cum Goal:** _____
 - *Are you on track with the GPA requirements for your top 3 schools?*
 -
- Read your “**Post-Graduation Goal Setting**” worksheet from your freshman year. Is it still in-line with your plans?
- Register for either the SAT or ACT to retake **before December** of this year. If you can, retake them BOTH.
- sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html
- **What dates will you take the test:** SAT: _____ ACT: _____
 - *Remember: focus on the test in which you already scored better to achieve your admission goals.*

- Attend a College Application and Essay Writing Workshop. (This may be one type of several workshops for college readiness during your Junior/Senior year, named “Writing for Success”, etc.)
- **Date:** _____ **Location:** _____
- Use a **Scholarship Planner** to apply to and keep track of scholarships throughout your senior year.
- Find **2 more scholarships** to add to your Scholarship Planner. *Find scholarships using your guidance counselor & this website:* bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarships-grants
- Don’t forget about: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html> & sat.collegeboard.org/practice/ for free practice questions, tips, study guides, and tests for the ACT and SAT.
- Which colleges/universities/technical schools have you applied for?
- **Schools:** _____
- Are you still in the process of completing applications for any college/universities/technical schools?
- **Schools:** _____
- Begin developing outlines and rough drafts for your college and scholarship essays. When first drafts are completed, ask for feedback from your mentor, teachers and others.
- Consider who you will need to ask for recommendations. Colleges may want specific people to do this. Give those people plenty of advance notice and have forms or website information available for him/her when you ask. Be sure to thank him/her later.
- Don’t forget to have senior pictures taken. Even if you choose not to purchase a package, check with your school’s yearbook advisor about having a photo made for the yearbook and for other senior recognition opportunities (such as, Take Stock in Children).





Apply for admission to the colleges you have chosen. Be sure to do the following:

Complete your essays and attach them to your application. Be sure to keep copies.

Check the college website for scholarships that apply to incoming freshman. Note the deadline for these scholarships, as they can be early. Apply as directed.

Check on your recommendation letters. Keep any copies that are given to you, or documentation that indicates they were done on-line.

Have your transcripts sent to the colleges where you have applied. Your application is not complete until they have received them.

Wait one or two weeks, and then check with the admissions office where you have applied to confirm that they have received your application and all supporting documentation.

Check with your guidance counselor to find out when your local scholarships packet will be available.

• **2nd Quarter**

Maintain “Active” status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 2nd Quarter.

Circle your current Status: ACTIVE WARNING PROBATION 1 PROBATION 2

- **What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q2? Date: _____**
- Have **ALL** of your college applications completed by November!
- *Remember: Schools can accept you without all requirements being met with a final decision made at the end of year.*
- **Attend the Mandatory FAFSA & Financial Aid Workshop.**
- **Date: _____ Location: _____**
- ***You will complete important paperwork for activating your scholarship at this workshop. DO NOT MISS IT!***
- After December 1st: apply for the **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship**. This application will also apply you to other local scholarships. **It is best to complete it before you graduate.** The absolute final deadline is August 31st the year you graduate high school.

- Look for a way to volunteer and earn service hours during the winter holiday.
- **How?** _____

Update your high school resume with awards/achievements, paid or volunteer work, extracurricular activities, classes taken, fluent language(s), and technical skills from 1st semester.

3rd Quarter

Maintain “Active” status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 3rd Quarter.

Circle your current Status: ACTIVE WARNING PROBATION 1 PROBATION 2

Did you reach your 1st semester GPA goal? ____ Yes ____ No

What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q3? Date: _____

- Gather tax forms and any other necessary documents.
- Complete the FAFSA form as soon after October 1 as possible. Some scholarship money is dependent on FAFSA being completed and is given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, be sure to print a copy of everything.
- Check your email daily for financial aid and scholarship deadlines and any additional information that may be required. Colleges often require additional documentation of income called a verification worksheet. Make sure you fill out any forms asked for in a timely manner. If you have any concerns or questions, contact the financial aid office at the college.
- State FAFSA deadlines are usually in May of the summer after high school graduation
- Federal FAFSA deadlines are usually in June of the summer after high school graduation
- If you plan on attending a summer session you must also complete the **2021-2022 FAFSA**
- Attend the FAFSA Walkthrough Workshop. *(programs should have this workshop prior to October 1, a follow-up for the previous FAFSA-Financial Aid workshop, OPTIONAL for local programs)*

Date: _____ **Location:** _____

- Notify the colleges and universities that have accepted you of your plans.
- “Yes, I will attend” or “No I have decided to attend another institution.”

- Check on housing deadlines and apply for your choice of housing. You will need to send a deposit for your housing.
- Spring break is another great opportunity to earn more service hours! Where?

- **4th Quarter**
- Maintain “Active” status according to the Take Stock requirements for the 4th Quarter.

Circle your current Status: ACTIVE WARNING PROBATION 1 PROBATION 2

- What date did/will you meet with your College Success Coach in Q4? Date: _____
- Are you on track to reach your 2nd semester GPA goal? ____ Yes ____ No
- Attend the **Take Stock in Children Graduation Ceremony!**
- Date: _____ Location: _____
- Complete a “**Short Term Study Plan**” (local program OPTIONAL)

Mandatory Senior College Prep Workshop (Usually in 4th QTR)

Date: _____ Location: _____

The final documents for your scholarship activation are given at this event. **DO NOT MISS IT!*

- If you are under the required scores for remedial classes, take the PERT again this summer. Do **everything** you can to reach college ready level before classes in August.
- Register online for the Take Stock in Children Alumni Alliance. <http://www.takestockinchildren.org/alumni/>
- Update your high school resume with awards/achievements, paid or volunteer work, extracurricular activities, classes taken, fluent language(s), and technical skills from your 12th grade school year.
- Don't forget to sign up for an orientation session at your college. There is a charge for these and some require an overnight stay. The earlier you go to orientation, the better class selection you will have.

- Your College Success Coach will have you fill out an Annual Florida Prepaid Student Information form. This form will need to be updated on-line each year in order for your tuition to be paid by Florida Prepaid. ***Florida Prepaid tuition account is your Take Stock scholarship!***
- No senioritis! Be diligent in keeping up with deadlines for any paperwork the college requires. Keep working hard so that your final transcript will be acceptable to your college.
- Look over the meal plans offered by your college and discuss them with your parents.
- Keep your Florida Prepaid account information in a safe place! You should show it to the cashier when you pay for your tuition. Have your high school send your final transcript to the college you will be attending. If you took Dual Enrollment classes you need to also request a copy of your college transcript sent to the College. The College will expect **YOU** to be responsible for your finances and education.
- Attend your local programs TSIC graduation ceremony!

Congratulations!
You've made it!

Don't forget to thank people who helped you along the way!