

## 2017-2018 Sophomore Year Checklist

Below are the requirements needed for high school graduation. Please note that colleges and universities may have additional academic requirements including two years of the same foreign language

Throughout your Sophomore year:

\_\_\_ Earn good grades. Your GPA (Grade Point Average) and HPA (Honors Point Average) are cumulative; they include all high school level courses taken and dual enrollment. This is important for graduation, awards, scholarships, college entrance, vocational school entrance, military recruiting, etc. It is important that you are organized and develop good study and planning skills. Keep track of assignments, due dates, and other important information. **Utilize the planner we give you!!! What you do now will affect you later!**

Keep motivating yourself and moving forward. If you failed anything last year see guidance to set you up on an on-line credit recovery program to make up anything missed- do not wait for senior year to do this.

\_\_\_ Start thinking about possible careers by checking out [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org) and/or [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org)

\_\_\_ Continue to take challenging, rigorous courses with a focus on your post-secondary plans (university, community college, vocational program, military, work force). Universities are looking for students with high honor point averages, high SAT and/or Act scores in academic classes. Academic credits are in English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language.

In addition to working hard in school and being involved in a variety of activities, try to identify your abilities, interests, and aptitudes. Also look for opportunities to further develop your skills and talents.

\_\_\_ Begin building a resume of school/community activities, awards, honors, and work experience. This will be helpful for you when you need letters of recommendation.

\_\_\_ This is the year you will take the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA assessment. You will have opportunities throughout your junior and senior year to test if you do not earn a passing score. Concordant scores for the reading ACT/SAT will serve as a backup to this graduation requirement.

\_\_\_ The PSAT is offered in October of your sophomore year. National Merit Scholarships based on PSAT scores can only be earned when the test is taken as a junior. The results will be correlated to the score that you would most likely receive on the SAT.

\_\_\_ Start (or continue) performing community service hours to apply towards the 20 hour requirement for high school graduation. Students are encouraged to perform more than 20 hours for college acceptance and also for scholarships that may have a community

service requirement. Community service logs are available in the front office, on [gstarschool.org](http://gstarschool.org), and at the guidance office.

\_\_ Start researching college choices based on location, price, majors offered, etc. This can be done on the internet, by phone, or in person. Also, plan visits to perspective colleges. Contact the college about open house dates; it's highly encouraged you go to open houses!

\_\_ Scholarship search websites can be found at [Gstarschool.org](http://Gstarschool.org) under academics to the guidance department page.

\_\_ Explore the Florida Department of Education's financial aid website. This site gives students a preview of state grants, scholarships, and loans (including Bright Futures Scholarship Program) available for post-secondary education. The website is [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org). Research now, but apply after December 1 of senior year.

- Florida Academic requires 100 community service hours, 3.5 academic GPA (based off 18 academic classes), 1290 SAT or 29 ACT (Test scores do not count the writing section).

- Florida Medallion requires 75 community service hours, 3.0 academic GPA (based off 18 academic classes), 1170 SAT or 26 ACT (Test scores do not count the writing section).

\_\_ Please check G-Star's website under Guidance Department for information and updates.