

John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School Senior Information

CLASS OF 2020

BOBBIE LOU SHIPMAN, HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

DFA High School Counseling Department

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Bobbie Lou Shipman

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Mrs. Cindy Hoops

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Senior Meetings with Mrs. Shipman

I schedule a 30-minute meeting with each senior. There are 98 seniors in the class of 2020, so that means 49 hours of meetings must be scheduled. My goals for each meeting are to help prepare students by doing the following:

- ❖ Get a list of colleges to which the student will apply and the deadlines for each application.
- ❖ Find out the college major(s) and career goals of the student.
- ❖ Review the Letter of Recommendation Information form and clarify any questions I have about the information. I use this information to write your recommendation letters!
- ❖ Verify the student has completed the Bridge Law requirements for 11th and 12th grade.
- ❖ Verify student has updated his/her GA Futures account and is familiar with the information that is available and useful on the GA Futures website.
- ❖ Answer questions about the college application process and scholarship process.

Because meeting my goals depend on the preparation of the student for the meeting, students will not be scheduled for senior meetings until I have received the Letter of Recommendation Information form submitted electronically to my email. Students who are applying Early Decision/Early Action will be given priority to schedule senior meetings.

Senior Task #1

Create a professional/academic email account.

Example: [YourName@gmail.com](#)

- ❖ Colleges, universities, and scholarship committees are not impressed with “cute” email addresses, and you want to make the best possible impression. Use this email address for all academic and professional correspondence.
- ❖ Your name is typically unique.
- ❖ Using your name makes your email easily identifiable and searchable.
- ❖ Gmail accounts are not usually blocked by spam filters (as Yahoo accounts often are).
- ❖ Gmail accounts are free and give you access to Google drive/documents/cloud.

Senior Task #2

Create a College/Scholarship folder and dedicated thumb drive. Use this folder and thumb drive to organize all of your college and scholarship application information. Items to include:

- ❖ DFA high school transcript and HOPE GPA
- ❖ Calendar with important dates and deadlines highlighted
- ❖ ACT and SAT score reports
- ❖ Copy of academic resume and essays for college and scholarship applications
- ❖ Names and contact information of all people from whom you request recommendations
- ❖ Copies of completed college and scholarship applications (include date application was submitted)

Senior Task #3

Create a GAFutures account if you don't already have one. Do not create duplicate GAFutures accounts! Check with me to see if you already have an account before you create a new account.

Go to www.GAFutures.org and click on Create Account tab. Use your academic/professional email as your email for the account. The recommended user name would be the first five letters of your last name and first two letters of your first name (ex. ShipmBo). If you already have an account, please update your email on the account to your academic/professional email.

- ❖ Explore various colleges and access college applications.
- ❖ Explore career options and discover what suits you best.
- ❖ Request your transcript be sent to a college.
- ❖ Search for scholarships.
- ❖ Access your HOPE GPA and courses taken.

Senior task #4

Update your GCIS (Georgia Career Information System) account. This site is accessed through your student portal in IC.

- ❖ Update your personal information. Be sure to update your email address to your new academic email account per *Senior Task #1*.
- ❖ Complete the 12th-grade Bridge activity. You also need to complete the 11th-grade Bridge activity if you have not already done so.
- ❖ Go to *Resume Builder* and create an academic resume to use for college and scholarship applications. You may also find a resume template online if you prefer. There are many from which to choose. Your academic resume should include all academic and arts awards as well as any service learning activities and any other activities (including sports) in which you participate. This will also be useful to share with teachers or others from whom you request a letter of recommendation. Save a copy and email to Mrs. Shipman.

Senior task #5

Make sure all of your social media accounts and activity are appropriate. Remember that everything put into cyberspace lasts forever. Please don't let a post ruin your future!

- ❖ Colleges make a habit of viewing potential students' social media accounts.
- ❖ Scholarship committees also view social media accounts.

Senior task #6

Complete the Letter of Recommendation Information form (which I will send out to all seniors through email). I will also post a copy on the Seniors-Class of 2020 webpage. Complete the form, save it as a Word document with your Lastname_Firstname, and email your completed form to Mrs. Shipman as a Word Document attachment (not as a PDF because I will take notes on your form during our 30-minute senior meeting). As soon as you have completed this final task, you may schedule your senior meeting using the QR code link to my calendar. During the meeting, I will interview you to get more information about your goals, etc., so that I may write a personalized recommendation for you which I will submit to colleges. Save a copy of your form to your dedicated thumb drive so that you may send it to other recommenders. This form is similar to the academic resume, but you have more of an opportunity to tell what accomplishments have been most important to you and why. You get to describe yourself so that the reader/recommender learns more about what is important to you, about your personality traits, and about your future goals and dreams.



State of Georgia Fine Arts Diploma Seal

Students eligible to receive the Fine Arts Diploma Seal must complete a total of four credits.

- ❖ Three out of the four credits must be in the same Fine Arts Pathway.
- ❖ The fourth credit can be in a Creative Skills CTAE course, another Fine Arts course, or the same Fine Arts Pathway course.

Students eligible are required to participate in two Arts Related Extracurricular Activities.

- ❖ Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Chorus, Show Choir, Art Club, Drama Club, Drama Production, Orchestra, Yearbook Club, etc...

Students eligible must complete twenty hours of Arts Related Community Service.

- ❖ Volunteer at a Parent Night, *Arts in the Heart Festival*, *Westobou Festival*, or any community arts activity.

Students eligible must complete a Fine Arts Capstone Project. The area of study will determine the presentation/performance piece of the capstone. All students will write a reflection on the process, and what they learned from being a Fine Arts Student in the RCSS.

- ❖ Visual Arts: Students must present their portfolio work in an art show. They will write an artist statement about themselves, their work, and the process they went through.
- ❖ Band/Chorus/Dance/Orchestra/Theatre: Students will perform a piece of music, dance or act a scene for a selected audience. This could be at a concert, dance, play, or at school for a selected group of teachers.

College Applications

College applications are typically completed online, but you may want to print a hard copy to fill out before completing and submitting the online version. It is possible to save a partially completed application and return to complete and submit at a later date. A college application is like a recipe. Make sure you have all of the ingredients before you start!

- ❖ Most Georgia college and university applications may be accessed through the GAFutures website (www.GAFutures.org). This website also has links to other colleges outside the state of Georgia.
- ❖ There are also many colleges that use The Common Application (www.thecommonapp.org) and/or The Coalition Application (www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org). Using these is cost effective. College application fees are expensive!
- ❖ Some college applications must be accessed through that college's website (ex. University of Georgia).
- ❖ You can request your transcript be sent to the college through the GAFutures website or by sending an email request to Mrs. Shipman (be sure to include the application number assigned to you by the college to which you are applying). If there is a specific website that needs to be accessed to send your transcript, be sure to include that information in the email as well.

Procedure for Requesting Transcripts

Please be sure to follow the following procedures for requesting official transcripts (hard copy, not electronic requested through GA Futures or the Common Application):

- ❖ Students are allowed to request three transcripts free of charge. After three, each additional transcript requested will cost \$2.00. Mrs. Hoops will keep a transcript account for each student. All money due must be paid before a student is allowed to participate in graduation rehearsal.
- ❖ Transcript requests should be emailed to Mrs. Shipman. The email should include the name and address to whom the transcript should be sent, the purpose for the transcript (college or scholarship application), any student number (assigned by a college) that should be included, and if the transcript should be mailed or will be picked up by student (include date needed and allow three school days for processing).
- ❖ Mrs. Shipman will email the student when the transcript is ready to be picked up or has been mailed. In order to remain official, transcripts must remain sealed in the envelope.

Paying for College

How can I pay for college?

- ❖ Scholarships
- ❖ Loans- must be paid back
- ❖ Grants- money from the government that does not get paid back



FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- ❖ Opens October 1st and will be based on your legal guardian's prior year income taxes
- ❖ <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- ❖ DFA will collaborate with other Richmond County high schools to have financial aid workshops this fall. Information will be posted on the DFA guidance/school counseling webpage and sent out through Remind.




Scholarships

National scholarships:

- ❖ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- ❖ <http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

Local Scholarships:

- ❖ Advertised through Remind 
- ❖ Hard copies available in the School Counseling office
- ❖ Posted on the DFA Guidance/School Counseling webpage
- ❖ ***Scholarship deadlines are absolute!***

Hints for Obtaining Scholarships

- ❖ Stay organized and plan your time!
- ❖ Ask for recommendations at least two weeks in advance. Provide all recommenders with your academic resume and senior “brag” sheet. Be sure to respect the recommenders time and other obligations.
- ❖ Have a teacher or counselor look over your essays before you send them.
- ❖ Scholarship committees like to see community service activities/volunteering on scholarship applications.
- ❖ Keep all scholarship information in your college folder. You may want to have a folder just for scholarships. Make folders in your email inbox to keep your emails organized (ex. College names, scholarship names, names of recommenders).

APPLY! APPLY! APPLY!



Preparing for Senior Recommendations

Most teachers are happy to write recommendations for senior students. Be sure to be courteous and mindful of the recommender's time and other obligations. Requests for recommendations need to be made ***at least two weeks in advance*** of the date the completed recommendation is needed. If you don't give the recommender at least two weeks advance notice, one of two things may happen: (1) the recommender tells you, "NO," or (2) the recommender doesn't have time to right a good, powerful recommendation. Either way, you lose out! Provide the recommender with a copy of your Senior "Brag" sheet, your academic resume, and an envelope for the sealed recommendation (your name and the name of the college or scholarship should be included on the front of the envelope). Ask the recommender to seal the envelope and sign his or her name across the seal before returning the sealed envelope to you to be included in your scholarship packet. If the application requires online recommendations, be sure to provide complete information to the recommender. **Students are responsible for all postage costs associated with a college or scholarship application.**

Preparing for Senior Recommendations

All portions of a scholarship application should be mailed together in one large envelope (ex. 8.5"x11.5" manila envelope). Scholarship committees highly value complete, well-organized, and neat scholarship application packets. ***Remember, you are trying to convince the scholarship committee to give you money!***

Preparing for Senior Recommendations

All scholarships have hard deadlines! If the instructions say the application must be postmarked by a certain date, make sure that happens. If the instructions say the application must be received by a certain date, make sure that happens.