


# Class of 2023



# Important Website

## www.GAFutures.org

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- Familiarize yourself with GAFutures. If you have not already created an account, do so. There is a lot of valuable information listed on this website.
- This is the website that you will visit to check your HOPE GPA (remember this is different than the school GPA that is posted on your transcript), and GA Futures is the only place to check this. See informational video [here](#). If you cannot see your HOPE GPA, you will need to make sure your SSN and date of birth are correct in your Profile in GAFutures and Infinite Campus.
- GAFutures also has information about scholarships and state aid programs, FAFSA and Financial Aid, career exploration, and many more valuable resources. The Dual Enrollment funding application is completed through GA Futures.
- You can also apply to some in-state colleges/universities and send your transcripts to in-state colleges through GAFutures. 

# Considerations for College

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- Make a list of potential schools
  - Compare your profile to the school's freshman profile
  - Visit the schools you can
  - Review each school's application:
    - Online application (preferred)
    - Required test scores
    - Transcript
    - Application fees or fee waiver
    - Recommendations
      - Counselor Recommendations
      - Teacher Recommendations



Know your application  
deadlines!



# Letters of Recommendation

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- If applying to a college that requires a letter of recommendation, complete the Senior Brag sheet. Please give a notice of at least two weeks before the recommendation is due.
- Senior brag sheet is available on the Class of 2023 webpage that can be accessed at <https://pchscounselor1297.wixsite.com/mysite/class-of-2021>
- It can also be accessed through mobile devices by scanning the QR code to the right.
- Please be as detailed as possible. The more you tell me, the more I can brag about you in the letter!



# SAT & ACT

- Sign up now if student needs a better score or needs to take either or both tests.
- Make sure official scores (as well as official transcripts) are sent to all schools and NCAA or NAIA clearinghouse, when appropriate.
- If you are eligible for the Zell Miller level of the HOPE Scholarship, be sure to have scores sent to Georgia Student Finance Commission.
- Check deadlines for applications so student's score is available to meet those deadlines.
- Fee waivers- If you qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch, you are eligible for SAT and ACT fee waivers which allow you to take two tests for free. Please see Mrs. Trice or Mrs. Leatherwood in the guidance office for a waiver. Be sure to fill out the free/reduced lunch application for the 22-23 school year if you have not already and you think you may be eligible. It can be found here <https://www.nlappscloud.com/Welcome.aspx?api=5e2c9f030eed71d6a237cb2b8dee25c8#loaded>



# FREE SAT Practice from Khan Academy

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- Receive personalized SAT Practice
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>



# Other tests you may need

## Accuplacer

- Placement exam required for entrance to two year and technical colleges.
- Potential Dual Enrollment students may take the SAT, ACT or Accuplacer for Technical College Dual Enrollment programs.

## ASVAB

- Aptitude exam required for entrance into the military that determines your eligibility for military jobs.
- Will be offered @ PCHS on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Please see a JROTC instructor to sign up.



# HOPE scholarship

- Georgia's HOPE Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with the educational costs of attending a HOPE eligible postsecondary institution located in Georgia.
- Currently, the HOPE scholarship is determined by the calculation of all academic core courses that the student has taken and completed (grades 9-12).
- Students must have a HOPE GPA of 3.0
- Students must have 4 "rigorous" academic courses to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship.
- Georgia Student Finance Commission Rigorous Course Chart
- Courses taken during middle school do not count
- Both passing and failing grades in the core courses count
- Changes in the eligibility guidelines are posted and updated on the GAfutures website (There are often annual changes in HOPE Scholarship regulations.)
- Remember to monitor your HOPE GPA throughout high school via your My GAfutures account.





# Zell Miller Scholarship

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- Seniors who graduate and meet either of the following criteria:
- Earn a 3.7 HOPE GPA AND Earn an SAT score of 1200 (Critical Reading and Math scores) OR a composite ACT score of 26 (on any single testing date...can take the test more than once).

OR

- Are the valedictorian or salutatorian

\*Important\*

SAT or ACT exam must be taken PRIOR to student graduating from high school

- After initial qualification, students must:
- Maintain a 3.3 GPA at Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 checkpoints while in college
- A student will lose the Zell Miller scholarship if the student does not have a 3.3 GPA at two checkpoints



# HOPE GRANT

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- Georgia's HOPE Grant (a separate program from the HOPE Scholarship) is available to Georgia residents who are working towards a certificate or diploma (continuing education programs are not eligible) at an eligible college or university in Georgia.
- HOPE Grant funds pay for a maximum of 15 hours per semester.
- Students are eligible to receive the HOPE Grant as they graduate from high school. Students are not required to graduate from high school with a specific GPA, however, they must have a postsecondary cumulative 2.0 GPA, at certain checkpoints, in order to maintain eligibility.
- At 30 hours and again at 60 hours the grade point average is calculated.
- There is a maximum of 63 hours that the HOPE Grant pays for.



# HOPE GPA

- If a student does not have these three key fields correct in our Student Information System as well as in the MyGafutures Profile on GAfutures, there will be NO HOPE Scholarship:
- Legal name that is on birth certificate
- Social Security Number
- Birth Date

All of the above items must match on:

- Infinite Campus (Student Information System)
- GAfutures
- FAFSA
- College Admissions Documents
- SAT/ACT



# FAFSA

FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

You must have tax information

The FAFSA can be used to apply for the HOPE scholarship, as well as all other state and federal student aid

Opens October 1st



# Local Scholarships

Local scholarships are available for Seniors through the Paulding Education Foundation.

Students also may apply for scholarships that are linked to the postsecondary school after starting college.

District Website has scholarship info on the Financial Aid 101 & Scholarships Link



# Athletic Eligibility



In order to be eligible for sports, students must be on track with credits & earn at least 2.5 credits the previous semester.



If you are an athlete and plan to play sports in college, to be eligible for NCAA Division 1 or II college athletics, a student must register with the NCAA Eligibility center. It is the student/parent's responsibility to be sure that all requirements are met. Please refer to [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for more information.



To be eligible to play college athletics at an NAIA-sanctioned school, a student must register with the NAIA Eligibility Center. It is the student/parent's responsibility to be sure that all requirements are met. Please refer to [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org) for more information.



Both websites can be accessed on the PCHS Counseling webpage.



# Transcript Requests

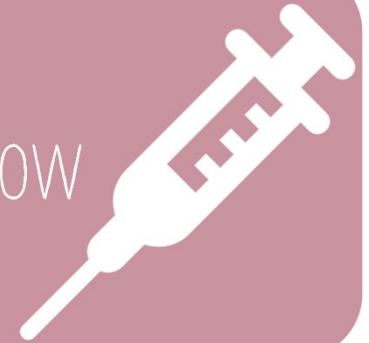
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- Students can request out-of-state transcripts on the PCHS Counseling Class of 2023 webpage, here at <https://pchscounselor1297.wixsite.com/mysite/class-of-2021>
- Or by scanning the QR code
- Students send in-state transcripts through GAfutures



# Immunizations

Start thinking about this now



Colleges require proof of immunization for entering freshman





*Not everyone will  
make the decision  
to go to college or  
technical college  
next year...*

- Again, you can find valuable information on the career exploration section of the GA Futures Website or through Youscience.
- Learn about:
  - Yourself
  - Exploring careers
  - Georgia's career clusters and pathways
  - Skilled trades
  - Military
  - Instructions for accessing YouScience results can be found by clicking [here](#)



# Senior Letter



Senior letters were given to students in advisement on September 13<sup>th</sup>. If student was absent, I will be calling them to my office to go over it.

Virtual students/full time dual enrollment students' senior letters will be mailed home no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>.

This is the guide to meeting graduation requirements.

Page 1 goes over graduation requirements and reminds students to begin making next steps for after high school.

Page 2 lists courses that students *must* pass in order to graduate.

Online and credit recovery courses are listed, if applicable. Current GPA is listed. Any EOC tests are listed.

Page 2 needs to be signed by both student and a parent/guardian and returned to the guidance office.



## Important Senior Info on PCHS Website

<https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/domain/5420>

Graduation date: May 27<sup>th</sup>!!

- Senior Dues- Pay online through RevTrak
- August 1<sup>st</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup>: \$65
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>-February 28<sup>th</sup>: \$85
- What do Senior Dues cover?
  - -senior breakfast before day 1 of graduation practice-senior lunch after day 2 of graduation practice
  - -senior t-shirt
  - -sheriff deputies on site for graduation
  - -ambulance on site for graduation
  - -chair rentals
  - -extra sound system to boost sound quality
  - -overnight security for the last week of school for protection against vandalism to graduation set up
  - -bottled water for graduation attendees
  - -printing of programs, honor graduate tickets
  - -flower arrangements for the stage



# PCHS Counseling Website



Please familiarize Yourself With the PCHS Counselor Webpage



The counseling website will be updated regularly with important announcements and information, so be sure to check it frequently. Important dates will be listed, and there will also be information particular to your grade level.



The website can be accessed from PCHS's main page and clicking "Counseling" at the top.

[Class of 2022 | mysite \(wixsite.com\)](#)



# Contact

Jessica Leatherwood

- Please reach out to me if you have any questions. I can be reached via email at [jleatherwood@Paulding.k12.ga.us](mailto:jleatherwood@Paulding.k12.ga.us) or phone at 770-443-8008 ext. 31012





*Congratulations, Class of 2023!*