

Pine View School

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<https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/pineview>

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August 10, 2024

Dear Pine View Senior and Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Senior Year and the upcoming college application process! We look forward to supporting you and your family as you navigate the college application landscape and its many challenges and rewards.

To assist you the Pine View College Counseling website was recently updated (www.pvscollegecounseling.com). This site is an invaluable resource providing detailed information on the application process, including timelines, required forms, links to relevant sites, financial aid resources, and much more. Please note that all previous class presentations and correspondence appear on the website under the *Class of 2025* banner.

You each have a *Schoolinks* account which we encourage you to fully leverage in your college search. This is also the system through which official transcripts, teacher recommendations, school profile, and counselor evaluations are requested by you and then submitted to colleges. You may access *Schoolinks* directly through your school-based *MySCS* student portal account using your Pine View log-in credentials. Once in *MySCS* click on the *Schoolinks* tab to automatically open your account. Please make sure to complete the onboarding activities sent previously.

Soon you will be completing one or more different applications. This will depend on the combination of colleges to which you are applying and their respective deadlines. Briefly:

- For most colleges you will be using what is known as the *Common Application*. This is a single platform used by over 1000 in-state, out-of-state, public and private colleges/universities (this includes *all* in-state public universities). Please note that a select number of colleges use their own institutional application.*
- UF, FSU, and most Florida public universities also require you to complete and submit what is known as the *SSAR* (Student Self-Reported Academic Record). You must complete *both* the *Common Application* and the *SSAR* by stated deadlines to be considered for admission. Please refer to each college admissions website for their requirements/deadlines (a list of 2024-25 deadlines is attached).
- The *Student Self-Reported Academic Record* (SSAR) is required by the University of Florida, Florida State University, and most other public universities in Florida (UCF requires the SPARK). It is a separate website/platform found here <https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com/login.aspx>

* Please use the *Common Application* in **all** case where it is accepted. If you apply using another application, each college **must** be manually entered into *Schoolinks* **and** must appear on your transcript request form. Please notify Mr. Bergman via email once you have applied to assure timely delivery of transcripts and letters of recommendations.

You will use your student portal to access your academic record and complete the SSAR (FOCUS). Once in the system you will click on *Grades* and then *View Detailed Report* to view your academic history. Be certain to use numerical not letter grades. Additional instructions for completing and uploading the SSAR can be found on the SSAR website and on the admissions website for each college.

Enclosed are items critical to the completion of your application(s) and the forwarding of Pine View materials to your respective college admissions' offices. They are:

1. ***Instructions for Completing and "Matching" the Common Application to Schoolinks*** When applying to colleges that use the *Common Application* please follow the instructions for 'matching' your *Common Application* and *Schoolinks* accounts. Please do so as soon as possible. This allows Pine View transcript materials to reach all *Common Application* destinations. Once your accounts are 'synced' you may electronically request Teacher Recommenders through *Schoolinks* (if letters are required by your college).
2. ***Authorization for Release of Transcripts**** (aka the "green form") Submission of this form grants Pine View legal permission to send your transcript and other supporting materials to colleges. This form is due by the following deadlines: All Early Admissions Plans - October 4th/Regular Admissions - December 2nd. Please meet these dates to assure timely submission of your transcript *and* full support of your application.
3. **Instructions for completing Teacher Letter of Recommendation requests.** Note that Florida public universities do not accept letters of recommendation. If you are only applying to in-state universities you do not need to request letters.

If we have not met to discuss your college plans (and wish to), you may schedule an appointment with me. It is especially important to meet if you are applying Early Action or Early Decision to a private university. For those of you with whom I have already met and/or simply need to "check in" or ask a question, you may schedule a short appointment. My *youcanbook.me* calendar will open on August 16th. Of course, you or your parents may email me questions anytime.

Finally, please note that I will be meeting with all Seniors in English class in August and September. In these presentations I will review the above information and answer any remaining questions you might have related to the application process. All content covered will appear on the counseling website as well.

I look forward to working with and supporting you this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Bergman, College Resource Adviser
Pine View School for the Gifted

