ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS
STEM Charter School

FBLA
HOSA
ATHLETICS
ROBOTICS
MODEL UNITED NATIONS
COMPETITION MATH
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
THEATER
STEM
BAND
SCIENCE FAIR
HISTORY FAIR

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
RANKINGS 2023



Go Orcas, Strive for Excellence!

All information in this curriculum guide is subject to change pending school, district, legislative and state decisions.

ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS
2026-2027
CURRICULUM GUIDE

WITH HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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Message from the Principal



Dear Students:

Welcome to Orlando Science Schools, proud home of the Orcas! OSS has a tradition of excellence in academics, and we encourage our students to fully engage in our community and make the most of our top-tier STEM focused learning opportunities. The courses you select should not only help you along your path to graduation but also aid in the development of your talents and skills. We do not just want you to succeed- we want you to excel! The Curriculum Guide is designed to assist parents and students with the course selection process and serves as an important tool for academic planning and reference.

We encourage you to spend some time reviewing this guide and invite you to contact our curriculum coordinator and school guidance counselor with questions.

Our team of dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff are eager to assist students in building a strong social-emotional foundation in an academically rigorous learning environment. We hope you are excited about this upcoming school year and look forward to helping you reach your goals!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Koebe
Principal

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Fax : (407) 253-7305
www.Orlandoscience.org
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Facebook: @Orlandoscience

Twitter: @OrlandoSciMH

YouTube: #orlandosciencesch

ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS
ORCAS

Mission Statement

The mission of Orlando Science Middle/High Charter School is to provide students with a well-rounded education with special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and Reading in the light of research based, proven and innovative instructional methods in a stimulating environment.

School and Campus Info

Lynx Campus
2427 Lynx Ln.
Orlando, FL 32804
Phone: 407 253 7304
Fax: 407 253 7305
Email: info@orlandoscience.org



High School Technology Campus
2600 Technology Drive
Orlando, FL 32804
Phone: 407 299 6595
Fax: 407 253 7305
Email: info@orlandoscience.org



Graduation Information

What are the diploma options?
Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum.

What are the state assessment requirements?
Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score

Refer to *Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments for concordant and comparative scores*.
Students must participate in the EOC assessments, and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Algebra I*
- Biology I
- Geometry
- U.S. History

* Special Note: 30% not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC (credit acceleration program [CAP]).
What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?
This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an advanced placement (AP) Examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I

What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?
Students, in collaboration with parents and the IEP team, may choose two additional standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities. Both allow students to substitute a CTE course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History).

The two options are as follows:
• Students with a most significant cognitive disability may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
• Students enrolled in the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment in addition to meeting the standard diploma graduation requirements.



Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?
Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?
3 elective credits instead of 8; Physical Education is not required; Online course is not required. All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).

Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?
The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, visit http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/.

Where is information on financial aid located?
The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs administers a variety of postsecondary educational state funded grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ .

Students Entering Grade Nine in 2023-2024 School Year and Thereafter

What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)
- ELA I, II III, IV - ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE, IB and dual enrollment may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics
-One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry - Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for - Algebra 1 and Geometry) ** - An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry)
3 Credits Science
- One of which must be Biology, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses - Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component - Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)** - An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)
3 Credits Social Studies
- 1 credit in World History - 1 credit in U.S. History - 0.5 credit in U.S. Government - 0.5 credit in Economics
0.5 Credit in Personal Financial Literacy**
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
-To include the integration of health
7.5 Elective Credits
Students must earn a 2.0 unweighted grade-point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years and pass statewide, standardized assessments.
https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/aaflyer-2324thereafter.pdf

What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must
- Earn 1 credit in Algebra II or an equally rigorous course
- Pass the Geometry EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;
- Pass the Biology I EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics;
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics;
- Pass the U.S. History EOC;
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language; and
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student; takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Industry Scholar Diploma Designation

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements.
- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

Career and Technical Centers

Florida also offers students 49 accredited career and technical colleges or centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.
http://data.fldoe.org/workforce/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=8

What are the public post-secondary options?

State University System

Admission into Florida's State University System (SUS) institutions is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous course of study in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):
- High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 6.008
- 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per BOG Regulation 6.002
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and higher)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents)
- 2 approved electives

http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning

The Florida College System

The 28 colleges of the Florida College System serve more than 650,000 students. Colleges offer affordable and stackable workforce credentials including certificate programs, associate in science degrees and associate in arts degrees, which transfer to a bachelor's degree program. All colleges also offer workforce bachelor's degree programs in areas of high demand. All Florida College System institutions have open-door admissions for students who earned a standard high school diploma or an equivalent diploma or earned college credit.
http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/index.stml

2026-27 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Day(s) of Week	Date(s)	Event
Monday-Monday	August 3-10	Pre-Planning August 5-Professional Development Day
Tuesday	August 11	First Day of School
Monday	September 7	Labor Day Holiday
Friday	October 9	End of First Marking Period
Monday	October 12	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	October 13	Begin Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday	November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
Friday	December 18	End of Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday Two Weeks	December 21-January 1	Winter Break
Monday	January 4	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	January 5	Begin Third Marking Period Begin Second Semester
Monday	January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Monday	February 15	Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Work Day Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Thursday	March 11	End of Third Marking Period
Friday	March 12	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Monday-Friday	March 15-19	Spring Break Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Monday	March 22	Begin Fourth Marking Period
Friday	April 23	Teacher Professional Day Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday
Wednesday	May 26	End of Fourth Marking Period Last Day of School
Thursday-Friday	May 27-28	Post Planning
Monday	May 31	Memorial Day Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed

OSS Student Progress Monitoring System (OSS Connect)

Orlando Science Schools use a web-based student progress monitoring system called OSS Connect (ossconnect.orlandoscience.org). Students and parents have access to the website with a pre-generated username and password. OSS Connect provides the most recent information regarding student progress and a variety of other resources. Parents and students may find the following information on OSS Connect:



- Recent Student Overall Course Grades
- Student Commendations and Behavioral Progress
- Detailed Course Resources, Course Syllabus, Chapter Resources
- Homework and Classwork Soft Copies, Uploaded Lessons of the Day
- Long Term Project Timelines and Resource, such as Science Fairs and History Fairs
- Assignment Calendars for all Courses
- Weekly Student Report E-mails
- Staff Directory
- Orlando Science Event Calendar
- Online Academic Resource Access, such as
    - o Naviance
    - o Study Island
    - o Delta Math
    - o Writable
    - o Google Classroom
    - o Desmos
    - o Nearpod
    - o Gizmos
    - o Pivot Interactives
    - o Teachers Pay Teachers
    - o Web Assign-AP Prep.
    - o Math XL
    - o Khan Academy
    - o Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Canvas Account
    - o E-Books
    - o AP Center – College Board
    - o CodeHS
    - o SAT Resources

You may go to our website www.orlandoscience.org and click on the OSS Connect tab to login to the site. If you lose your username and/or password, you may contact the front office.

Grading Policies

A student's grades should reflect his or her academic achievement. Every student will have a suitable opportunity to demonstrate academic achievement. A natural consequence of an absence is missing the opportunity to participate in classroom activities. This lack of participation may reflect in a student's grade.

Unweighted Grading Scale

The grading system and interpretation of letter grades will be as prescribed by state statute (s.1003.437(1-5), F.S.).

Courses Higher than Honors Level

Courses higher than honors level: Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education and college or postsecondary technical Dual Enrollment 52 courses, will be weighted as follows: For students entering Grade 9 in the 2006-2007 school year, dual enrollment courses via postsecondary technical programs will be given the same weight as the courses described in this paragraph. Alternative grade calculation or weighting systems that discriminate against dual enrollment courses are prohibited. (s. 1007.271(16), F.S)

Weighted Grading Scale

A weighted grading scale will be used to compute a grade point average to determine eligibility for an honors diploma per state statute (s.1003.437,F.S.). Grade values for the weighted scale are as follows:

Grade	Percent	AP/DE	Honors	Regular	Definition
A	90-100	6	5	4	Outstanding Progress
B	80-89	5	4	3	Above Average Progress
C	70-79	4	3	2	Average Progress
D	60-69	1	1	1	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0-59	0	0	0	Failure

Class Rank

Starting 2023-2024 school year, OSHS does not plan to report class rank. We believe class ranks to be an outdated measure of student success for our school. Due to small class sizes and close weighted GPAs, GPA-based class ranks no longer fully reflect achievement. OSS will determine valedictorian and salutatorian based on AP exam performance.

Orlando Science Schools Parent Communication

Orlando Science Schools send three types of reports:

Weekly E-mail Report:

The information in this report is not official or final. It only gives a daily snapshot of the students' grade/assignments and may be different from the one on student portal due to the updates made any time of the day. Parents may check the more detailed information by clicking on any of the course links in the report for the most up to date grade/assignment reports.

Progress Report:

This report is sent home in the middle of each quarter. The report will give the overall detailed progress of the students in the first half of the quarter.

Report Card:

This report is an official quarter report. Student grades will be formally reported at the end of each quarter. Behavioral, academic progress and attendance will be reflected on the report card. Two quarter grades make up a semester, and two semester grades are averaged together to determine a final grade in a one credit course. Numerical grades are automatically converted to letter grades using our computer grade book software.

Orlando Science Schools Online Course Enrollment Policy

In Florida, students and their parents have choices when it comes to the student's education. Your family has selected Orlando Science School (OSHS), a charter school of choice, as opposed to participating in other educational choices offered in Florida. Therefore, other choices, such as virtual instruction, may not be available to your student. Certain students may be required or allowed to attend virtual classes. Doing so will be subject to the rules and criteria adopted by OSHS set forth below. Moreover, the specific courses available or approved for virtual instruction are limited by OSHS.

As a charter school of choice, OSHS may, but is not required, to provide virtual instruction through a limited number of Florida Virtual School (FLVS) "seats" which, if available, may be reviewed and distributed on a limited basis by grade level, application request, and course selection. Only certain limited courses will be permitted to be completed through FLVS. The following additional criteria will be reviewed in considering whether to authorize any online instruction courses through FLVS:

• OSHS will allow one such course such as HOPE or Driver Education for all students through FLVS on a one-on-one basis. • OSHS may approve or require an FLVS course if the course is a graduation or college application requirement, and it cannot be provided by the school in some other way.

• OSHS may approve an FLVS course for credit recovery purposes if the task cannot be completed within the campus. The school may also allow an FLVS course to a transfer student with incompatible transcript if the discrepancies cannot be remedied within the regular OSHS schedule.

• OSHS will not approve any FLVS courses for optional reasons such as "extra challenge", "staying busy over summer", or "boosting GPA".

• Students failing to complete an FLVS course once approved by OSHS, regardless of whether the student was passing or failing the course, will forfeit any future opportunity to register for any additional FLVS courses.

• OSHS students should not register at the FLVS website until their application request has been approved by OSHS.

• OSHS reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this policy in the future to be able to meet any unforeseen need that may arise.

Orlando Science Schools Grade Forgiveness

Under state policy, students who earn a grade of D or F in a class may retake that course or a similar course to improve their grade. The higher grade (C or better) will replace the D or F in the GPA. However, the original attempted grade will remain on the transcript without any effect on the grade average and it will be replaced with the new earned grade. Students who earned a C or below in a course in middle school, may also repeat for grade forgiveness.

Orlando Science Schools High School Student Scheduling

Planning for next year's classes is an important decision involving numerous factors:

- Reviewing student test results, such as EOC,FAST, B.E.S.T., PSAT
- Evaluating the Advanced Placement (AP) test scores
- Considering the previous year's course progression and student performance
- Incorporating teacher recommendations
- Aligning with future career goals and academic information from the administration and guidance
- Adjusting schedules to meet graduation requirements

Student Schedule Change Requirements:

Changes will be granted for the following errors in schedules:
Duplicate course
Credit already received for the course
Course prerequisites not met
Incorrect course sequence
Course needed for graduation not
Incomplete schedule (missing class)

Changes will NOT be granted for the following reasons:
Desire for a different teacher
Desire to take offered course via FLVS
Course credit not required
Desire to raise GPA
Do not like elective
Failure to earn a passing grade in the course

Parents and students are encouraged to make careful decisions when selecting courses, as schedule changes are done on a very limited basis once school begins. Approval of schedule change request will be subject to course availability and master schedule flexibility. Due to class size and master schedule restrictions, students may not receive one or more of their requested courses despite our best efforts.

Orlando Science Schools High School Programs/Tracks

Orlando Science Schools offer different types of programs to its students. Students will find the most exciting and academically challenging programs. The programs offer students unique opportunities for in-depth experiences and study in specific areas of interest. Each program emphasizes a specialized theme. The programs set high expectations for all students to improve their academic achievements and prepare for college careers of the 21st Century. In addition, the programs offer students hands-on and real-world problem-solving approaches to learning.

Orlando Science is proud to offer Project Lead the Way (PLTW) to our students and give them an advantage over their peers in college and their careers. PLTW has a long history of successfully engaging students in STEM subjects, and we believe our community will also see the benefits of PLTW as these students turn into the next generation of highly skilled employees for our local businesses.

Orlando Science offers the below programs to its students.

- Advanced Placement Academy
- PLTW Engineering Program
- PLTW Biomedical Sciences Program
- Dual Enrollment

The details and course progression of each program is available in this curriculum guide. While all students are encouraged to apply, students must have a strong interest in academic challenges. Students should be willing to set up structured study time and be motivated in order to be successful in these programs.

Orlando Science Engineering Program

Orlando Science offers the Engineering Program (OSEP) for eligible students. The OSEP will cover the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Pathway to Engineering (PTE) program sequence of courses, which follows a proven hands-on, real-world problem-solving approach to learning.



In PLTW Engineering, students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, acquire strong teamwork and communication proficiency, develop organizational skills, and use the same industry-leading technology and software as are used in the world's top companies.

The new face of engineering requires verbal and written communication skills, in addition to an in-depth understanding of complex mathematics and science concepts. Lessons engage students by using teamwork, problem solving, and the day-to-day practice of the scientific method, which is practiced by engineers every day.

Students investigate topics such as aerodynamics and astronautics, biological engineering and sustainability, and digital electronics and circuit design, which give them an opportunity to learn about different engineering disciplines before beginning post-secondary education or careers.

Orlando Science offers four courses throughout the high school experience:

- IED-Introduction to Engineering Design
- POE- Principles of Engineering
- AE- Aerospace Engineering
- Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- Capstone – Engineering Design

Students accepted into OSEP will refer to the following guidelines and select courses that best support individual educational goals. Successful completion of this program enables students to be eligible for various scholarships in the state of Florida.

Requirements of OSEP

Students must meet the following requirements and adhere to high standards in both academics and behavior to be admitted to and continue in the OSEP.

- 90% Middle School Overall Course GPA
- Complete Algebra-1 course in middle school.
- Maintain a 4.0 weighted High School GPA in each year with no grade below a C in engineering courses
- Complete a minimum of 3 engineering courses
- Have a good conduct record

Orlando Science PLTW-Engineering Curriculum

In Orlando Science PLTW Engineering, students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, and use the same industry-leading technology and software as are used in the world's top companies. Students are immersed in design as they investigate topics such as sustainability, mechatronics, forces, structures, aerodynamics, digital electronics and circuit design, manufacturing, and the environment, which gives them an opportunity to learn about different engineering disciplines before beginning post-secondary education or careers.

Orlando Science offers a minimum of four courses: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and any specialization course such as Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture and Digital Electronics or Capstone Course - Engineering Design and Development.

Introduction to Engineering Design

Engineers make a world of difference! Students are introduced to the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to identify and design solutions to a variety of real problems. They work both individually and in collaborative teams to develop and document design solutions using engineering notebooks and 3D modeling software. Are you ready to design the future?

Principles of Engineering

Explore how modern engineers are helping improve the world through diverse engineering fields such as product design, robotics, mechanical design, infrastructure, and sustainability. Learn the principles of engineering as well as the cutting-edge tools of robotics, 3-D modeling, programming, and prototyping that engineers are using to solve problems today and for the future!

Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace engineering transforms the dream of flight into vehicles that ignite our imagination. Students explore fundamentals of flight in air and space through software simulations and hands-on experiences. Students learn how these concepts apply to a career in aerospace engineering and to other engineering fields. Where can aerospace engineering take us next?

Advanced Manufacturing
Explore the future of manufacturing through a dynamic blend of robotics, artificial intelligence, and smart technology to solve real-world challenges. Students learn how data, automation, and digital tools are transforming industries—in the context of semiconductor fabrication—and how they can be part of this industrial revolution. Through hands-on projects and cutting-edge technology, students gain the skills they need to thrive in tomorrow's high-tech workforce.

Computer Integrated Manufacturing
Manufacturing transforms ideas into products. This course provides an opportunity for students to develop a better understanding of this innovative and exciting industry. Students learn about manufacturing processes, product design, robotics, and automation. Students develop their knowledge and skills of Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing to produce products using a Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) mill. Students apply the knowledge and skills gained in this course as they collaborate to design, build, and program factory system models. Manufacturing provides products we use daily. How can a student become part of it?

Capstone Course - Engineering Design and Development
The knowledge and skills students acquire throughout PLTW high school courses in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science come together in PLTW Capstone as student teams pool resources to identify an issue or problem of interest and then research, design, and test a solution, ultimately presenting their solution to a panel of professionals. Students work with their team, drawing on the strengths and skills of each member, as they prepare themselves for the interdisciplinary collaboration required for success in college and career.

PLTW Engineering – Assessment

Assessments play an important role in providing meaningful feedback to students, teachers, administrators, and PLTW. Through assessments, students identify what they are doing well and what they need help with, and teachers are able to provide individualized direction and guidance to each student.
Students will be able to earn CAPE Certification if they pass the Autodesk and Microsoft Exam packages at the end of the year.

Orlando Science Biomedical Program (OSBP)

Orlando Science PLTW Biomedical Science introduces students to medicine and human body systems, preparing them for careers in medical and health-related fields.



The program is a rigorous and relevant four-course sequence that allows students to play the roles of biomedical professionals as they investigate and study the concepts of human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health. Students engage in activities like investigating the death of a fictional person or dissecting a sheep's heart, learning content in the context of real-world cases.
They examine the structures and interactions of human body systems and explore the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases; all while working collaboratively to understand and design solutions to the most pressing health challenges of today and the future. Through PLTW Biomedical Science, students often have the opportunity to earn college credit, admissions preferences, or scholarships for completed courses.

Through hands-on activities, such as dissecting a heart, students are able to examine the processes, structures, and interactions of the human body - often playing the role of real-world biomedical professionals as they undergo their examinations. Students also get to explore topics vital to the medical profession such as prevention, diagnosis, and treatment by working collaboratively to investigate and design innovative solutions to the real-world health challenges of the 21st century, such as fighting cancer with nanotechnology or examining how to react to a global pandemic.

Requirements of OSBP

Students must meet the following requirements and adhere to high standards in both academics and behavior to be admitted to and continue in the OSBP.

- 90% Middle School Overall Course GPA
- Complete Algebra-1 course in middle school.
- Maintain a 4.0 weighted High School GPA in each year with no grade below a C in biomedical courses.
- Complete a minimum of 3 biomedical courses.
- Have a good conduct record

Orlando Science PLTW Biomedical Science – Curriculum



The rigorous and relevant four-course PLTW Biomedical Science sequence allows students to investigate the roles of biomedical professionals as they study the concepts of human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health. Students engage in activities like investigating the death of a fictional person to learn content in the context of real-world cases. They examine the structures and interactions of human body systems and explore the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, all while working collaboratively to understand and design solutions to the most pressing health challenges of today and the future. Each course in the Biomedical Science sequence builds on the skills and knowledge students gain in the preceding courses. Schools offer the three PLTW Biomedical Science foundation courses within a period of three academic years from the start of implementation and may also offer the capstone course.

Principles of Biomedical Science

Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) is a full-year high school course in the PLTW Biomedical Science Program. This course serves to provide foundational knowledge and skills in fields such as biology, anatomy & physiology, genetics, microbiology, and epidemiology as well as engage students in how this content can be applied to realworld situations, cases, and problems.

Human Body Systems

Human Body Systems (HBS) is a full-year high school course designed to follow Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) in the PLTW Biomedical Science pathway. The HBS course provides foundational knowledge and skills in anatomy and physiology, clinical medicine, and laboratory research. The course engages students in how this content can be applied to real-world situations, cases, and problems. The HBS course includes interviews, challenges, and testimonials from biomedical professionals in a variety of settings—clinical, research, and public health.

Medical Interventions

Medical Interventions (MI) allows students to investigate the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease as they follow the lives of a fictitious family. A "How-To" manual for maintaining overall health and homeostasis in the body, the course will explore how to prevent and fight infection, how to screen and evaluate the code in our DNA, how to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer, and how to prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Through these scenarios students will be exposed to the wide range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, and diagnostics. Each family case scenario will introduce multiple types of interventions, reinforce concepts learned in the previous two courses, and present new content. Interventions may range from simple diagnostic tests to treatment of complex diseases and disorders. These interventions will be showcased across the generations of the family and will provide a look at the past, present, and future of biomedical science. Lifestyle choices and preventive measures are emphasized throughout the course as well as the important role that scientific thinking and engineering design play in the development of interventions of the future.

Biomedical Innovation

In this capstone course, students apply their knowledge and skills to answer questions or solve problems related to the biomedical sciences. Students design innovative solutions for the health challenges of the 21st century as they work through progressively challenging open-ended problems, addressing topics such as clinical medicine, physiology, biomedical engineering, and public health. They have the opportunity to work on an independent project and may work with a mentor or advisor from a university, hospital, physician's office, or industry. Throughout the course, students are expected to present their work to an adult audience that may include representatives from the local business and healthcare community.

Orlando Science Advanced Placement Academy

Orlando Science Advanced Placement Academy's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. OSAP provides rigorous academic coursework in the major subject fields. There are many options in English, social studies, science, world languages, math, and fine arts for students. A student enrolled in an AP course must take the corresponding AP examination. AP courses are recognized for college credit by many universities in the United States and abroad. Students are expected to meet the following requirements in order to be admitted to and complete the program.

Requirements of OSAP

- 90% Middle School Overall Course GPA
- Complete Geometry Honors or receive 600+ in either Math or Reading portion of PSAT 8-9 in 8th grade.
- Maintain a 4.0 weighted High School GPA each year with no grade below a C in AP courses.
- Participate in all AP exams and receive 3 or higher in at least half of them.
- Have a good conduct record

Orlando Science High School AP Diploma

The College Board offers recognitions like the AP Capstone Diploma and AP Scholar Awards for students who demonstrate high academic performance in their AP courses.

AP Capstone Diploma

AP Capstone™ is a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world. Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

The Benefits of AP Capstone:

Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers a problem solvers.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

AP Scholar Awards

The AP Scholar Awards recognize high school students who have demonstrated exemplary college-level achievement on AP Exams.

Award Levels: The AP Scholar Awards are academic distinctions for students to cite among their credentials on applications and résumés. Students do not receive any monetary award from the College Board.

Award	Criteria
AP Scholar	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
AP Scholar with Honor	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
AP Scholar with Distinction	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

Orlando Science
Dual Enrollment Program



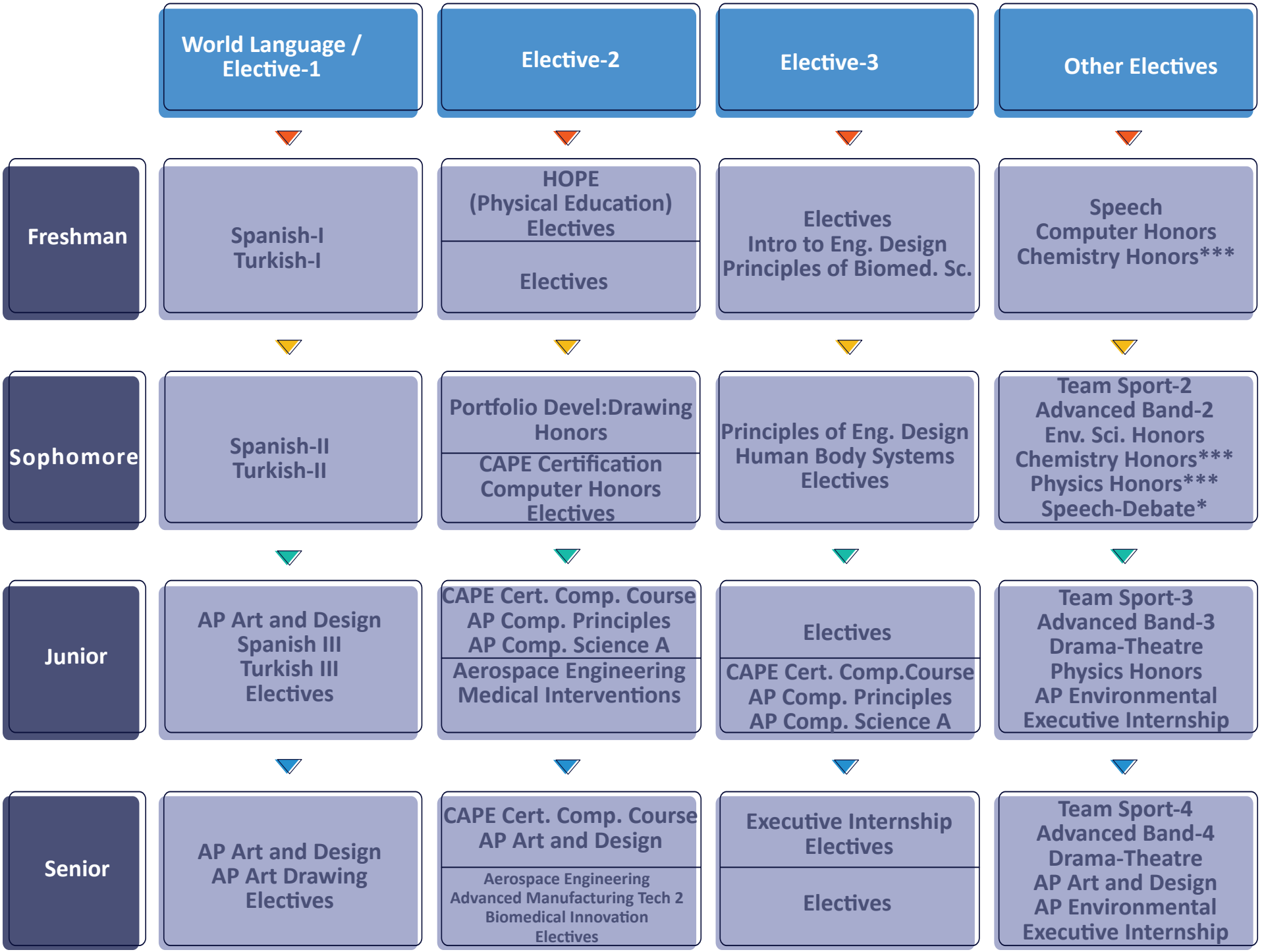
Valencia College's Dual Enrollment program is a cooperative effort between Valencia College and the Orange County School District. Students can earn a college degree in less time and save money. Students have the opportunity to experience the college environment and explore career fields before starting college. Courses taken through the Dual Enrollment program are creditable toward the high school diploma. At Orlando Science High School only 11th & 12th grade students are allowed to participate in Dual Enrollment.

Dual Enrollment Procedures:

- Check your school schedule with your curriculum and college coordinator before applying to Dual Enrollment Program.
- Be sure all the information and signatures are completed, and requirements are met. An incomplete application will delay the application process.
- Make sure you read and understand all the criteria to maintain your eligibility.
- If you plan to be a full-time dual enrollment student and not be present on OSHS campus, please notify the school for planning purposes. Please note that students who are not attending at least two on-campus classes are not eligible to participate in after-school activities.
- OSHS will provide a room for students who are taking online dual enrollment courses if they are scheduled to take at least two on-campus courses. Students can't have free periods in their schedule except early morning or late afternoon.
- Dual Enrollment room is assigned for dual enrollment purposes. Gaming, social media, watching videos and other unrelated activities are not allowed. Students must follow OSHS rules and procedures while on campus.
- Dual Enrollment students cannot stay on campus when they are not scheduled to take a course (Dual Enrollment or OSHS) during school hours.

ORLANDO SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE OFFERINGS

	English	Math	Science	Social Studies
Freshman	ENGLISH -I Honors English -I Honors	Geometry Honors Algebra II Honors	Biology Honors Pre-AP Biology AP Chemistry	World History Honors AP World History
Sophomore	English-II Honors English-II Honors	Algebra II Honors AP Pre-Calculus	Environmental Science Honors AP Biology	U.S. Government & Macroconomics Honors
Junior	English-III Honors AP English Language and Composition	Prob.Stat w/Appl. Honors AP Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB	AP Physics 1 AP Environmental	U.S. Government & Macroconomics Honors, Personal Financial Literacy AP U.S. Government & AP Macroeconomics, Personal Financial Literacy
Senior	English-IV Honors AP English Literature and Composition	Math for Data & Fin. Lit. Honors AP Pre- Calculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Stat	Astronomy Solar/ Galactic Honors AP Physics 1 AP Physics C:Mechanics Electricity - Magnetism&	AP Psychology AP Human Geography


World Language / Elective-1
Elective-2
Elective-3
Other Electives
Freshman
Spanish-I
Turkish-I
HOPE
(Physical Education)
Electives
Electives
Electives
Intro to Eng. Design
Principles of Biomed. Sc.
Speech
Computer Honors
Chemistry Honors***
Sophomore
Spanish-II
Turkish-II
Portfolio Devel:Drawing
Honors
CAPE Certification
Computer Honors
Electives
Principles of Eng. Design
Human Body Systems
Electives
Team Sport-2
Advanced Band-2
Env. Sci. Honors
Chemistry Honors***
Physics Honors***
Speech-Debate*
Junior
AP Art and Design
Spanish III
Turkish III
Electives
CAPE Cert. Comp. Course
AP Comp. Principles
AP Comp. Science A
Aerospace Engineering
Medical Interventions
Electives
CAPE Cert. Comp.Course
AP Comp. Principles
AP Comp. Science A
Team Sport-3
Advanced Band-3
Drama-Theatre
Physics Honors
AP Environmental
Executive Internship
Senior
AP Art and Design
AP Art Drawing
Electives
CAPE Cert. Comp. Course
AP Art and Design
Aerospace Engineering
Advanced Manufacturing Tech 2
Biomedical Innovation
Electives
Executive Internship
Electives
Electives
Team Sport-4
Advanced Band-4
Drama-Theatre
AP Art and Design
AP Environmental
Executive Internship

Orlando Science School's Academic Teams and Student Clubs

Orlando Science School offers a multitude of clubs to suit the varied interests of our student body. If you want to do an interesting, fun, and meaningful activity, you may attend a club meeting and get involved. Students also have the opportunity to start their own club with a school advisor based on their interests.

Aerospace	Girls in Medicine	Neuroscience (Brain Bee)
AI Innovators Club	Girls Who Code	Odyssey of the Mind
Animal Advocacy	Hack Club	Origami Minds
Architecture & Design	HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)	Physics Olympiad and F=ma
Asian Student Association	Indian Student Association	POWER Club
Band – Drumline	International Club	Psychology Club
Band – Jazz Band I	International Medicine and Disease Olympiad (IMDO)	Quiz Bowl
Band – Jazz Band II	International Research Olympiad	Red Cross
Band Leadership Workshop	Investment Club	RISE (Raising Impactful Support for Every Child)
Bollywood Dance	Journalism	Robotics
Book Club	Key Club	Science National Honor Society
Brazilian Culture Club	Latin American Student Association	Science Olympiad
Competitive Chess Club	Linguistics Olympiad	Speech & Debate Club (FCDI)
Computer Science Honor Society	Media Club	STEM Research Competition Club
Congressional Award Club	Medicine 4 Youth	Student Activism Club
Crochet Club	Mock Trial Club	Student Government Association (SGA)
Dance Club	Model United Nations (MUN)	Tabletop Gaming
DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)	Money Management	The United States Medical and Disease Olympiad (USMDO)
Digital Art Club	Mu Alpha Theta- Algebra 2 (Theta) Club	Turkish Olympiad
Drama Club	Mu Alpha Theta Calculus (Mu) Club	US National Chemistry Olympiad
East Asian Pop Culture Club (EAPC)	Mu Alpha Theta Pre- Calculus (Alpha) Club	Volleyball Club
Economics Club	Mu Alpha Theta Statistics and Math Modeling	Women in Engineering (SWENext Chapter)
Entomology	Music Theory + Music for Healing	Yearbook
Environmental Club	National Art Honor Society	Young Entrepreneurs Society
Fashion Club	National English Honor Society	
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)	National Honor Society	

Orlando Science High School
College Acceptances

Some of the colleges that our graduates got ACCEPTED!

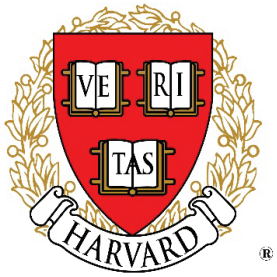
















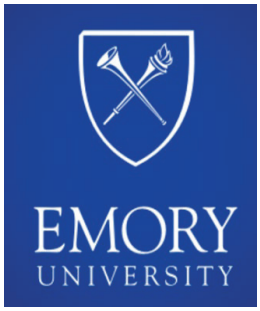






























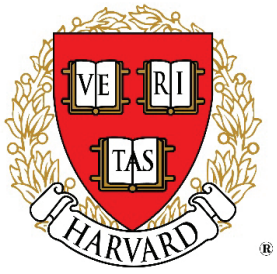

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology


LUX ET VERITAS
YALE
YALE


COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF
NEW YORK


Duke
UNIVERSITY


Ucla
BRUINS


VE
RI
TAS
HARVARD


JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY


VANDERBILT


VT
VIRGINIA TECH

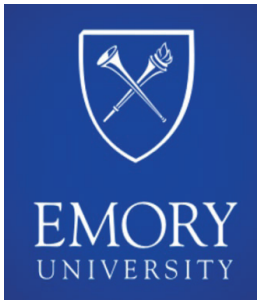

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA




GT


Georgia Institute
of Technology


CASE
WESTERN
RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
think beyond the possible


EMORY
UNIVERSITY


UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME


RICE
Unconventional Wisdom
Olin College
of Engineering


FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
VIRES
ARTES
MORES
1851


ROLLINS COLLEGE
FIAT LUX
MDCCCLXXXV




UF
UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA


The University Of
TAMPA


FLORIDA
POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY


OLIVET
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Naviance

Naviance, a web-based resource designed especially for students and parents. It is a comprehensive website that you can use to help make decisions about courses, college, career, and success planning. Naviance provides a powerful link between school and home and up-to-date information that's specific to our school. It also lets us share information with you about upcoming meetings, news, events, college visits, scholarships/financial aid, as well as other web resources for college and career information.
Orlando Science Schools were among the first schools to implement Naviance in the area. We hope that you find this tool very useful.
We have created an account for you on Naviance to help you plan your future.
The website address is: https://student.naviance.com/ossmhcs.

- Personality, career, and individual learning style assessments
- Explore career possibilities and match them to potential college majors
- Research colleges that will match your unique set of traits and preferences
- College and career readiness activities
- Explore scholarship opportunities
- Access your academic planner; define and document goals.

National Merit® Scholarship Program

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships that began in 1955. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. United States high school students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which serves as an initial screen of over 1.3 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

To enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and compete for recognition and 7,580 scholarships to be offered:

- You must be enrolled as a high school student at traditional or homeschooled
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October during 11th grade.
- Place among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition.
- Plan to enroll in college full-time in the fall after you graduate.
- Meet other program entry requirements.

Academic Teams

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad is a premier national STEM competition for high school (Division C) and middle school (Division B) students, where teams of 15 compete in 23 events spanning life, earth, physical, and engineering sciences. The competitions emphasize hands-on, inquiry-based learning and teamwork across diverse subjects like anatomy, physics, chemistry, and mechanical engineering.

For high school students, participation is immensely important as it fosters advanced scientific knowledge beyond the standard curriculum, often requiring the study of college-level material. The year-round preparation cultivates essential problem-solving, critical thinking, research, and time management skills that are vital for success in higher education and future careers, particularly in STEM fields. Orlando Science Schools students have been consistently achieving success at regional, state, and National Tournaments in the past years.







Art and Band (MUSIC)

The Art Program at OSHS provides students with a creative and challenging environment where they can explore a wide range of artistic media and techniques. Students have the opportunity to develop skills in photography, drawing, painting, digital art, mixed media, and portfolio creation, as well as pursue industry certifications such as the Adobe Visual Design Professional Certification through Certiport.

Throughout the year, Art students and National Art Honor Society (NAHS) members participate in local art shows, exhibitions, and competitions, where they frequently place and earn awards in multiple categories. These events allow students to showcase their creativity, craftsmanship, and problem-solving skills while gaining confidence in their artistic voice.

The OSHS Art Program emphasizes personal expression and the development of each student's unique creative style, and students are regularly recognized for their achievements.

ROBOTICS Team

F.I.R.S.T. Robotics

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an global non-profit organization founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen. Its mission is to inspire young people's passion for STEM through hands-on robotics programs, encouraging teamwork and problem-solving.

FIRST offers a progression of programs tailored to engage students in different age groups, from elementary to high school, in hands-on robotics and STEM learning. With 1 FLL team, 8 FTC teams, and 1 FRC team, OSS provides all three programs of FIRST:

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL): Introduces elementary and middle school students to basic engineering and programming through LEGO-based challenges.

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE (FTC): Engages middle and high school students in designing, building, and programming mid-sized robots to compete in alliance-based competitions.

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION (FRC): Challenges high school students to build large-scale complex robots, emphasizing advanced engineering, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving.



Our FTC Teams

Over the past 15 years, OSS has established and hosts 8 different competitive FTC teams: 5070 N.U.T.S., 20344 Cattlebots, 15065 A Byte Irrational, 17288 Rubber Bandits, 22012 Loose Screws, 24085 Short Circuit, 27188 Fractal Fusion, and 31196 Hydra Fusion. Participating in the Orlando Robotics League, our teams won various awards (including but not limited to): The Inspire Award, The Innovation Award, Alliance Captain, and Alliance 1st/2nd place. With these accomplishments, four slots out of six given to advance to the FTC Florida State Championship were given to our teams in the 2025 season (20344 Cattlebots, 15065 A Byte Irrational, 22012 Loose Screws, and 27188 Fractal Fusion)!

Competiton Math

The main theme of the Competition Math Program is to have fun, to learn a lot of math, and to prepare for state and national level math competitions such as MathCounts, AMC 8, 10, and 12, Mu Alpha Theta, and Math League.

Orlando Science Schools Competition Math team for middle and high school students is designed to help them discover their potential in math and related fields. The teams bring many awards from regional and state math competitions to school each year.

High School Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society organizes annual Orange County Math Tournament and sponsors several charity and social organizations.



Model United Nations

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an extra curricular activity in which students typically role play delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. This activity takes place at MUN conferences, which is usually organized by a high school or college MUN club. At the end of most conferences, outstanding delegates in each committee are recognized and given an award certificate; the Best Delegate in each committee, however, receives a gavel.

Thousands of middle school, high school, and college students across the country and around the world participate in Model United Nations, which involves substantial researching, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities.





Speech and Debate

The OSHS Speech and Debate Team has become a premier highlight of student life at our school. Founded in 2023 with fewer than 15 members, this determined group didn't let its small size hold them back. These pioneering students qualified for the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative state tournament and brought home five top-five trophies. Since then, the team has continued to serve their community through public speaking and advocacy while achieving remarkable growth. In 2025, the Speech and Debate team made school history when six members represented our district at the NSDA National Tournament, the largest and most prestigious appraised forensic competition in the nation. The team's success has sparked incredible interest, with our membership growing to over 45 active participants this school year. These dedicated students continually excel at regional and state competitions across a diverse range of events, from Lincoln Douglas debate to Oral Interpretation and everything in between. With such talent and enthusiasm, this team has so much more success ahead!

Congressional Award

This Award is the United States Congress' award for young Americans. It is nonpartisan, voluntary, and noncompetitive. The program is open to all 14 to 23 year olds; young people may register when they turn 13 years and six months old and must complete their activities before their 24th birthday. Participants earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/ Exploration. Earning the Award is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something you would like to try for the first time.

Program Requirements

- **Certificate Levels**

Minimum Hours by Program Area	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Voluntary Service Hours	30	60	90
Personal Development Hours	15	30	45
Physical Fitness	15	30	45
Expedition or Exploration	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
Minimum Total Hours	60	120	180
Total Minimum Months of Activity Needed (for each of the main three program areas)	N/A	N/A	6 Months

- **Medal Levels**

Minimum Hours by Program Area	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Voluntary Service Hours	100	200	400
Personal Development Hours	50	100	200
Physical Fitness	50	100	200
Expedition or Exploration	1 Night 2 Days	2 Nights 3 Days	4 Nights 5 Days
Minimum Total Hours	200	400	800
Total Minimum Months of Activity Needed (for each of the main three program areas)	7 Months	12 Months	24 Months

Florida's K 12 Statewide Assessment Program

Orlando Science Schools administer the following assessments to students every year. OSS academic teams work with parents to increase student achievements for the following assessments.

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)
The Florida Standards Assessments, which measure student success aligned with the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.), include assessments in VPK through grade 10 Reading and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics assessments.

EOC Assessments
The End of Course Assessments are computer-based tests designed to measure student achievement of the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, Florida Standards, or the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for specific courses, as outlined in their course descriptions. These courses include Algebra I, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History.

National and International Assessments (NAEP, PIRLS, PISA, and TIMSS)
National and state assessments enable us to know how well students are doing in a variety of subjects at different ages and grade levels. International assessments allow us the unique opportunity to benchmark our students' performance to the performance of students in other countries. Florida participates in several national (NAEP) and international (PIRLS, PISA, TIMSS) criterion referenced surveys.

To learn more about the individual K-12 assessments offered in Florida, visit the following website: http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k 12 student assessment/

Helpful Resources for Parents and Students

College Board
www.collegeboard.com
Information and registration for AP and SAT tests, and College Planning and Career Search
College Search for www. bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
https://fafsa.ed.gov/
Office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or technical school, offering more than $150 billion each year to help millions of students pay for higher education

Florida Virtual School
www.FLVS.net
Online classes offered by Florida Virtual School. All course requests require counselor approval.

Naviance
https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=ossmhcs
Naviance is a web-portal that provides a unique experience to our students and guides them towards a career path and college readiness. Naviance Succeed is used by more than 8,500 schools and 100,000 educators in 100 countries.

Students and families are provided with access to Family Connection. Using the tools provided, students map their own path starting with assessments to learn more about themselves, progressing to goal setting and career exploration, and then setting a plan to achieve their goals.

The Common Application
www.commonapp.org
The Common Application (informally known as the Common App) is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of over 1000 member colleges and universities in 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

Project Lead the Way
https://my.pltw.org
Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. The curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, help students develop the skills necessary to succeed. This year, we are implementing PLTW - Pathway to Engineering and Biomedical Science Academy. Students can access with their login information to PLTW Online Learning Management System and see the instructors assignments and projects and their grades.

Albert i.o
https://www.albert.io/home
Students can learn by doing. There is no better way to learn than to do something yourself. Practice with 50,000+ challenging questions. Albert io has In-depth solutions. No single-sentence explanations there. They make sure to thoroughly explain every question so you can improve as you practice. Student can get contextual performance insights with data on how other students answered. With its trustworthy content you can know that you are getting relevant, impactful practice for your AP courses and Sat Studies.

Khan Academy
https://www.khanacademy.org/
Khan Academy is a nonprofit organization which provide a free, world class education to anyone, anywhere. Its subjects include math (from early math to calculus), science (like biology, chemistry, and physics), arts and humanities (such as world history and art history), reading and language arts, and computing. It also offers life skills and test preparation courses for exams like the SAT.

High School Timeline

Use this timeline to help you make sure you're accomplishing everything you need to accomplish on time.

9th Grade

- As soon as you can, meet with your counselor to begin talking about colleges and careers.
- Make sure you are enrolled in the appropriate college-preparatory courses.
- Get off to a good start with your grades. The grades you earn in ninth grade will be included in your final high school GPA.
- In October, take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. It is strongly recommended to take SAT in 9th grade to experience a real test environment and check your SAT level.
- When you receive your scores, schedule an appointment with your college counselor to discuss your score.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities (both school and non-school-sponsored).
- Attend whatever college-preparatory nights are held at your school or by local organizations.
- Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan for college.
- Investigate summer enrichment programs.
- Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities.

10th Grade

- In October, take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. When you fill out your test sheet, check the box that releases your name to colleges so you can start receiving brochures from them. When you receive your scores, schedule an appointment with your college counselor to discuss your score.
- Become familiar with general college entrance requirements.
- Participate in your school's or state's career development activities.
- Discuss your PSAT score with your counselor.
- Read nonfiction books are strongly recommended to increase reading comprehension
- Work on your writing skills—you will need them no matter what you do.
- Keep your grades up so you can have the highest GPA possible.
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, such as West Point or Annapolis, now is the time to start planning and getting information.
- Visit a few more college campuses. Read all the mail you receive from colleges. You may see something you like.
- Attend the annual Orlando National College Fair (NACAC).
- Consider taking SAT II Subject Tests in the courses you took this year while the material is still fresh in your mind. Some colleges require these tests which are offered in May and June.

11th Grade

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT. In addition to National Merit Scholarships, this is the qualifying test for the National Scholarship Service and National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program.
- Make a list of colleges that meet your most important criteria (size, location, distance from home, majors, academic rigor, housing, and cost). Weigh each of the factors according to their importance to you.
- Speak to college representatives who visit your high school.
- Collect information about college application procedures, entrance requirements. Begin comparing the schools by the factors that you consider to be most important.
- Begin narrowing down your college choices. Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT I, ACT Assessment, or SAT II Subject Tests for admission.
- Take ACT or SAT to improve your previous scores.
- Meet with your counselor/Assistant Principal to review senior-year course selection and graduation requirements.
- Discuss ACT Assessment/SAT I scores with your counselor. Register to take the ACT Assessment and/or SAT I again if you would like to try to improve your score.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.
- Consider whom you will ask to write your recommendations.
- Inquire about personal interviews at your favorite colleges.
- Apply for a summer job or internship. Be prepared to pay for college applications, financial aid, and testing fees in the fall.
- Visit the campuses of your top two or three college choices.
- Practice filling out college applications, and then complete the final application forms or apply online through the web sites of the colleges in which you are interested.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Compose rough drafts of your college essays. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you. Proofread them and prepare final drafts. Proofread your final essays at least three times.

12th Grade

- Continue to take a full course load of college-prep courses.
- Keep working on your grades. Make sure you have taken the courses necessary to graduate in the spring.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.
- To male students: You must register for selective service on your eighteenth birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final college choices.
- Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships.
- Check resource books, computer programs, and your guidance office for information on scholarships and grants. Ask colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Give recommendation forms to the teachers you have chosen along with stamped, self-addressed envelopes, so your teachers can send them directly to the colleges. Be sure to fill out your name, address, and school name on the top of the form. Talk to your recommendation-writers about your goals and ambitions.
- Verify with your guidance counselor the schools to which transcripts, test scores, and letters are to be sent. Give your counselor any necessary forms at least two weeks before they are due, or according to your counselor's deadline – whichever is earlier.
- Register for and take the ACT Assessment, SAT I, or SAT II Subject Tests, as necessary.
- Be sure you have requested (either by mail or online) that your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice.
- Mail, or send electronically, any college applications for early-decision admission by November 1st or college deadline.
- If possible, visit colleges while classes are in session.
- If you plan to apply for an ROTC scholarship, remember that your application is due by Dec. 1st.
- Print extra copies or make photocopies of every application you send.
- Attend whatever college-preparatory nights are held at your school or by local organizations.
- Send midyear grade reports to colleges. Continue to focus on your schoolwork!
- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, if necessary, PROFILE®. These forms can be obtained at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov and downloaded to an electronic file, but may not be processed before January 1st. Do not send them before then.
- Mail or send electronically any remaining applications and financial aid forms before winter break. Make sure you apply to at least one college that you know you can afford and where you know you will be accepted.
- Follow up to make sure that the colleges have received all application information, including recommendations and test scores.
- Meet with your counselor to verify that all applicable forms are in order and have been sent out to colleges.
- Watch your mail between February 1st and April 1st for acceptance notifications from colleges.
- Watch your mail for notification of financial aid awards between April 1st and May 1st.
- Compare the financial aid packages from the colleges and universities that have accepted you.
- Make your final choice and notify all schools of your intent by May 1st. If possible, do not decide without making at least one campus visit. Send your nonrefundable deposit to your chosen school by May 1st as well. Request that your guidance counselor send a final transcript to the college in June.
- Be sure that you have received a FAFSA acknowledgment.
- If you applied for a Pell Grant (on the FAFSA), you will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) statement. Review this Pell notice and forward it to the college you plan to attend. Make a copy for your record.
- Complete follow-up paperwork for the college of your choice (scheduling, orientation session, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms).
- If applicable, apply for a Stafford Loan through a lender. Allow eight weeks for processing.
- Receive the orientation schedule from your college.
- Get residence hall assignment from your college.
- Obtain course scheduling and cost information from your college.
- Congratulations! You are about to begin the greatest adventure of your life. Good luck.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) &
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

Bright Futures is a merit/academic scholarship funded by the state of Florida and Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) open on October 1st of the every school year. The deadline to complete the requirements for school year is usually Bright Futures is August 31st.

Students must apply to FFAA to be considered for Bright Futures.
Important: Do not wait until you meet all Bright Futures requirements to apply. You can apply now and fulfill the requirements throughout the year.

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award or the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Graduate high school from a Florida public high school with a standard Florida high school diploma (high school graduation requirements), graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private high school, earn a GED, complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school if specific conditions are met (see the Out-of-State (OOS) guide referenced here for additional details – OOS);
- Complete the required high school coursework.
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA);
- Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT®, CLT®, or SAT® college entrance
- exam. Tests taken no later than August 31 are accepted for evaluation purposes.
- Complete the required number of volunteer services, paid work hours, or the combination of
- 100 total hours; and
- Submit an FFAA during your senior year between October 1 through August 31 school year.

Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)

Awarded to students in career education or certificate programs. Eligibility:

- 3.0 weighted GPA in non-electives
- 3 CTE credits (no substitutions with On-the-job training)
- 3.5 unweighted GPA in CTE courses
- Minimum score on ACT®, SAT®, or PERT
- 30 volunteer hours, 100 work hours, or combination (100 total)
- Note: Starting with grade 9 in 2024-25, 75 volunteer hours required.

Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)

- For students in career/certificate programs. Benefits may extend up to 60 credits toward a B.S.
- degree after completing an A.S. degree. Requirements:
- Earn at least 5 college credits via CAPE certifications
- 30 volunteer hours, 100 work hours, or combination (100 total)
- Note: Starting with grade 9 in 2024-25, 75 volunteer hours required.

Type	16 High School Course Credits [1]	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/ Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English *(three must include substantial writing)* 4 - Mathematics *(at or above the Algebra I level)* 3 - Natural Science *(two must have substantial laboratory)* 3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language *(sequential, in same language)*	3.50	2025-26 Graduates[2]: 29/95/1330 2026-27 Graduates[3]: 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS		3.00	2025-26 Graduates[2]: 24/82/1190 2026-27 Graduates[3]: 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

Other Ways to Qualify

- Students who have demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for Bright Futures without having to meet one or more of the requirements.
- All Merit Recognition programs must be earned prior to high school graduation. Confirmations may come from AICE; IB and College Board as late as September. Please refer to the table below for how to qualify based on one of the merit recognition programs.
- Student must earn the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of both equal to 100 total hours.
- College Board's National Hispanic Scholar program has been discontinued. If student received award previously (certificate dated prior to May 7, 2025), Bright Futures will honor it.

National Merit Finalists and Scholars:
To identify National Merit Scholarship Corporation students, OSFA will need the official letter of recognition from National Merit Scholarship Corporation sent to High Schools.

Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma:
Students graduating high school in the 2025-26 school year can qualify for the FAS award by:

- Completing 100 services or paid work hours,
- Receiving an AP Capstone Diploma, which a student must:
- Earning a score of 3 or higher on both AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, and
- Earning a score of 3 or higher on any four additional AP Exams of their choosing.

Merit Recognition Program	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year		Volunteer Service*	Paid Work Hours*	Combination of Volunteer/ Paid Hours	Bright Futures Award
	2025-26	2026-27				
National Merit® Finalists and Scholars			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
			75 hours			FMS
AP Capstone Diploma			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) - Diploma			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
			75 hours			FMS
International Baccalaureate (IB) - Diploma			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
			75 hours			FMS
AICE - Curriculum	29/95/1330	29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
	24/82/1190	24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FMS
International Baccalaureate (IB) - Curriculum	29/95/1330	29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
	24/82/1190	24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FMS

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

FAFSA is a financial need-based scholarship, and it is not a merit-based scholarship. However, all the universities require students to complete their FAFSA regardless of their parent's income. The 2025–26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form asks for 2023 income and tax information (Income from 2 years prior since you will apply for 2025-26 academic year).

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form allows you to be considered for federal student aid. In addition, states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. But, since aid is limited, you must meet deadlines!

When can students start applying?
Senior students may apply for FAFSA starting on October 1. For more details, you can check their website here: 2026–27 FAFSA Improvements and Beta Testing Plan

When is the deadline?
The FAFSA form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2026. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 12, 2026.

States and colleges may also have their own FAFSA deadlines as early as January 2026. The Federal Government wants you to apply as early as possible to be able to get the most money possible. The sooner you complete the FAFSA, the better. Grants and scholarships are limited, and some are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each state has its own deadline. See the listing here: State Deadlines for 2025-26 (It is for students who graduated in 2025).

What do I need to apply for FAFSA?

- Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov for you (and parent if required).
- Gather documents: Social Security numbers, tax returns, W-2s, bank/investment info.
- Start the FAFSA at studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa for the correct school year.
- List up to 20 schools to receive your FAFSA.
- Answer student and parent questions about demographics, dependency, and finances.
- Invite contributors (parent/spouse) to complete their sections using their own FSA ID.
- Sign and submit the FAFSA electronically.
- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary and make corrections if needed.
- Determine your dependency status and whether your parent(s) or spouse will be required to contribute information on your FAFSA form.
- If you're a dependent student, use the Who's My FAFSA Parent? wizard to identify which parent(s) will be a required contributor on your form.

CSS Profile

The CSS Profile is an online application for college financial aid that collects a student's and their family's financial information to determine eligibility for non-federal, institutional aid like grants and scholarships from colleges and programs. It provides a more detailed financial picture than the FAFSA, allowing students to report on assets, savings, and other circumstances to be considered for institutional funding from the schools they apply to.
The CSS Profile opens October 1 each year (same day as FAFSA, typically) and has a fee, but many students qualify for fee waivers.
Each college has its own CSS deadline—often earlier than FAFSA deadlines.
Documents often needed:

- Latest tax returns
- W-2s and income statements
- Business/ farm financials (if applicable)
- Mortgage or home equity information
- Bank statements

Scholarship Application Tips

- Complete the FAFSA early; double-check deadlines for each college.
- Submit the CSS Profile if required by private schools.
- Track all scholarships in a spreadsheet (deadlines, requirements, status).
- Apply for a mix of large and small scholarships—small ones have less competition.
- Prepare a strong scholarship resume (GPA, awards, activities, leadership, service).
- Request recommendation letters early and provide your resume to the recommender.
- Tailor each application to the scholarship's mission and values.
- Write essays with specific stories, not generic summaries.
- Proofread all materials; avoid typos, incomplete answers, or missing attachments.
- Submit everything before deadlines, not on the last day.

Some Free Scholarship Websites

› https://studentscholarships.org/
› https://goingmerry.com/
› https://www.raise.me/
› www.finaid.org
› www.fastweb.com
› www.collegeboard.com
› www.scholarships.com
› www.princetonreview.com
› www.xap.com
› www.allaboutcollege.com
› www.collegeview.com
› www.unigo.com/scholarships
› OCPS Latest Scholarship Bulletin

College Visits

There are 135 colleges in Florida, 78 public and 56 private, offering a wide range of programs and majors. Twelve of these universities are within the State University System. However, you have to choose just one of the Sunshine State's many colleges and universities. A campus visit is your opportunity to get a firsthand view of a college. To ease this selection process, Orlando Science Schools organize many college trips throughout your high school years. Here is why you should join us for the college visits:

Get Ansers to Your Questions

A visit gives you the chance to talk to students, faculty, and financial aid and admission officers. You can get answers to important questions, including:

- What is the average class size and the student-to-faculty ratio?
- Are most classes taught by professors or by teaching assistants?
- What is the makeup of the current freshman class?
- Is the campus fairly diverse?
- What's the social scene like?
- What kinds of activities are available?
- Is there plenty of dorm space or is there a housing crunch?
- How many students are commuters and how many are campus residents?

Get Valuable Information

Pick up any official college material you see, such as brochures and financial aid forms. Do not forget to get business cards, so you will have a real, live contact if you have a question about admission or financial aid.

Student newspapers and activity calendars give you a sense of what campus life is really like. Check out bulletin boards to see what bands are coming to the campus, what parties are advertised, what internships are posted and generally what the day-to-day energy of the place is like.

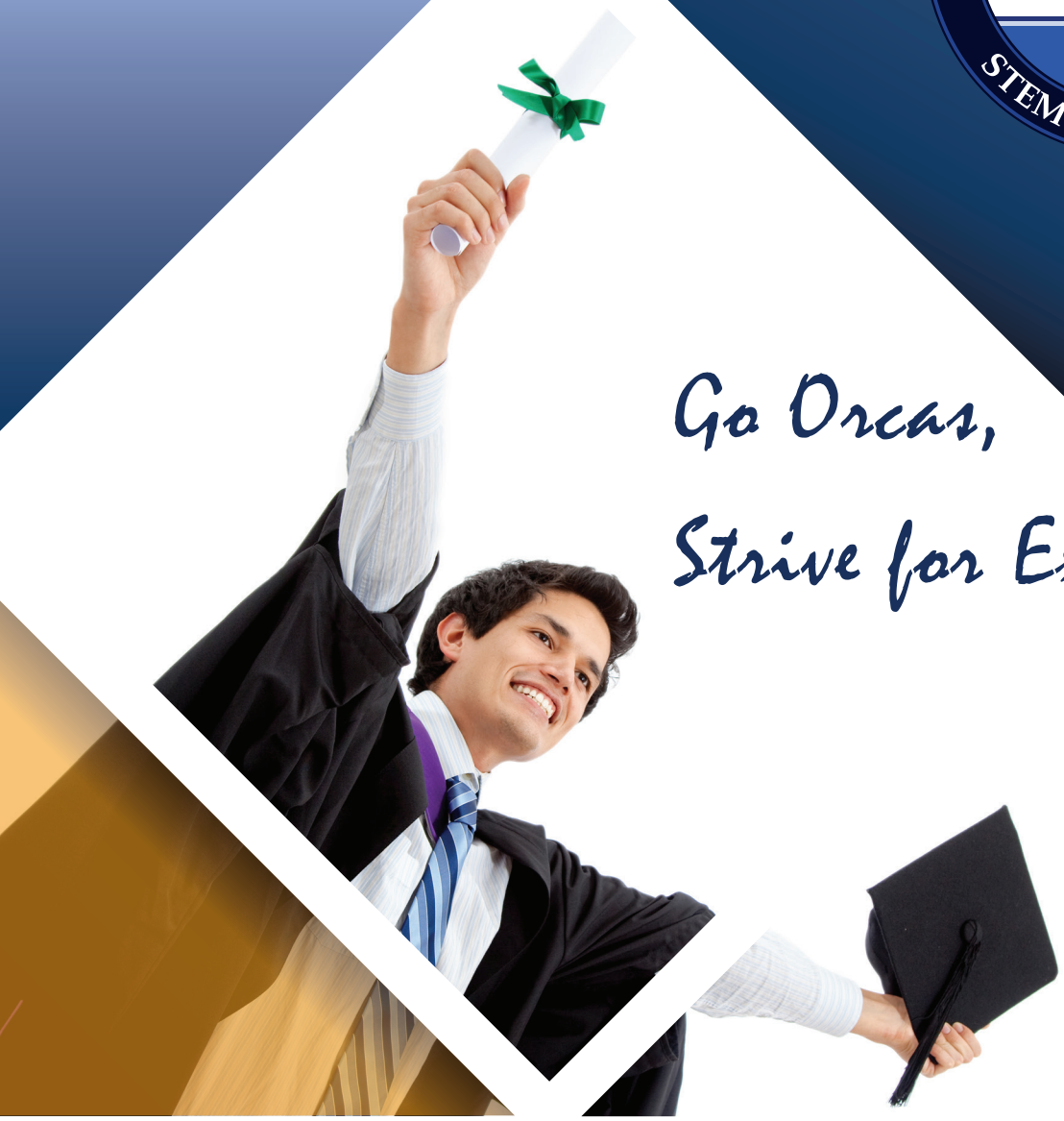
Get Ready to Decide

Ultimately, it is your decision. Listen to your gut. Do you feel comfortable walking around campus? Do you feel at home? Do you click with the students and faculty? Is this what you imagined college to be like? Spending time on a campus helps you determine whether a college is a good fit. Use the checklist above for campus visits to remind yourself of everything you want to do once you get to campus.

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