

ICS

Make the Best of Your Education

**A Planning Outline to Assist Students and
Their Parents**

2009

7th Grade

FALL

Get to know ICS.
Go to ICS camp in September.
Develop study skills and time management skills.
Determine your learning style.

WINTER:

Perfect your skills.
Event: watch for College Planning notices.

SPRING:

- Attend ICS 7th Grade Meeting with Parents, Students, Principal and ICS College Counselor.

SUMMER:

Read a variety of literature, including fiction and non-fiction.
Check with ICS instructors for ideas.

Have fun!

8th Grade

FALL

Perfect study and time management skills.
Keep studying!!

- Consider taking the Power Reading classes.

WINTER: Continue developing skills.

Event: watch for College Planning with the Pros notices.

SPRING: Continue developing skills.

SUMMER:

Read a variety of literature, including fiction and non-fiction.
Add journals, magazines and newspapers. Check with ICS instructors for ideas.

Have fun!

9th Grade

FALL This is high school. Grades count now.

Consider trying different extra-curricular activities to find your passion and *stick to it*.

If you are interested in military academies, now is the time to start researching their entrance requirements.

- Consider signing up for Power Reading.
- Attend 6+ college rep visits during lunch.
- Events: watch for College with the Pros and College Financing notices.

WINTER:

Continue with your new activities and clubs.

Start tracking activities and achievements.

Develop initial resume in LWSD's High School and Beyond Electronic Planning Portfolio program. Complete LWSD's WOIS program. Both done at ICS during class.

- During Winter Break, consider talking with college students about their college experiences.

SPRING:

- Attend ICS 9th Grade Meeting with Parents, Students, Principal and ICS College Counselor and receive 9th Graders' Information Folder containing basic college planning material.
- Event: watch for College Fair notices.

SUMMER:

Read a variety of literature, including fiction and non-fiction. Add journals, magazines, newspapers and manuals. Check with ICS instructors and collegeboard.com for reading list suggestions.

Visit 1-2 college campuses, i.e. Seattle Univ. and UW. Informal visits are great ways to get familiar with campus settings. Include the libraries! No need to schedule admissions visits.

Have fun!

10th Grade

FALL

Continue pursuing your outside interests and passions.

Begin drafting resume in LWSD's High School and Beyond Electronic Planning Portfolio and WOIS program. (Done at ICS during class.)

PSAT Test:

1. Consider taking PSAT in mid October for SAT test taking practice. Juniors have priority but Sophomores may take test if space available. This 10th grade score is not used by colleges. Only 11th Grade PSAT scores are used for college mailing lists and scholarship materials.
2. Remember – after taking PSAT keep your scores handy. Many college summer programs will request a copy.

PLAN Test:

Consider taking the PLAN for ACT test taking practice if you expect to use the ACT score in your college applications.

- Attend 10 college rep visits during lunch at ICS.
- If you are taking any AP or Honors courses, consider taking the SAT II in the same subject.
- Events: watch for College with the Pros and College Financing notices.
- Consider visiting a college fair. www.nacac.com

WINTER:

During Winter Break, review your PSAT results and, if needed, consider self study materials, tutoring or classes to boost SAT scores and determine next SAT test date.

Obtain temporary e-mail address for college communications.

Consider visiting a college fair. www.nacac.com

Start a file for college info.

Start identifying college selection criteria, i.e. size, cost, location, major, extra-curricular activities. Consider using a spreadsheet to track info.

Try out a few college web sites.

Start plans to visit 1-2 colleges before 11th grade, either during Spring Break or over the summer. Sign up for the admissions presentation in addition to the campus tours. Prepare 5-10 questions specific to each school you are visiting.

Update resume in LWSD's High School and Beyond Electronic Planning Portfolio program.

SPRING:

Consider course selection for 11th grade.

Consider attending summer program at a college you're interested in or on a topic in which you are interested.

Get familiar with www.collegeboard.com; try out the SAT Question of the Day.

- Events: watch for College Fair notices.

SUMMER:

Continue pursuing passions.

Visit 1-2 colleges if you haven't already done so. Consider Seattle Pacific University, UW or Gonzaga. Sign up for the admissions presentation in addition to the campus tours. Prepare 5-10 questions specific to each school you are visiting.

Consider SAT review courses if needed.

Read a variety of literature, including fiction and non-fiction. Add journals, magazines, newspapers and manuals. Check with ICS instructors and collegeboard.com for reading list suggestions.

11th Grade

FALL

PSAT Test:

1. Consider taking PSAT in mid October for test taking practice. (This one counts for National Merit Scholarship and triggers college mailings.)
2. Sign up for PSAT in mid October is 2 weeks prior to test taking at ICS (cafeteria).

SAT, SAT II's, and ACT Admission Tests:

1. Review college admission requirements for SAT, SAT II and ACT tests. SAT II requirements summarized at www.compassprep.com
2. Talk to teachers about selecting SAT II tests, such as Biology, Math I and Math II.
3. Consider Spring SAT II's
4. If you are considering taking the SAT multiple times, 2 times is suggested and 3 times is plenty. The first test after the ICS prep course is in March. Students may also take the test in May or June of their Junior year and also as late as October or November of their Senior year and still get their scores in time to meet Early Action/Early Decision deadlines and standard college application deadlines.

AP Credit Tests

1. Consider May AP tests, such as Spanish, Biology, World History or US History.
2. Review college AP credit guidelines. www.collegeboard.com
3. Talk to ICS Instructors about selecting AP tests.

Begin researching colleges in earnest and try to develop a list of at least 20. Consider spreadsheet to track college info. Begin collecting scholarship info.

Make decisions about attending military academies.

Plan college campus visits and take advantage of admission meetings.

Consider attending a college fair if you haven't already done so.

www.nacac.org

- Attend all luncheon college rep visits. This is your networking opportunity with the potential application reader!!
- Events: watch for notices for College with the Pros, College Planning, and College Financing events.

Make sure to involve your parents in your college planning activities and strategies.

WINTER: SAT and ACT:

1. Register for March SAT at www.collegeboard.com and the April ACT at www.act.org.
2. Sign up at ICS for SAT Prep class in January.
3. SAT test in March; ACT test in April.
4. Sign up for additional SAT or ACT tests, if needed.

SAT II

April deadline to register for Spring SAT II subject tests.
www.collegeboard.com

AP

March deadline to register with ICS Counselor for Spring AP tests.

Consider attending a college fair if you haven't already done so.
www.nacac.org

Update resume in LWSD's High School and Beyond Electronic Planning Portfolio program. Done at ICS during class.

SPRING: Take SAT, SAT II and AP tests.

Attend **individual** ICS 11th Grade Meeting with you, your parents, the Principal and the ICS College Counselor.

Start to narrow college list down to your "Top 8"
Decide whether to re-take the SAT or ACT tests in the fall of your Senior year. Pay close attention to SAT and ACT policies about expediting test results to colleges in time for consideration with your application.

SUMMER:

Finalize your Top 8 colleges by August 1. Collect all application materials and become familiar with deadlines. If applicable, review and complete art and video portfolio requirements.

Begin working on college essays.

Consider college budget; continue researching scholarship information and financial aid options.

Visit 3-5 college campuses. Sign up for the admissions presentation in addition to the campus tours. Prepare 5-10 questions specific to each school you are visiting. Consider overnight stays to really get to know the college.

Register for Fall SAT and ACT if needed.

TO BE DONE BY AUGUST 30:

- Finish resume.
- Complete "College Timeline," including deadlines for applications, essays, interviews and financial aid forms as well as dates by which to ask ICS Instructors to begin writing recommendations.
- Complete "College Spreadsheet."
- Prominently display Timeline and Spreadsheet in your home so you can refer to them frequently!!

12th Grade

FALL Schedule meeting with ICS College Counselor for August or September.

Schedule meetings with ICS Instructors for recommendations according to your College Timeline.

Take SAT, SAT II's and ACT test, if needed. **NOTE:** If you are taking any of these tests during your Senior year, confirm the results will be sent to your colleges in a timely fashion to ensure they arrive *before* the application deadline.

Consider Spring AP Tests. Talk to ICS Instructors about selection, such as Physics, Chemistry or Calculus.

Check out www.fastweb.com for scholarship information.

Use a common application if accepted by your schools. www.commonapp.org. Print out the application to start the process.

Arrange interviews with college admissions representatives, if needed.

Submit college applications **earlier** than the deadlines to allow time to supplement application, if needed. **NOTE:** Early Decision/Early Action applications due in November.

Submit financial aid and scholarship applications by deadlines.

Review your College Timeline constantly.

WINTER:

Register for May AP tests with ICS Counselor if needed.

April – await college responses.

May – make college choice and tell ICS College Counselor!

Finalize resume in LWSD's High School and Beyond Electronic Planning Portfolio program. Done at ICS during class.

SPRING:

Arrange for transcripts to be sent to selected college. ***Remember to give ICS Office Manager a stamped, self-addressed envelop for final transcript.***

Take AP tests.

Count the days to graduation!!