

Dear 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent,

We are thrilled to work with your student as he/she begins the IB journey. This is an exciting and challenging time for our students. Please encourage your child to maintain open communication with both teachers and the counselor so that we can offer support when needed. Students should meet with their teachers when they have questions or concerns. The IA has some unique policies and procedures that are in place to ensure the long-term success of our students. Your son/daughter will again receive the student guidebook which outlines all of these policies and procedures. Given its detailed nature, the counseling department has highlighted some of the major points below to ensure you are fully informed, although we hope you read the whole book.

**Junior Focus:**

Please refer to “Junior to-do list” in the Counseling section of [iatoday.org](http://iatoday.org) to help determine what your child should focus on as a junior.

**College & Career Planning:**

Optional individual junior college planning meetings will begin in late January/early February. You will receive a letter explaining the process for making the appointment, if you so desire. In the meantime, your student should be utilizing SCOIR which is an excellent tool in the college search process. SCOIR is our college planning platform. We encourage you to attend the Financial Aid (September) and College Admissions Panel (October) evening programs in the fall. We also encourage the students to attend the school visits from the college admissions representatives in the fall and also attend local college fairs, even when only offered virtually..

**Standardized Testing:**

This is one of the busiest years for standardized testing. A detailed list of what to expect this year is in the Standardized Testing section of [iatoday.org](http://iatoday.org)-Counseling. Please refer to the ideal standardized testing timeline to be informed of what to expect. A separate letter will be sent home detailing information about the October PSAT to be taken at school. All juniors will take a free, college-reportable SAT test during the Michigan Merit Exam testing period in April - no registration will be necessary.

**IB Requirements:**

Students will continuously work on their IB Courses. Students will work on CAS hours & reflections from **the 1<sup>st</sup> day of junior year through March 15<sup>th</sup> of senior year**. We will provide detailed information to the students regarding the complete CAS requirement in late August. Students will begin working on the Extended Essay in April of junior year and will complete it in October of senior year. Please encourage your student to use solid time management and organizational skills to complete these requirements.

**Grading Policies: - Please note changes for 11<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Please familiarize yourself with both the Grading Policy and the Failure and Low Grade Policy sections in the guidebook.

If you have questions about anything listed above, please contact your child’s counselor. We look forward to working with you and your child.

Brigid Piagentini, IA West Counselor