

Dear 12th Grade Parent,

Well, this is it - senior year! We are thrilled to continue working with your child and supporting him/her in all endeavors. 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, but hope you read the whole guidebook.

Senior Focus:

Please refer to the “senior to-do list” on the counseling page of the IA website to help determine what your child should focus on as a senior.

College & Career Planning:

College applications will be filling much of your student’s free time. Please encourage your student to continue to utilize all of the resources in SCOIR. In addition, your student may want to meet with his/her counselor to verify applications and final details. Take the guesswork out of it and ask questions if there is any uncertainty. Be aware of deadlines. Plan to attend the Financial Aid evening program in September and the College Panel Night in October. Students will commit to their college choice by May 1.

It is helpful for students to complete the Student Request for Counselor Letter of Recommendation questionnaire and a family member/parent to complete the Parent Request for Counselor Letter of Recommendation by **August 31, 2020**. Both documents are on the website under Counseling Resources / Post Secondary Planning. This early deadline allows for thoughtful letters to be written before deadlines.

Standardized Testing:

ACT/SAT retakes and first attempts (due to COVID-19) and/or taking SAT II subject tests, and IB Exams in May will be the standardized tests this year. Students should be sure to send ACT/SAT test scores directly from the testing organization to the colleges to which they apply, unless the college accepts self-reported scores (don’t wait on this step). The school does not send test scores to colleges.

IB Requirements:

Students will continuously work on their IB Courses. Students will work on CAS experiences & reflections through March 15th. Students will complete their Extended Essay by early fall of senior year. Seniors will pick their SL/HL exam subjects and pay for their IB tests early in the first semester.

Grading Policies:

Please familiarize yourself with both the Grading Policy and the Failure and Low Grade Policy sections in the guidebook. Seniors with a first semester grade of D are not eligible to sit for the IB exam in that subject thus placing the IB diploma in jeopardy.

If you have questions about anything listed above, please contact your counselor.

Sincerely,

Brigid Piagentini, IA West Counselor