IHS RISING SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE APPLICATION PLANNING GUIDE*

SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR

ACTIVITY	RESOURCES	2ND SEM JR	SUMMER	1ST SEM SR	2ND SEM SR
☐ If applicable, prep for SAT/ACT tests and register for tests between spring of Junior and fall or Senior year. *Remember – December of Senior year is the latest date to take a test that can help your application*	Free online prep: Khan Academy And more ACT dates/registration SAT dates/registration Practice tests via IHS PTSA	X	X	X	
☐ Line up a summer job, volunteer opportunity, or internship. *Explore different activities of interest!*	Employment/Summer Opportunities Volunteer Opportunities	X	X		
☐ Research colleges & universities *Talk to friends & neighbors, research on the internet and visit the library!*	Big Futures	X	X	X	
☐ Plan & schedule college visits (optional) *Include a large, medium, and small campus*	Campus Visit Checklist College Visit Guide	X	X	X	
☐ Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you *Identify some in each category: 'best fit', 'reach', and 'stretch' (try to come up with a total list of 4-8)*	College Types	X	X		
☐ Brainstorm a list of teachers, counselors, employers and other adults who can write letters of recommendation *(all will require ample notice... but remember, not all colleges require!)*	Talk to IHS teachers before leaving for summer end of Junior year! Counselor Letter of Rec process	X		X	
☐ Begin thinking about your applications - many will be available starting in August. *Get familiar with all application requirements of schools you will apply to. Create a spreadsheet or other system to track.*	Download an example: Example tracking spreadsheet #1 Example tracking spreadsheet #2		X	X	

☐ Create Common Application account (opens 8/1) and/or other if needed (e.g. Questbridge, Coalition/Scoir)	The Common Application		X		
☐ Begin/work on college application essays (*Position yourself for a busy senior year by drafting the majority of your essays in August!)*	Common App Prompts		X	X	
☐ Create accounts to search for scholarship accounts and/or start researching private scholarships	WashBoard.org Fastweb.com All high schools collaborate on a local scholarship calendar			X	X
☐ Get a jump start on your senior year HSBP requirements!	Xello IHS HSBP		X	X	
☐ Create your Parchment (transcript) account (email Ms. Lipsen for code)	Parchment info	X	X	X	

EARLY FALL CHECKLIST

ACTIVITY	RESOURCES	2ND SEM JR	SUMMER	1ST SEM SR	2ND SEM SR
☐ Follow up with teachers to confirm request for Letter(s) of Recommendation (add teacher to Common App or individual college applications)				X	
☐ Finalize college application essay(s)				X	
☐ Attend college information sessions in the building and in the community	Issaquah HS CCC events			X	
☐ Send ACT & SAT scores to all colleges and universities on your list that require them	Send SAT scores Send ACT scores			X	
☐ If not complete, and only if necessary, take or retake SAT/ACT (December should be latest!)	(links above)			X	
☐ Be aware of application deadlines November 1 (Early) November 15 (Early) ***UW application deadline*** November 30 (Early) ***UC schools application deadline*** December 1 (Regular) January 1 (Regular)	(Use tracking tools, see above)				
☐ Complete the FAFSA *Recommended for everyone, regardless of need.*	https://fafsa.ed.gov/			Opens Oct 1	

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OTHER KEY RESOURCES

- IHS Counseling website (changing to new url summer 2023)
- IHS College & Career website
- **Military** – Local recruiters visit IHS periodically throughout the year. You can meet with them any time during the year.
    - In the fall of each year the local academies liaisons host an informational event for students interested in the Military Academies. This process can begin as early as mid-Junior year.
- **Apprenticeship Programs**
- Essay & Resume Tips/brainstorming tools:
    - http://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/how-am-i-a-genius
    - Defining Qualities
    - Brave and interesting questions
    - CEG – Values Exercise
- *How to Make Your Common Application a Lot Less Common: The Collegewise Guide to the Common Application*
- NCAA Eligibility Center

* Although most information on this document pertains to college applications, all students benefit from learning more about:

- Summer jobs and opportunities
- Setting up your parchment account (for transcript access)
- Beginning and completing ISD HSBP requirements
- Getting to know resources for all post-hs options with your counselor and/or the College & Career Center resources