



International Academy West
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www.iatoday.org

"One of America's Top Ranking High Schools"
- Newsweek

Ranked Among Top High Schools in the United States
- U.S. News and World Report

A 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

Dear 11th Grade Families,

We are thrilled to work with your student as they begin 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 their 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 student 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 guidebook.

Junior Focus

College & Career Planning:

Optional individual junior college planning meetings will begin in early February and be available until the end of the school year. In January you will receive an invitation explaining the process for making the appointment, if you so desire. In the meantime, your student should be utilizing SCOIR, our college planning platform, which is an excellent tool in the college search process. Additionally, SCOIR's Career Interest Inventory is an excellent resource for career planning. Every student is required to complete the Career Interest Inventory and evaluate the results. We encourage you to attend the **IA's Financial Aid Night on September 18th at 7pm** and the **College Admissions Panel in April**. We also encourage students to attend the university visits from the college admissions representatives in the fall as well as local college fairs. They may sign up via the main menu in SCOIR under Events and Deadlines.

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-Counseling. Please refer to the ideal standardized testing timeline to be informed of what to expect. More information 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 1st day of junior year through March 15th of senior year. The CAS Coordinator, Ms. Belotti, will provide detailed information to the students regarding how to complete CAS requirements. Students will begin working on the Extended Essay in their CORE course 2nd semester of junior year.. Please encourage your student to use solid time management and organizational skills to complete these requirements.

Grading Policies - Please note changes for 11th 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 the main office. I look forward to working with you and students this year!

Sincerely,

Brigid Piagentini, Counselor



*Tri-Campus Head of School: Lynne Gibson; Principals: Patrick Griffin, Ryan Parrott;
Associate Principals: Anthony DeGrazia, Gabrielle Naus; IB Coordinator: Joanne Juco
Counselors: Whitney Bernstein, Kristin Hanson, Caylan Healy, Alexandria Phelps and Brigid Piagentini*

