



College Counseling Calendar: Sophomore Year

⇒ All year:

- Make sure you are challenging yourself to take the most difficult coursework available to you and keep up good grades. You are building your academic record by each course you take, so take it seriously!
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities that you are passionate about. Gain leadership positions, if possible.
- Update your resume on Naviance as you complete activities, volunteer work, and other things of importance. This will make your life much easier when it comes time to fill out college applications.
- Sign up (on Naviance) to talk to college representatives when they visit ISM.
- Make visits to college campuses in order to begin identifying what you are and are not looking for in a college.
- Be sure to keep an open conversation with parents and guardians about your postsecondary planning. Talk about what you are looking for in a college, go on college visits together, discuss how you plan to pay for college, etc.
- Continue to assess your strengths, weaknesses, passions, and what might be important to you in a college and career.

⇒ August/September:

- Be sure to review your transcript and the classes you are registered for very carefully to make sure you have all of the courses required for graduation as well as college admission requirements (meet with Ms. Bianucci).
- Set short term and long term goals for yourself personally and academically.
- Have you gotten involved in any clubs or activities? If not, think about what you might want to join!
- Start studying for the PSAT. This year will serve as a practice round, helping you to prepare for the exam next year as a junior as well as the actual SAT.

⇒ October:

- Wednesday, October 11th, take the PSAT at ISM.
- It's never too early to start looking for scholarships and there are plenty out there!

⇒ November:

- Investigate career options based on your personality and find colleges based on your interests (advising).
- Study hard to prepare for end of term exams.

⇒ December:

- Start second trimester out strong!
- You will receive your PSAT results this month. Review and identify strengths and weaknesses to improve.

⇒ **January:**

- You will receive registration information at the end of the month. Choose your classes wisely for junior year, ensuring that you are challenging yourself as well as taking all of the courses required by colleges (talk to Ms. Bianucci).
- Become familiar with the college entrance exams- ACT vs. SAT and which one will better fit for you.
 - Review PSAT results- It mirrors its big brother exam (the SAT), so you can use the results as an indicator of how you will probably perform.
 - Don't forget about the SAT II- Subject tests (only needed for some of the more highly selective colleges).
 - Don't stress about any of this- we will thoroughly go over the differences of these exams in advising and will have plenty of time to get it nailed down.

⇒ **February:**

- Finalize your ISM registration for junior year.
- Learn about financial aid for college and money management tips.
- If you haven't already, start adding a large number of colleges and universities that you are even a little bit interested in to Naviance. Your list will continue to grow and then will be narrowed down during junior year.

⇒ **Spring:**

- If you haven't started looking for scholarships, now would be a great time to do so!
- Continue to explore college and career options.
- Complete college research project on one college of your choice (advising).
- Use resources offered in advising to research colleges and find out which factors are really important to you in a college and vice-versa, what factors are really important to a college in terms of admission decisions.
- Talk to parents, friends, family about different careers and what they do in their jobs. Have an opportunity to job shadow? Take advantage of the opportunity.
- Complete the ACT Aspire (which used to be called the PLAN test). This is an excellent new computer based version of the exam which will give you an in-depth preview of what to expect on the ACT.
- Review your ACT Aspire results, and make a plan for areas of growth.

⇒ **June:**

- Make plans to be active and involved over the summer.
- Update your resume based on completed activities, volunteering, honors, awards, courses, athletics, etc.