

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR COLLEGE CONFERENCE

2021 - 2022

1. Prepare for Senior Year

- Get organized, plan ahead, and review coursework for senior year.
- When deciding what courses, you should enroll in for senior year, it is important to think about what colleges would like to see and what will benefit you in the future.
(Example: if you are looking into nursing, it would be a good idea to take an extra science course.)

2. Become familiar with Naviance

- Go to www.naviance.com
- Click on **Students and Families Sign In**
- Enter school zip code **07644**
- Click on **Immaculate Conception High School**
- Type in your **username** which is your school email address.
- Type in your **password** – Please contact Miss Manzano or Mrs. Beatrice for your password.
- Click **Log In**

3. Do a college search on Naviance

- College Tab – **Colleges I'm Thinking About**
 - **SuperMatch, College Match**
- Try to narrow your list down to no more than 15 colleges.

4. Do a career search on Naviance

- Careers Tab – Explore Careers, Clusters and Pathways
 - **Career Cluster Finder, Career Interest Profiler**

5. Plan for the SAT, ACT, or TOEFL

- SAT: Check test dates, registration dates, & register online at www.collegeboard.org
- ACT: Check test dates, registration dates, & register online at www.actstudent.org
- TOEFL (International Students ONLY): www.toefl.org
- Test help:
 - <https://www.ixl.com/>
 - <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice>
 - <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

- <http://www.actstudent.org/onlineprep/>
- <http://www.testprepreview.com/>
- It is **your responsibility** to have your SAT and/or ACT scores sent to the colleges you apply to
 - Look for the “send scores” option on either college board (SAT) or ACT websites.
 - Do this **after** you have completed your college application(s)

6. Teacher Recommendations

- Ask (in person) 2 teachers to write you a letter of recommendation before you leave for summer break.
- Give them a copy of your 1.) Resume and a 2.) Filled out “Teacher Request for Letter of Recommendation” form
 - This form is included in this packet, and more can be found in Guidance OR the ICHS website.
- On the same day, request the teacher recommendation letter through Naviance, so that your recommender can upload it electronically.
 - Click on “Colleges” tab on the top right → Apply to College → Letters of Recommendation → Add Request.

7. Develop a Resume (sample attached)

- Give a copy to your School Counselor **no later than September of your senior year.**
 - See sample of resume attachment.
- You can include the following:
 - Full name, address, phone, email
 - Activities (Heading)
 - Academic Achievements (Heading)
 - Clubs/Organizations – in and out of school (Heading)
 - Work/Volunteer Experience (Heading)
 - Athletics/Sports (Heading)
 - Special Talents/Interests (Heading)
- **Naviance also has a resume builder feature that can help you put all this information together!**

8. Start your College Application Essay

- Ask your English teacher/Guidance Counselor to read over your essay for you.
- The essay should be a “written picture” of who you are, not what you have done (your resume and application state “what you have done”)
- Common Application essay topics are online at www.commonapp.org
 - These essays are good to start if schools you are applying to accept the Common App.
 - These essay topics can also give you an idea of what colleges will look for in their applications.

September – October:

9. Finalize Schools

- Try to select 6-8 colleges by the Fall.
 - 2 “reach schools” (very selective)
 - 2 “target schools” (selective)
 - 2 “foundation schools” (least selective)
- Please do not go over 10 schools, as this may be harder for you to narrow down your final college list.

10. Fill out College Applications

- Applications can be found on the college website or on www.commonapp.org
- You may be asked if you want to waive your right to see your recommendation letter(s). You should always answer **YES** (colleges want to know that the letters of recommendation written on your behalf were not seen or critiqued by you.)

11. Perfect your College Application Essay

- Ask your English teacher/Guidance Counselor to read over your essay and critique it for you.

12. School Counselor Recommendations

- Brag sheet
 - If there is anything else you would like included on your brag sheet for your guidance counselor recommendation, please contact Miss Manzano.

13. Transcripts

- This is the document sent to colleges showing your final grades for each course, grade point average (GPA), and number of credits taken.
- **Requesting transcripts senior year** – you **must** request that a transcript be sent to each school you apply to. This is how your counselor knows you applied to the school(s) and how the college receives your transcript.
 - Mrs. Beatrice will send a google form for Transcript Request. Please be on the lookout for that email during the summer.

Other important Information

14. College Visits

- Visit college websites or call the admissions office. Ask when they are hosting open houses, information sessions and campus tours.
 - It is a good idea to write down your impressions of the school for your own information and to include it in your communications to the college representatives.
- College Visits at ICHS – throughout the fall there are several colleges who visit ICHS.
- Juniors get 1 excused college visit and Seniors get 3 excused college visit days. In order for these days to be excused, students must return to ICHS with a signed note from a college representative and hand it to Mrs. Laurita.
- COVID Factors...

15. Student Athletes

- If you are interested in playing collegiate sports at the Division 1 or Division 2 levels, you **must** sign up with NCAA to be eligible for participation.
 - Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - Fill out the application and pay the fee.

16. Deciding Which Colleges to Apply to

- Be mindful of the following:
 - Cost of tuition, fees, housing
 - Location
 - Weather
 - Size
 - Majors available
 - Liberal/conservative
 - Commuter population
 - Programs, organizations, teams important to you
 - Internship/Career Development Office

17. Apply to Scholarships

- A folder is kept in Guidance of all scholarships sent to ICHS that students may be eligible to apply for
 - Please see attached for scholarship links.
- Available scholarships will be sent to both students (IC email) and parents.
- Visit college websites.

- Many schools automatically consider applicants for merit scholarships when students apply, but some scholarships need to be applied to.

18. SAT/College Application Fee Waivers

- These may be waived if you fall below a certain income level.
 - See Mrs. Laverty in the Business Office if you believe your family may qualify.

19. Financial Aid

- ICHS will host a financial aid night early in September. (more info to come)

20. Service Plans/504s

- Colleges typically have an Office of Disability Services on campus that may offer some or all accommodations listed in a student's ISP or 504.
- If you wish to receive accommodations, be sure to contact the Office of Disability Services on campus ahead of time.

If you have any questions or concerns as you are going through this process, see your Counselor! 😊

Miss Rebecca Manzano

Guidance Counselor

Phone: 973.773.2400 ext 425

Email: rmanzano@ichslodi.org