

## The Webb Schools College Guidance Yearly Overview

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Grades
  - Contrary to popular belief, all grades do count, especially in the highly selective college admissions process. A student's academic performance and experience are important factors of the application so the student should be encouraged to start the academic career on a strong foundation.
- No testing
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade students should focus on adjusting to the Webb experience and should not worry about studying for or taking any standardized tests.
- Be adventurous, try any opportunity that comes your way
  - Webb is full of opportunities for all of our students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of everything the school has to offer, both in and out of their comfort zones. The early years of high school are ideal to branch out and find new interests and passions for the future.
  - Try a sport or join a club you haven't considered before.
- Adjustment period
  - What aspects of high school are you struggling with? What classes are more challenging? Are you having time managing your time and schedule with the more rigorous course load?
  - Take this time to find the perfect balance in your life, including a full extracurricular life, social life, studies, and sleep.
- Become familiar with your strengths and weaknesses
  - It is ok to make mistakes and find things in which you do not excel. Find your strengths and weaknesses and correct accordingly. Learn to become independent and do not always rely on others.
- Advisory system
  - Utilize the advisory system Webb offers for all of its students. Ask your advisor questions or for advice if you need help. Be proactive!
- Course selection in the spring
  - Challenge yourself appropriately and more importantly, do not try to take on more than you can
  - Find your interests. You must make some decisions. You cannot take everything.
  - Do not feel pressured to take advanced classes or worried that your classmates seem to be taking more than you are. Worry about your own work and performance
- Occasional college counselor meetings

- College Guidance will meet a few times each semester to check in and to answer questions.
- We will also conduct occasional workshops to get students to think about the process appropriately, to think about school and applications as part of a much larger picture.
- Be active and productive during the summer
  - Yes, you deserve a break, but summer is also a chance to explore your interests and find pursuits that are important to you.
  - You can travel, take some classes, work part-time, find an internship, volunteer, or even read a few good books.
  - Don't spend the entire summer watching TV, playing videogames, or studying for standardized tests that are still years away!

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Grades
  - Build upon your performance from the previous year and continue to get the best grades you can. Because your courses may be more challenging than last year, do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it.
- Continue to explore and develop interests
  - Start to look and see what opportunities for involvement and leadership are around you, both on and off campus. Can you see yourself as engaged as the seniors above you? Their leadership positions were earned, not given.
- PSAT exam in October
  - The PSAT will be administered on campus in October to all sophomores. The test is designed to measure how well you might perform on the SAT but it is important to remember that it is only practice.
- College counselor meetings with sophomores
  - College Guidance will continue to meet a few times each semester to conduct workshops and discuss plans for college.
- Course selection for Junior year, challenge yourself
  - Your course selection for junior year will likely open up even more opportunities for you. Take the appropriate number of advanced classes for yourself.
- Be active and productive during the summer
  - Another break, but now you are nearing the last half of high school. Have some fun, but remember that there will only be one more summer break after this one during which you can take the time to do something constructive. You may even want to take this time to visit some colleges to start to think about what sort of environment you would like.

## 11<sup>th</sup> grade

- Grades (most important year)
  - Junior year grades are extremely important for college admissions.
- PSAT in October
  - The PSAT will be administered on campus in October to all juniors. The test is designed to measure how well you might perform on the SAT and if you qualify, you may achieve national merit recognition. When the results arrive in December, use the information to consider whether test preparation is appropriate or not.
- College info evening in the fall
  - Webb will host a College Night in October for all juniors and seniors and their families. The speaker will be presenting about the college admissions process.
- Plan on taking the SAT exam in the spring (March, May, or June) along with Subject Tests.
  - Take the SAT or ACT in the spring and decide whether you need to take Subject Tests as well.
- Meet with College Guidance office in the spring (individually and then parent meeting)
  - The College Guidance office will begin scheduling meetings with the junior class in the second semester. Once we have met with the student first, parents are welcome to schedule a meeting with our office as well.
- Case Studies program in the spring
  - All juniors will attend the Case Studies program in April and all parents are welcome to join as well. Students and parents will act as an admissions committee for a fictional college and decide whether to admit, waitlist, or deny mock candidates. There will be a college fair afterwards during which the students will have the opportunity to meet with college representatives from all around the country.
- College Guidance Blue Questionnaire due in the spring
  - Juniors will thoughtfully fill out a questionnaire for College Guidance that will help us to get to know the student.
- Visit colleges over the spring/summer breaks
  - As you work with College Guidance and look at your preliminary list of schools, take every opportunity you can to visit as many schools as you can. Start to decide what sort of institution you would like to attend after graduation.
- Continue to be active in the summer
  - This is your last chance to be productive!
- Work on the college application essay, Common Application over the summer
  - The first semester of senior year will be extremely busy so any thought given to your application and essays will be a good head start.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Senior Retreat in August
  - Seniors will start the year off with a three day program that commences the college application process. This includes...
- Grades (1<sup>st</sup> semester will be the last set of grades colleges will use to make decisions)
- SAT, Subject Tests, ACT, TOEFL in October, November, and/or December (if necessary)
  - Seniors must make sure to finish all standardized testing by December.
- Brag Sheet due in September
  - The Brag Sheet, which is distributed during the Senior Retreat, will help your teachers write the best recommendation letters possible.
- Meet with College Guidance in the fall to finalize college list
  - Seniors will meet again individually in the fall to discuss any changes and begin finalizing the list of colleges.
- Attend the college representative visits during the fall
  - It is very important for seniors to attend the college representative visits during the fall. They will have the opportunity to learn about colleges they might not have been able to visit and get a chance to speak with an admissions officer from that very school.
- Narrow the list of colleges to ~10 and decide whether to apply Early Decision/Early Action
  - Seniors will decide with College Guidance whether applying Early Decision or Early Action would be appropriate and also finalize the list of colleges.
- Ask two teachers for recommendation letters
  - Find two appropriate teachers (one from Humanities and the other from Math or Science from junior or senior year) for recommendation letters as early as possible.
- College info evening in the fall
  - Webb will host a College Night in October for all juniors and seniors and their families. The speaker will be presenting about the college admissions process.
- Financial aid information evening in the fall
  - Webb will host a Financial Aid information session for seniors and their families in October.
- Finish applications and essays, send applications by the proper deadlines
  - Make sure to send test scores as well
- Keep track of financial aid, NCAA document deadlines
- Make the final decision and commit by May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Continue to get good grades second semester
- Breathe a well-deserved sigh of relief!