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WELCOME!

To our new students, we are so glad you decided to become a member of the i3 family and to our returning students, we are glad to have you back!

Here at i3, it is our goal to get students involved in computer science and gain a better understanding of problem solving through technology. We believe that all of our students have the ability to go to college and we would like to assist in that process as well. It is important to us that our students – and parents as well – have a support system available when preparing for the college application process. We at i3 would like to be a part of that system.

In the following pages you will find information to help make the road to college a little easier. Again, welcome to the 2013-2014 academic year. I have hopes that it is going to be a great one.

Chanteal Edwards, Program Coordinator
MESSAGE TO STUDENTS:

This guide is here to assist you in the college application process and to ensure that you have all of the necessary pieces to complete your journey. The information inside comes from current Georgia Tech students and numerous Internet sources. With that said, it is still important that you meet regularly with your academic counselor or advisor to make sure you are on track and headed in the right direction. In addition, feel free to ask the program facilitators any questions or concerns you may have. They are willing to share their experiences with you.

Kourtney Wright, ICE Manager
Get Started Early!

It is never too early to begin preparing for college so here are a few things you can do during your freshman and sophomore years to get the ball rolling!

**9th Grade**
- Begin SAT and ACT Prep
  - Practice exams and sample questions for these tests are available on [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) and [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org).
  - Prep classes are available through Princeton Review, Kaplan, and Sylvan Learning Center to name a few. Also, find out if your school offers a prep class as well.

- Find out if your school offers the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)
  - The PSAT is a good way to prep for the SAT in a similar setting to where you’ll be taking the exam.
  - You score on the PSAT will not affect any future SAT exams or college admissions, but it will be used to determine if you are a National Merit Scholar and if you are eligible for a scholarship. For more information please visit [nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php](http://nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php).

- Find out how early you can take your first Advanced Placement (AP) class and get enrolled ASAP!
  - Through Advanced Placement classes you will have the opportunity to earn college credit.
  - Please visit [apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com) for a complete list of courses offered. All classes may not be available at your school.
  - AP exams are administered towards the end of each school year. Depending on where you go to school, you may or may not have to pay the exam fee.
• Get involved
  o Even if community service hours are not required for graduation, get involved in your community. Volunteer at a church, senior center, day care, or participate in a neighborhood clean up.

10th Grade
• Network and build relationships
  o It is important to build relationships with your teachers, counselors, and coaches. Make it a point to meet with them outside of the usual class period or practice so that they can get to know you. That way, when the time comes for you to ask for letters of recommendation, you’ll have a list of people you can ask.

• Meet with your counselor/advisor
  o By the end of your 10th grade year, if your counselor hasn’t called you up to their office to ask how things are going, schedule an appointment with them. This is so that you can ensure that you are on track to graduate and to plan for your last two years.

Summer Break Between 9th and 10th Grade
• During the summer, try to find a summer program to participate in, volunteer, or get a part time job. This goes for the summer following 11th and 12th grade as well.
It’s Crunch Time!

11th Grade
Your junior year will probably be the most important year of your high school career. This is where you will compile your list of schools, make campus visits, and get most of your necessary exams out of the way.

Please continue to take Advanced Placement classes and classes at your local junior/community colleges.

This also the most critical year for your GPA being that it is probably the last opportunity you have to make any improvements before applying for schools.

- Compile Your List!
  - Start getting together the list of schools you would like to apply to whether it is one or ten schools in length. At this point your list doesn’t have be final, but it is good to have an idea. A great resource for doing research on schools is US News and World Report. Also be sure to visit a school’s website. This is most likely to be your best resource.
  - Keep in mind that most schools will have an application fee. Financial information regarding applications can be found in the financial aid section of this guide.

- Once you have a list schools compiled (rough draft), see what schools it would be possible for you to tour. Keep in mind that you probably will not attend a school that you have not visited. Once you have completed all of your visits, rule out the schools you haven’t seen or have little information on, and get closer to finalizing your list of schools.

- Testing
  - In the spring, register to take the SAT. Please visit the College Board website for the testing schedule and a list of schools in your area administering the exam. It
may also be a good idea to register and take the ACT. Some schools will take that score as an alternative to your SAT score if you didn’t score where you would have liked. Also, check college application requirements to find out if a school requires the SAT subjects exams to apply. If so, register for those through College Board as well. Keep in mind that as the date for your exams approach, the fee will increase so register early. Some students may be eligible for fee waivers for the SAT and the ACT.

SAT Fee Waiver Information
ACT Fee Waiver Information

• Meet with Your Counselor
  o If possible, schedule a meeting with counselor just to make things are in order for your fast approaching graduation. Things like your schedule for senior year and any summer/makeup classes need to be taken care of at this time.
The Home Stretch!

12th Grade
SENIOR YEAR! Finally! Sure everyone will be concerned with prom, grad night, and graduation, but it is important to remain on track and stay focused until the end.

• Exam Retakes
  o If you want to or feel that you need to retake your SAT, ACT, or Subject Exams, do so no later than the September or October exam date. Again, the schedule of exams dates are available through College Board and the ACT website.

• The Final List
  o Your college list should be finalized by the time you begin your senior year because applications will be opening soon.

• Recommendation Letters
  o Remember we talked about building relationships early on? The beginning of senior time is the time to ask those people for letters of recommendations if they are necessary for any of your college applications. This way you are giving them more than enough time to write a good letter on your behalf.
  o Depending on the college, you will either be prompted you submit the letter after you receive a copy from whoever wrote it or you will be given instructions on how the writer can submit it for you.

• Application Time!
  o Some college applications are due as early as October 1st so mid-September is the time to open those apps and get started. The apps require essays, try to start those first, as your essays should go through multiple drafts.
  o Some colleges use the Common Application for their application process. Visit all of your college websites to
find out if they use the Common Application or if they have their own. If the Common Application is used, create an account here.

- Some schools have applications due as late as February, so be sure to check all application dates and submit them accordingly.
Financial Aid Information

First and for most, make sure that your family can afford the school you want to attend or choose to attend. Even if you receive scholarships, there is a chance that some part of your tuition may not be covered, so talk to your parent(s)/guardian(s) and make sure they can afford those costs.

• Apply for Scholarships
  o Whether it is through the school you choose to attend or through outside sources, apply for scholarships. This is money you will not have to pay back later on. Visit fastweb.com and scholarships.com to find and apply for scholarships. These are only two or many Internet sources for scholarships.

• Applying for Financial Aid
  o In addition to the financial aid application needed by the school you decide to attend, to receive financial aid, you must fill out a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA). Please visit studentaid.gov to review the different types of aid and discuss with your parent(s)/guardian(s) what type of aid you would like to receive.
  o **Parents/Guardians:** parts of the FAFSA ask for your tax information and the priority deadline is in March every year, so please be sure to file early so that the application can be turned in as early as possible. There is a grace period for FAFSA, but the earlier, the better.