



Sana'a International School

Wednesday Scoop

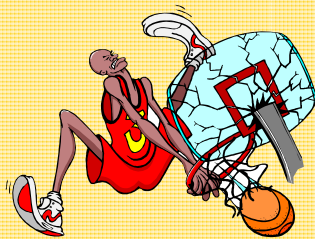


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January Upcoming Events

- ◆ After school basketball in the dome has begun. Students 12 years old and older can participate.
- ◆ After school track from 3-4:20 for 12 and up
- ◆ ITBS testing February 6-9



At SIS, we settle for nothing less than mastery levels of performance and behavior

Just a Credit Card, Thanks

You may be having conversations like this with your kids:

"What do you guys want for Christmas this year?" Twelve-year-old Josh was quick to answer with a long list of the latest video games and electronic gadgets. Fourteen-year-old Jennifer answered. "Oh, I'm not as greedy as he is. I'm only asking for one thing this year."

Astonished, their parents looked at each other, each thinking how much their daughter had matured this year. "What is that, sweetie?"

"A credit card. All my friends have them now."

Ouch! Is a child this age ready for that responsibility? The answer is that nobody is ready for a credit card until they have practiced and mastered the use of many financial tools including:

- Experience with managing an allowance.

Clothing Drive



SIS has been invited to join an effort to collect warm clothing to be distributed to the displaced people in the north of Yemen. International Community Services, a local NGO, has been organizing relief efforts in Yemen for years and they have volunteered to handle the clothing drive.

The clothing will be delivered this coming weekend, so it needs to be collected at the school by Thursday, January 21.

Clothing should be for children- all sizes- and relatively clean. The school will bring it to the ICS office for delivery. ICS will also accept monetary donations, 100% of which will be used to purchase clothing on the market here in Sanaa.

Questions can be directed to Phil Weirich at the school. Thanks for your help. If you want to contribute beyond Jan. 21, call Martha Whitson 442102

Many experiences paying back small loans to their parents.

- Experience with late payments.
- Experience with repossessions.
- A solid understanding of interest rates.
- Practice with a prepaid credit card.
- Understanding that it takes over 35 years to pay off a \$4,000.00 credit card bill if only minimum payments are made each month.

Handing a credit card to a young person without this training is like giving somebody a car without driving lessons.



Top Ten Things Colleges Look

1. A high school curriculum that challenges the student.

Academically successful students should include several Honors and Advanced Placement classes.

2. Grades that represent strong effort and an upward trend.

Grades should show an upward trend over the years. However, slightly lower grades in a rigorous program are preferred to all A's in less challenging coursework.

3. Solid scores on standardized tests (SAT, ACT).

These should be consistent with high school performance.

4. Passionate involvement in a few activities, demonstrating leadership and initiative.

Depth, not breadth, of experience is most important.

5. Community service showing evidence of being a "contributor."

Activities should demonstrate concern for other people and a global view.

6. Work or out-of-school experiences (including summer activities) that illustrate responsibility, dedication, and development of areas of interest.

A job or other meaningful use of free time can demonstrate maturity.

7. A well-written essay that provides insight into the student's unique personality, values, and goals.

The application essay should be thoughtful and highly personal. It should demonstrate careful and well-constructed writing.

8. Letters of recommendation from teachers and guidance counselors that give evidence of integrity, special skill, and positive character traits.

Students should request recommendations from teachers who respect their work in an academic discipline.

9. Supplementary recommendations by adults who have had significant direct contact with the student.

Letters from coaches or supervisors in long-term work or volunteer activities are valuable; however, recommendations from casual acquaintances or family friends, even if they're well known, are rarely given much weight.

10. Anything special that makes the student stand out from the rest of the applicants!

Include honors, awards, evidence of unusual talent or experience, or anything else that makes the student unique. Overall, colleges are seeking students who will be active contributing members of the student body.

Common College Application Mistakes

but it doesn't have to be. Armed with good information and a solid plan of action, you can eliminate mistakes that might stifle your options or kill your chances of admission. We will begin our journey into common college application mistakes and continue over the next week or so. The first common mistake is:

1. YOU MISS THE BOAT ACADEMICALLY

The single most important factor in gaining admission to the college of your choice is how well you perform in a college preparatory curriculum, according to a study by the National Association for College Admission Counseling. (Second and third in importance are admission test scores and class rank.)

An ideal college-prep curriculum includes the maximum number of English, science, mathematics, social studies, and foreign language classes you can successfully manage in high school. To be sure, other factors will enter into the college admission decision, but nothing will have as much weight as your performance in the classroom.

A related mistake is assuming that a high grade-point average is more important than the difficulty of the classes selected. Nothing could be further from reality.

"The most common reason we deny admission is because students have chosen easy elective courses instead of more demanding college-prep courses," says Dan Saracino, dean of admissions at Notre Dame University in Indiana