

SI ACADEMICS

2009/10 School Year

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Academic Calendar

Fall Semester 2009

- August** 28th **First Day of Classes** (1st Quarter begins)
- September** Week of the 20th **Course Status Reports** (CSR) posted online. (1st Quarter)
- October** 12th & 13th **Midterm Exams** (end of 1st Quarter)
16th **Quarter Break - Holiday**
23rd (1st Quarter) **Grades are posted online**
- November** Week of the 8th (2nd Quarter) **Course Status Reports** (CSR) are posted online
25th–29th **Thanksgiving Holiday**
- December** 15th–18th **Final Exams** (End of the 1st Semester)
21st **Christmas Break Begins**

Spring Semester 2010

- January** 6th **First Day of Classes** (3rd Quarter & 2nd Semester)
9th (1st Semester) **Report Cards** are mailed home and posted online
- February** Week of Feb 1st (3rd Quarter) **Course Status Reports** (CSR) are posted online
- March** 8th & 9th **Midterm Exams** (end of 3rd Quarter)
19th (3rd Quarter) **Grades are posted online**
- April** 1st–11th **Spring Break**
Week of 19th (4th Quarter) **Course Status Reports** (CSR) are posted online
- May** 3rd–14th **Advanced Placement Exams**
- June** 1st–3rd **Final Exams** (end of 2nd Semester)
5th **Graduation**—Class of 2010
12th (2nd Semester) **Report Cards** are mailed home and posted online

Academic Glossary

Exams

- **Midterm Exams:**
Midterm exams are scheduled at the end of the first and third academic quarters. Academic Departments may decide what type of assessment, (exam or project), if any, they will give during the midterm schedule. If an exam is not administered, students will have class as usual.
- **Final Exams:**
Final exams are given at the end of each semester (December and June), and are considered a cumulative assessment of student achievement.
- **AP (Advanced Placement) Exams:**
AP exams are given in May following the completion of the corresponding AP course at SI. Students enrolled in AP courses at SI are required to take the exam. Some of our academic departments encourage students to take the AP examination even though no formal AP course is offered; for example, junior English does not offer a specific AP course, but the junior curriculum is designed to prepare students for successful completion of the AP English (Language and Composition) exam. See the Standardized Test section of this handbook for more information about AP exams.

Grading Process

- **Course Status Reports:**
A Course Status Report (CSR) is a formal 'FYI' between a teacher, the student and parents/guardians. They are only required for students on Academic Probation and any students who are in danger of receiving a D or F (C- or below). Thus, most students do not receive reports at this time, but some teachers do submit optional reports even for students who are doing well.
- **Quarter (Midterm) Grades:**
Midterm grades are NOT considered final grades. As with the CSR, they are indicators of student academic performance. Midterm grades are available online at the midpoint of each semester (end of each quarter).

Please Note: They are not factored into the student's GPA and will not appear on the student's transcript.
- **Semester Report Cards:**
Report Cards are posted online and mailed home to families at the end of each semester. The grades noted for each course are also recorded on the student transcript. Students who are enrolled in Honors or AP courses will have additional points added to their weighted GPA based on their final grade in the course.

Accessing Grades

Parents and students may review **Course Status Reports, Quarter** and **Semester grades** on our Online Student Records website: www.siprep.org/reports

An email message is sent from the SI Academic Office at each grading period to inform families once grades are ready. Specific instructions to access grades are also included.

Semester grades are also mailed home to families. This is the only grading period where grades are mailed home in addition to being posted online.

Student Transcript

- **From the SI Student Handbook (09-10)** “Transcripts are permanent records of all courses and final semester grades earned at St. Ignatius. In addition college preparatory credit courses taken during summer session at St. Ignatius are included. Classes taken for student enrichment will be noted on the transcript but not calculated into the GPA.”

Christian Service Hours as well as the student’s unweighted and weighted GPA (Grade Point Average) are also noted on the transcript. Class Rank does not appear on the transcript and our official school profile states that “St. Ignatius College Preparatory does not rank students.” Additional information about calculating GPA at SI is included in this section.

- **Summer School Courses/Remediation/Independent Study**

Note: Grades earned from courses taken at schools other than SI must be requested by the student from the school. The course and grade will be reflected on the transcript. The grade is not calculated into the SI GPA.

Summer courses taken at SI are noted on the student transcript. Grades from summer courses taken at SI are calculated into the student’s cumulative GPA.

Grade Point Average (GPA):

There are two types of GPA, unweighted and weighted. All courses taken at St. Ignatius College Preparatory are included in the GPA with the exception of Teacher Assistant ‘TA’ work and some Performing Arts courses as indicated with a * at the end of the course name on the transcript. Grades earned for courses taken at other schools (both secondary and college level) are not included in the GPA.

- **Unweighted GPA:**

At the end of each semester, an unweighted GPA is calculated on a 4-point scale: (A = 4.00; F = 0.00). A ‘+’ (plus) adds 0.30 and a ‘-’ (minus) subtracts 0.30. Plus and minus are not used on a failing grade (F). For example, B+ = 3.30 and B- = 2.70. Extra value is not added for an A+ (A+ = 4.00).

- **Weighted GPA:**

At the end of each semester, a weighted GPA is calculated using the same scale noted above in addition to the following formula: 1.25 times the unweighted grade earned for each eligible Honors or AP course. For example, an A becomes 5.00, a B becomes 3.75.

- **Cumulative GPA:**

In addition to the unweighted and weighted semester GPA, a Cumulative Weighted GPA is re-calculated at the end of each semester. Cumulative GPA includes the final semester grades included in the Semester GPAs for all semesters and summer sessions attended at St. Ignatius. Midterm grades and Course Status Reports are not included in the Cumulative GPA.

While the official transcript contains each student’s weighted and unweighted cumulative GPA after the end of junior year (six semesters) as calculated above, please note that each college has its own method weighting coursework and selecting which courses to weight. For more information about specific colleges of interest, please go to the admissions website to review the information posted under ‘prospective students’.