



Dear Rising Xllls and Families,

We hope that you are enjoying your remaining time as Xlls before you embark on a restful (and well-deserved!) summer break. In a few short months, you will begin your final year at City & Country as Xllls. We look forward to beginning this work with you.

The high school process is a large part of your fall semester. To give you a little taste of what to expect in the Xllls, and to ensure we hit the ground running come September, please complete the following assignments before the first day of school, **Tuesday, September 8**. You will be asked to submit them on Google Classroom.

1. Complete the **High School Form** below.
2. **Respond to three short-answer questions** to be chosen from the list of sample high school application questions below. Each essay should be between 250 and 300 words.
3. **Respond to 1 essay topic** from the application essay topics list below.
4. **Complete ISEE test #3** under timed conditions in one sitting from Test Innovators.

High School Form

Name:

A. Please complete the following sentences (use more space if you need it).

1. Three adjectives that describe me best are _____, _____, and _____.
2. I would like to be better at, _____
3. With my friends I am _____

Short-Answer Questions

Respond to **THREE** prompts below. Each response should be between 250 and 300 words.

- Describe your ideal high school. What aspects of high school interest you the most?
- Describe a passion of yours that brings you joy.
- What is something you have accomplished that has made a great impact on you?
- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without sharing about it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Application Essay Topics

Choose one of the following topics and write a response that is a maximum of 500 words in length. Remember, quality and quantity of words are not interchangeable. What you say is far more important than the length of the response.

- Please share a story that highlights a core element of who you are and why you feel it's essential.
- Reflect on the neighborhood in which you live and describe how it has shaped you.
- Think about a person with whom you could easily spend many hours. How has your relationship with them influenced you?

Test Prep Work

You will continue to have access to Test Innovators over the summer. At some point before school starts you need to **take one full length timed practice test—ISEE #3** in one sitting.

You will need to set aside 4 hours for this to ensure you have enough time. Take it when well-rested, not late at night, and in a quiet place. This will help you get a feel for the stamina needed for a full length standardized testing session as well as to help us make individualized plans for XIIIs APL.

The ISEE is a multi-grade test. As such, it covers material that is part of Algebra 1 and high school math classes. **The topics listed below are ones that rising XIIIs are not expected to have experience with.** These are topics covered in XIIIs math (Algebra 1) and beyond.

Spend your time focusing on material that you have already been introduced to and has been covered in class, even if the format of the problems may look different. The list below is given as a set of exercises to skip when practicing. This list is not intended as a list of topics to learn on your own, or as a substitute for XIIIs math next year. This is a minority of skills and topics covered on the ISEE:

- Algebraic Concepts: quadratics, matrices, binomials, difference of perfect squares, logarithmic equations, absolute value inequalities, trigonometry
- Decimals Percents Fractions: square root vs square
- Measurement
- Number Sense: matrices, expressions with roots, negative exponents, Sums in Terms of a Variable-Defined
- Whole Numbers: simplifying rational expression with exponents

No other Test Innovators test prep is being assigned over the summer. However, there are a plethora of practice exercises available through Test Innovators. TI provides a personalized prep plan after a full length test has been completed. In general, the best way to learn vocabulary is by reading a range of material, looking at unknown words, and practicing using them in conversation and in writing. So, make sure to read for pleasure this summer.

Spending time working through exercises on Test Innovators will help to keep your skills fresh over the summer. Over the course of the summer, and into the Fall, the best approach to test

prep is a balanced one - practicing at regular intervals for short periods of time (30-45 min) is better than cramming in several hours of test prep at the end of August.

If you have any questions about the assignments, please reach out to [Trayshia](#) and [Yedifer](#). If you have questions about test prep, contact [Steph](#).

Have a wonderful summer!

The Xllls Team