



# Strong Start Getting Ready Guide

K<sup>12</sup> International Academy  We encourage students and Learning Coaches to print and review this Getting Ready Guide together. You will have a top notch team of academic support personnel on point when school begins to ensure a successful experience and a **Strong Start!**

## Welcome from our Head of School, Miriam Rube

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I'm delighted to introduce you to K12 International

Academy—a fully accredited, U.S. diploma-granting, private online school for grades K–12. All around the world, we help students learn in the ways that are right for them, nurturing a joy for learning and a passion to pursue their interests.

The key is our individualized approach, which frees children to reach their personal potential. Our students are liberated from rigid schedules, classes that move too

fast or too slow, bullying, overcrowded classrooms, teaching to the test, and many other factors that typically stand in the way of success. It all starts with the award-winning curriculum from K12, America's K–12 online education leader, which was developed by cognitive scientists and master educators based on decades of research into how children learn. So every lesson comes alive with interactive content and hands-on materials that keep kids engaged.

We also surround you and your child with an amazing support team, including online teachers

who have a true gift for inspiring young learners. Working with our academic leadership, guidance counselors, and other education specialists, they'll be with your family every step of the way. And you'll reap the advantages of our energetic school community—an international network of friends who assist, encourage, and learn from each other through online student clubs, parent roundtables, and much more.

On behalf of the entire school staff, we welcome you to the K12 International Academy family!

### Admissions Services:

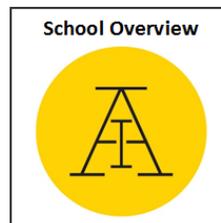
- \* Help with Selecting Courses
- \* Materials and Text Book Processing Help
- \* Works with Registrar to Transfer Eligible Credits
- \* Shares an Individualized Progression Plan (Gr 9-12)
- \* Assists with Questions Until Orientation Week Begins

**Direct #: 1-866-360-0166**

## Confirm your Understanding of what the School Year will Bring



CLICK [HERE](#)



CLICK [HERE](#)

## All New Families Engage in the Strong Start Program

**Great news!** You are not alone in your online learning journey! During your first term with K12 International Academy, you will engage in our [Strong Start Program](#). You will have a Homeroom Teacher (K-5) or Academic Success Coach (6-12) assigned to work with you, they will be your guide through Strong Start, ensure you are successfully orientated, and making progress during your first term with us. As you progress beyond the program, they will always be

there to support your success. Through Strong Start, you will have resources at your finger tips, personnel monitoring and communicating your progress, and easy access to help when you need it.

To support your success, we have developed a [Strong Start](#) website, referred to as IcadStrong, to share tutorials, videos, and resources without needing special logins. As you prepare for the school year, we invite you to explore

the Strong Start website. The week prior to your school year beginning, you will have access to start the Online Learning Course and will hear from your Homeroom Teacher or Academic Success Coach. We are excited to offer you this support system on your path to learning success!




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### Checklist to Success

Create Accounts

Read Getting Started Guide

Discuss the Handbook

Strong Start Website

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## I've Completed my Checklist to Success Task List...Now What?

- ◆ Check your school email on a daily basis. The academic team will start sending communications the week leading up to the first day of school.
- ◆ Complete your Online Learning Course, available in the Online School 7 days prior to your start date. You will learn how to navigate and understand expectations. Parents are strongly encouraged to review the course.
- ◆ K-1 students will complete the AIMS assessment with their teacher after school begins. Read more on Page 3.
- ◆ Using your separate username and passwords, begin exploring and getting comfortable with the Online Learning System.
- ◆ Set up your work space in a quiet area of the home. Click [HERE](#) for a K12 tutorial on this topic.
- ◆ Review your course materials by exploring the Course Overview links we sent to you via email. Make a [list of basic school supplies](#) you will want to purchase.
- ◆ Label your folders/binders according to your courses.
- ◆ Make sure all your technology works and clean up your computer folders.
- ◆ Check to ensure you have the [best browser](#) for our Online School.
- ◆ Visit the [K12 Customer Support website](#) for help and additional tutorials.
- ◆ As a family, brainstorm what the new daily and household schedule will look like to manage schooling and personal/social life.



Watch the K12 International Academy Introduction to [Strong Start Video](#) Now!

## What is my Role...What is your Role?

### The Student

- ◆ Complete the Online Learning Course.
- ◆ Attend or watch a recording of the Getting Started Orientation Session, course orientations, and Policy and Procedures Meeting.
- ◆ Log in to your courses **daily** to work (around 1 hour per course/per day).
- ◆ Check student email and course announcements.
- ◆ Print off course calendars or pacing guides.
- ◆ Attend Study Halls and Class Connects.
- ◆ Check the gradebook daily for teacher feedback.
- ◆ Stay on pace with your courses and submit overdue assignments.
- ◆ Embrace your Learning Coach, openly discuss your progress.
- ◆ Contact your Teachers and Academic Success Coach for help when needed.
- ◆ Abide by the Student Code of Conduct.
- ◆ Engage, participate, and communicate.

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**“The price of greatness is responsibility” - Winston Churchill**

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### The Learning Coach

- ◆ Ensure you and your student completes the Online Learning Course.
- ◆ Attend or watch a recording of the Learning Coach Getting Started Orientation Session and The Policy and Procedures Meeting.
- ◆ Monitor progress and pacing on a daily basis by reviewing grades, teacher feedback, and overdue assignments.
- ◆ Check email daily, and be sure to inform the school if you update your email address. You will be copied on all messages sent to your student. Reach out for help with the Teachers and Academic Success Coach to communicate needs.
- ◆ Read and follow policies in the Student and Parent Handbook.
- ◆ Help your student with daily encouragement and general questions.

### The Academic Success Coach (6-12) or Homeroom Teacher (K-5)



- ◆ Your Strong Start guide and main point of contact for non-instructional needs and requests.
- ◆ Leading students through the Online Learning Course.
- ◆ Assisting students and Learning Coach with organizational skills, pacing and time management.
- ◆ Provided resources, support, guidance, encouragement through regular contact.
- ◆ Guides the Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) and Progression Plan.
- ◆ Facilitates next course selections.
- ◆ Monitors student engagement levels.
- ◆ Collaborates with teachers and school staff for student support planning.

## How Can I Review Student Grades?

Learning Coaches and students **have 24/7 access to up-to-date grades and progress in every course via the OLS for grades K-5, En-grade for grades 6-8, or the Online High School for grades 9-12.**

**K-8:** A progress report is distributed through student email on a quarterly basis to students and Learning Coaches. This is an unofficial report showing grades earned at the mid-semester

point. An official report card is sent via email at the completion of the first semester and at the end of the school year.



The report cards displays all grades earned by the student within each semester.

**9-12:** Course-based progress reports will be sent via student email at the mid-semester point to students and Learning Coaches.

Unofficial Transcripts are distributed through student email up to 2.5 weeks after the term end date. If an official transcript is needed, we partner with eScrip-Safe to provide fee-based safe and secure delivery. Click [HERE](#) to download additional information about official tran-

## Who Do I Ask for Help at the School?

### Admissions Advisor:

Your guide to registration. They can field all questions prior to the start of school.

### Homeroom Teacher (K-5) or Academic Success Coach (6-12):

This Strong Start coach and ongoing advocate will be assigned 7 days prior to the start of school. They are your

personal point of contact for questions about your student's progress, pacing, requirements, and general academic performance. You may reach out to them whenever you need help or guidance. Homeroom Teachers (K-5) are assigned to teach all core courses in the Lower School.

**Course Teacher (6-12):** Teachers are on point for all instructional questions and help. They will grade and provide feedback on assignments and assessments. They will reach out to you through student email and other methods. They will offer live Class Connect sessions and Study Halls to support learning. You may contact them directly for help whenever needed.

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### School staff

**members are an email, phone call, or Skype chat away.**

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## How Does K12 Customer Care Help?

Because we are a part of the K12 family of schools, you may tap into the help and support resources from K12's Customer Care team. Customer Care is available for general questions (technology help, materials, computer requirements).

You are invited to utilize our **customer care line** at **1.866.512.2273**. Or, visit [this link](#) for a series of comprehensive web tutorials on a variety of K12 topics.



Customer Support

## College and Career Counseling Program

All Full-time students in the Upper School are offered College and Career Counseling services.

- ◆ The world's most widely adopted comprehensive college and career planning "Family Connection" platform from [Naviance](#).
- ◆ University of Maryland University College dual enrollment for eligible students.
- ◆ Individual student consultations through Skype, Blackboard or phone.
- ◆ Access to National K12 College and Career Workshops.
- ◆ Monthly College and Career Newsletter.
- ◆ **Live weekly sessions** hosted and recorded by our Professional College Counselors, topics include:
  - ⇒ Letters of Recommendation, etc.
  - ⇒ College Admissions Testing
  - ⇒ Crafting your Personal Statement/ College Essay
  - ⇒ Financial Aid
  - ⇒ Career Research and Planning
  - ⇒ Grade Specific Timelines and Lesson Plans

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**Look for a  
Welcome Email  
from your  
assigned College  
and Career  
Counselor during  
the first week of  
school!**

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## Meet Your College and Career Counselors

### Joseph Berry, College Counselor



Mr. Berry has been in the School Counseling profession for 20 years. He was a school counselor in both the middle and high school levels for 13 years and served as a High School Department Chair. Before joining K<sup>12</sup> International Academy, he was a director of Professional Development for an education software company where he trained school counselors from across the country on ways to improve their college advising program through the use of technology and national standards. He earned his Master of Education degree from The University of Pittsburgh, is a member of NACAC and ASCA and a nationally certified counselor through NBCC.

### Christine Pine, College Counselor



Mrs. Pine began her teaching career in a traditional school setting teaching fourth and fifth grades along with serving as the school's gifted and talented education facilitator. She has been with K<sup>12</sup> for 11 years, 7 of them with the K<sup>12</sup> International Academy where she has worked with both middle school and high school students. Mrs. Pine holds a Masters Degree in Education, is a Certificated Counselor in College Admissions Counseling and a member of NACAC and RMACAC.

## How will Family Connection help with the College and Career Process?

This is your “go to” online resource for college and career planning.

**Course Planner:** Create academic plans to assure satisfaction with graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, and appropriate course rigor



**Build a Meaningful College List:** Access extensive college and university data to research colleges, compare GPA, identify required test scores, and conduct financial planning activities.

**Organize the College Application Process:** Build a resume, complete on-line surveys, manage activities, and track your deadlines.

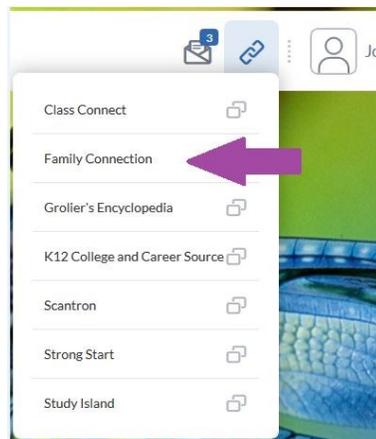
**Additional Resources:** Assistance with academic success, personal development, post high school planning, and NCAA eligibility help.



## Access Family Connection

**Begin exploring career and college planning resources even before school begins! This is how you do it:**

- 1) Student logs in to the [Online School](#).
- 2) From the Quick links menu, click on Family Connection.
- 3) When prompted, use the same **student username and password** to log in to Family Connection.




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Our school prepares students to be more independent, to learn how to learn, to take responsibility for their studies and to take charge of their own destiny!

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## Strong Start College and Career Counseling Tutorials and Videos

### Why not begin the college and career planning process now?

Meet your College and Career Counselors and see Family Connection in action:

[Connecting with College Counseling](#)

Visit College and Career Counseling on our Strong Start website:

[Strong Start College and Career Counseling](#)



## Resources for Learning Coaches and Parents

Below are some of our top **Strong Start** resources to help orientate you before school begins.

K<sup>12</sup> International Academy

- ◆ [Setting Up Your Online School Accounts](#)
- ◆ [Is Your Computer K12 Ready](#)
- ◆ [Navigating the New Online High School](#)
- ◆ [Setting Up the Learning Space](#)
- ◆ [School Email Overview](#)
- ◆ [Bookmark Important Forms and Documents](#)
- ◆ [Weekly K12 International Academy New and Events](#)
- ◆ [Archive of K12 International Academy Parent Newsletters](#)
- ◆ [K12 National Parent Resources](#)

Bookmark our [School Website](#) and our [Strong Start](#) website!

## Wishing you a Strong Start and a successful school year!

Remember, your Homeroom Teacher (K-5) or Academic Success Coach (9-12) will be in contact during the Strong Start Orientation Week (7 days prior to your start date). Visit our [IcadStrong](#) website for up-to-date information, resources, and tutorials as you prepare to begin school.



K<sup>12</sup> International Academy



[Strong Start](#) [Lower School](#) [Middle School](#) [Upper School](#) [Parent Resources](#) [Student Life](#) [FAQs](#) [Contact](#)

JUN 26	K <sup>12</sup> International Academy Graduation 2015 ▾
AUG 4	K12 International Academy Trip Abroad 2015 ▾

**LEARNING UNLEASHED**

We help students gain skills, mastery, confidence, and independence.