

## **The Bucksbaum Early Entrance Academy**

### **Suggestions to Prepare for Applying**

#### **PORTFOLIO FOR ADMISSION**

- Compile a personal portfolio that showcases who you are as a student. This should include copies of all standardized test results and grade reports.
- Develop relationships with adults outside your family who would be able to submit letters of recommendation.
- Initiate/organize a service project or event in your community.
- Join a competitive academic club and/or participate in local or national academic contests.
- Participate in extracurricular activities (inside and/or outside of school) and seek to fulfill leadership roles.
- Seek enriching experiences within your community.
- Take as many rigorous classes in high school as possible (e.g., Advanced Placement, Honors).
- Take the ACT or SAT. These measures are excellent predictors of success in college and are required for many scholarships at UI.
- Volunteer. There are many benefits of volunteering (e.g., enhances sense of community, increases socialization, provides sense of purpose and accomplishment, and provides opportunities to build and practice valuable job skills used in the workplace).
- Consider job shadowing.

#### **PERSONAL GROWTH**

- Attend a residential enrichment-based summer camp. The Belin-Blank Center offers a variety of experiences each summer that are academically and socially stimulating.
- Develop and maintain a physical fitness plan. Because of its benefits, an exercise routine is strongly suggested as part of the college experience.
- Set a meaningful goal for yourself and develop a plan to achieve it.

#### **PREPARING FOR COLLEGE**

- Attend an Information Session online for the Bucksbaum Early Entrance Academy and attend a University of Iowa Visitation Day (with the option to meet with Academy staff at the Belin-Blank Center).
- Develop independent living skills (e.g., laundry, cleaning, financial literacy).
- Discuss the opportunity of early entrance to college with your family and high school. The latter is key if it is important to you to earn a high school diploma.
- Discuss the possibility of dual enrollment with a community college with your high school.
- Explore the University of Iowa and the Bucksbaum Early Entrance Academy websites.
- If you might be eligible for academic accommodations in college, review the University of Iowa Student Disabilities Services website.
- Investigate potential local scholarship sources (e.g., Rotary, churches, American Association of University Women).

**Keep in touch with us at the Belin-Blank Center**