

Interim

An experience of a lifetime

For years, Interim has ranked as one of the most popular and rewarding educational experiences at Prairie. Working in a medical lab, assisting with a medical research project and even interning with an advertising agency are just a few of the opportunities available to junior and senior students each spring.

Internships and Career Exploration

Students are given the opportunity to step outside of the classroom and become immersed in the working world while expanding knowledge in possible career choices. All too often, students entering college choose courses or majors to prepare for occupations that sound interesting without a full understanding of the true nature of the profession.

Through Interim, a student's passion for a particular field can grow, be reinforced, or sometimes even lead to the investigation of other career options. Participants may decide on internships in medical labs, advertising agencies, school libraries... the options are endless. Prairie has partnered with over 50 organizations in Racine and the surrounding communities.

Domestic and International Travel

Traveling abroad offers ambitious and curious students an opportunity to become global citizens as they complete their high school education. It also allows students to gain meaningful life experiences that are often vital components to well-rounded college applications.

Students may choose to participate in backpacking trips in national parks or foreign travel with school-sponsored educational trips. In recent years, travels have included: China, France, London, and Costa Rica.

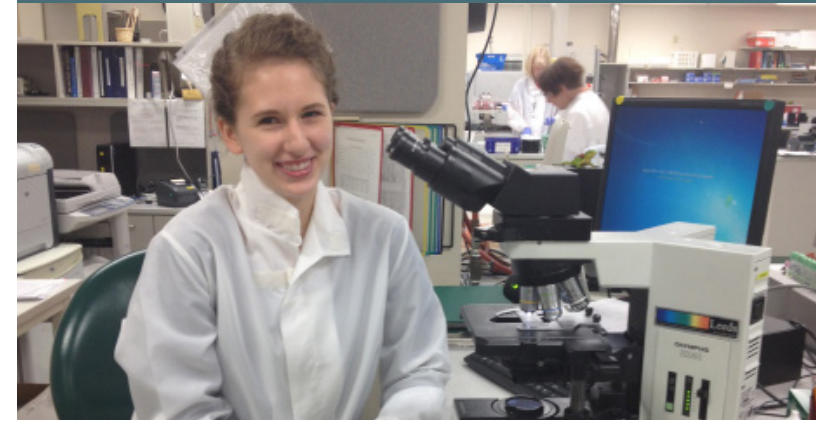
The Interim Schedule

Prairie juniors and seniors devote two weeks to Interim at the end of the school year. During this time, students do not attend their regular classes, but instead follow the schedule of their sponsor business, community group, or school trip.

Program Requirements

The Interim program requires the student to spend a minimum of six hours per day on his or her project, but is subject to interpretation. The degree of a student's involvement depends on the specific occupation or business. Many occupations may involve more than a limited number of hours, and require the completion of assigned tasks—no matter how long it takes. We encourage our students to approach their projects with this understanding and a positive, enthusiastic attitude.

Each student also keeps a daily journal and writes a reflection paper to summarize his or her Interim experience.



The First Step Into the Real World

In recent years, the labor market has become increasingly competitive for young professionals. Career development activities – like internships, volunteering and travel – play a large role in expanding networks at an early age, obtaining a competitive advantage in college applications, and getting a head start in determining what major or field of study to pursue after high school.

We've found that partnering with successful, respected businesses and organizations is the foundation for serious academic exploration and in-depth research into career options after high school. Internship experiences also guide students to learn the content, skills and social qualities needed to be successful in both college and professional life.



What Our Alumni and Parents Say About Interim

About the wilderness science trip:

“An opportunity for your child to see the beauty of our country, to challenge themselves physically and develop team-building skills. They also learn to respect nature as well as learning to think beyond themselves by learning to respect boundaries.”

- *Prairie parent*

About working with a veterinarian:

“I have never experienced such a rewarding feeling as I did when helping dogs and cats with everything from vaccinations, dental exams, cleaning and surgery.”

- *Prairie alumnus*

About working with a multinational corporation:

“For my senior Interim, I worked in the communications department of a large multinational corporation, migrating and updating webpages, tracking online postings, and monitoring key social media metrics and trends. Later on, due to this experience, and after I graduated from Prairie, I was able to obtain a college internship with this same corporation as well.”

- *Prairie alumnus*

Organizations our students have worked with:

American Renolit	Marquette University
Aurora Healthcare	Medical College of Wisconsin
Aurora Rehabilitation Services (Racine)	Milsco
Belle City Veterinary Hospital	North Shore Animal Hospital
Bristol Motor Transport	Nutritional Designs and Pharmacy
Bukacek Construction	P&R Casting
Caledonia Veterinary Clinic	Racine County Police Department
Cordeck, Inc.	Racine County Sheriff's Office
Cree	Racine Dental
DAAR Engineering	Raynor Memorial Libraries, Marquette University
DeRose Dentistry	Real Racine
Discovery World	Recreation for the Developmentally Disabled
Eco-Justice Center	Rehab Institute of Chicago
Ganz Allergy and Asthma	Reuter
Gayhart Electric Services	River Bend Nature Center
Generations Portrait Studio	Rockwell Automation
Grand Appliance	Rusticos
H.O.P.E. Safehouse	S.C. Johnson, Inc.
Hare Strigenz Inc.	Seams Unlimited
Image Management	Shoreview Pediatrics
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Ixiacom	St. Luke's Women and Infant Pavilion
J. F. Ahern	The Prairie School
Jeffrey Leavell S.C.	Tina's Dress Boutique
Johnson Bank	Tower Energy
Johnson Outdoors	USCG
Landaas and Company	Weber Group
M&I, a Meeting, Incentive and Association Management Company	WFHC All Saints
Manni Olive Oil	Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

Contact our Admission Office to schedule a personal tour, meet amazing teachers and experience our Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired campus!

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 THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

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