

# Interim

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 & 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.

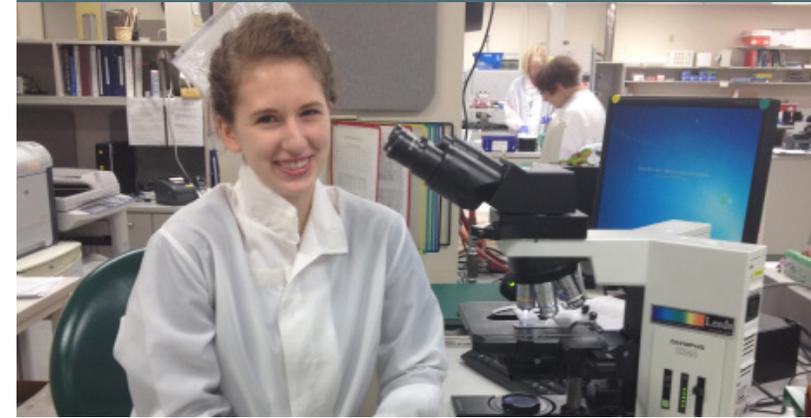
## The Interim Schedule

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:

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| American Renolit   | Marquette University                               |
| Aurora Healthcare  | Medical College of Wisconsin                       |
| Aurora Rehabilitation Services<br>(Racine)                         | Millsco  |
| 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,<br>Marquette University |
| DeRose Dentistry   | Real Racine  |
| Discovery World  | Recreation for the Developmentally<br>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                               |
| Images by Camela   | Sleep Wellness Institute                           |
| 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<br>Association Management<br>Company | WFHC All Saints                                    |
| Manni Olive Oil  | Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare                      |

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