

## **SEO Curriculum**

Students enter SEO Scholars in the spring of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. During the first two years, students take four core courses in our Saturday and Summer Academy: Math, Critical Reading, Critical Writing, and Grammar. In our weekday afterschool program during the school year, students take an additional hour of math and ELA. Students learn and grow collaboratively within a diverse group of peers. After the fall semester of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year, students move out of the core academic curriculum and begin more intensive preparation for the SAT and college admissions.

### **ELA Curriculum (6 Semesters)**

Our ELA curriculum prepares students for success in college-level courses by teaching them tools to engage with high-level texts grounded in social justice principles, which empowers students to examine the societal structures that create and perpetuate systems of inequality, and utilize the tools of language and literacy to take positive action in the world as critical thinkers, speakers and writers. Our Critical Reading units emphasize analysis through text-based discussion and responsive writing. Critical Writing teaches students how to construct cogent arguments using rhetorical techniques and how to use evidence to support and fully articulate a thesis. Grammar solidifies students' understanding of the structure of Standard American English, beginning with analyzing language and syntax at the sentence level. Students then look at larger units of language, analyzing structure, order, logical flow and issues of coherence. Finally, students analyze writers' language and usage choices and discuss how those choices may reveal bias, authority, or perspective.

### **Math Curriculum (6 Semesters)**

Our math curriculum provides students with a conceptual framework for developing their quantitative reasoning skills. Classes emphasize collaborative, process-oriented problem-solving, along with presentation and discussion skills. Students begin with Numbers & Operations, which provides the foundation for conceptual understanding of algebraic principles. They then progress through Graphs & Relationships, Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry & Statistics, and round out their knowledge with a final unit that prepares them for the math section of the SAT.

### **11th & 12th Grade Curricula**

After the fall semester of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year, students move out of the core curriculum and begin more intensive preparation for college admissions. The Princeton Review facilitates our SAT prep courses on both Saturdays and weekdays. Our writing curriculum uses reflective and collaborative practices to introduce personal essay writing and help students discover the key moments, people, and experiences that have shaped who they are. In the advisory curriculum, students explore their college "fit factors" through online research and a three-day college tour of five Northeastern schools. Additionally, the advisory curriculum incorporates mentor sessions and preparation for their Enrichment Program applications.

Our 12th grade curriculum begins with Boot Camp, an intensive two-week introduction to the college application process in August. During this time, students further develop as writers and thinkers as they revise their personal statements. They also begin the Common Application and narrow their college lists. The fall curriculum is devoted to completing and submitting college

applications. Our students apply to at least 6 CUNYs, 4 SUNYs, and 9 Private Colleges for a total of 19 colleges. Our curriculum also guides students and their families through the financial aid process, including FAFSA, scholarships, and HEOP/EOP. Our advisory curriculum builds upon their core curriculum training by challenging students to think critically about each step of the process. After submitting applications, our spring curriculum prepares students for college-level academics through a rigorous writing, reading, and discussion-based course where students examine the social, emotional, financial, racial, and ethnic challenges they will face in college as first-generation students of color. Students also take calculus or statistics to expose them to college-level math classes.