



IB NEWSLETTER



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Newsweek - Pat Wingert — May 28, 2007 issue

When people conjure up an image of Hyannis, Mass., they think: wealthy seaside resort town, home of the Kennedy compound, and they assume the local public schools are filled with rich kids. But the people who reside in the fancy houses come only in the summer. The families who live here all year long tend to be ordinary, middle-class people, many of them in service industries. The test scores coming out of area schools tend to be pretty ordinary, too.

But when the townspeople started looking for a way to pull those scores up, they took their inspiration from some of the most elite private schools in the

country, and then gave it a populist twist. They opened a public charter school offering the International Baccalaureate program to any student interested in pursuing it, an approach that's called IB for All.

Generally considered one of the most rigorous high-school curricula in the world, IB was designed after World War II for the children of diplomats who sought an internationally recognized diploma that would command respect around the world. To receive an IB diploma, high-school seniors must pass written college-level exams (each five hours long) in six core subjects, including at

least one foreign language, covering the material they've learned over the past two years. To ensure fairness, the tests are scored by outside graders. In addition, the degree requires students to write a 4,000-word thesis and complete lessons in philosophy.

Growth of IB schools around the world has been steady over the past 40 years, but it's been fastest in the United States, where it is now in 758 schools. The pace has been particularly brisk since 2000, when more U.S. schools began using it to spur higher achievement. Because IB requires high-school stu-

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Article from Newsweek
- News from the CHS IB Office
- IB exam results
- Important dates
- IB Vocabulary
- IB Faculty
- IB Seminar
- How you can help



FROM THE CHS IB OFFICE:

Greetings and Welcome Back to All IB Parents and Students!

I hope you found the Newsweek article by Pat Wingert interesting. I feel proud that we too have systems in place to encourage the success of all students at CHS. Many students, either through the AVID program both at Angevine and at Centaurus or by taking advanced classes, are considering the IB Diploma Programme as a choice for their final two years of high school study. The advantages are many. These students will enjoy the thought-provoking classes, the critical thinking skills learned, the broad perspective on the world, and the reward of a full year of credit at many universities. Teachers, counselors, and administrators at CHS work together to offer the most successful and rewarding education possible to all students.

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Newsweek article

dents to do college-level work, many schools continue to restrict access to their most capable students. Others offer IB for All, but have school admissions standards that winnow out weak students. Hyannis's Sturgis Charter is one of only two IB for All schools that are open to all students. It fills its classes via public lottery. "We don't screen out students with low grades or test scores or those who write poorly," says Eric Hieser, executive director of the school. "If they want to challenge themselves, we tell them to give it a go." Not every student at Sturgis earns the full IB diploma, but Hieser argues that it's still a major accomplishment to pass an IB class. "Everyone here develops the kind of mind and skills that will ensure their success in college," he says.

Senior Taylor Finkelstein, 18, is a case in point. The second youngest of five children, she thought of herself as "just a nice, quiet girl who never raised her hand. I never pushed myself." When IB was introduced at the start of her sophomore year, she felt intimidated. But the combination of small classes and challenging work helped her gain confidence. This spring, she amazed herself by sitting for exams in science, English, history and art. "I thought they'd be really hard," she says. "But when I sat down to take them, I felt really prepared. I've become more of a student than I ever thought I could be."

SPRING IB EXAM RESULTS

Anticipated Candidates (ACs, Juniors in the IB Diploma Programme) can take up to two IB tests. Of the 2006-07 ACs, 19 took at least one IB SL Exam in May. **Everyone passed and began their accumulation of points toward the IB Diploma** (minimum total score of 24 out of 45 possible points, with all other requirements fulfilled).

Congratulations to our outstanding first class of IB students and kudos to their fantastic teachers!

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From the CHS IB office

The 2007-2008 CHS school year holds much exciting news. Not only will we be celebrating our first IB Diploma graduates in May, we will have a new principal to present their diplomas at graduation. As we all know, many people will perform many tasks before May to make the IB Diploma a reality for CHS students.

The IB Diploma Candidates are using the summer to write their Extended Essay and are looking forward to their coursework as Seniors. See the section on Exams to learn more about their 2006-2007 successes. Six teachers, our Assistant Principal, and two counselors attended IB Workshops, during their summer vacation, to learn ways to better prepare IB students for success in the program and in post graduate studies.

We welcome twenty new candidates (Juniors, or Anticipated Candidates) who will begin their first year of IB study. There are 50 sophomores and 35 freshmen (Pre-IBers) taking advanced classes in preparation for becoming candidates in the following years. Bravo to them all for reaching for the best education possible! Please find time to encourage an IB Diploma seeker and thank the IB Faculty that makes it all possible.

I look forward to working with all IB parent volunteers. The IB Parent Support Team will be preparing a list of opportunities to volunteer and we anticipate that each parent will assist with one task. I also look forward to working with each IB family for the most positive IB journey possible at Centaurus High School.

Susie Mitzelfeld, IB Coordinator

IMPORTANT IB DATES

August	24 th	DCs' EE drafts due to IB Coordinator
	30 th	8:00am / IB Parent Support Team Planning Meeting / Student Center
September	5 th	6:00pm / Back to School Night
	5 th –28 th	DCs finish edits on EE drafts and meet w/Supervisors
	13 th	Peer readings during IB Seminar
	17 th	6:30-8:00 pm / IB Parent Meeting w/ Terry Bradley*, Turning Down the Heat/ Top 10 Ways to Alleviate High Achievers' Stress
	throughout	DCs must have at least 100 hours of CAS credit registered with CAS Coordinator Teachers begin Internal Assessment (IA) work and projects in classes
October	8 th	6:00-6:30/ Parents and IB Exam Registration , <u>(Mandatory for one parent of each IB DC and AC candidate)</u> 6:30-8:00/ IB Parent Meeting / IB and the College Search (DC, AC and IBer parents welcome) w/CHS counselors, Nick Vanderpol and Sarina Campbell
	25 th	DCs must submit 2 copies to IB Office of <u>EE "Ready-to-mail"</u> Final Draft Due

(Please check the CHS Newsletter for other important school events)

IB "Vocabulary" Test

Do you know the IB Vocabulary? The International Baccalaureate Organization (**IBO**) uses many different titles to separate each part of the IB Diploma Programme (**DP**). It does take some study and some love for acronyms! Here's a study guide to help you through the conversations with your IB Candidate or pre-IB student.

- * Extended Essay or **EE** = a 4,000 word thesis on a topic from the IB classes of interest to the individual student
- * Theory of Knowledge or **TOK** = the capstone IB course about the philosophy of knowing and learning.
- * Creativity, Action, Service or **CAS** = a balanced system of 150 volunteer hours performed by each IB Candidate throughout the two years.
- * IB Diploma Candidate or **IB DC** = a senior in the second and final year of IB classes, who will take at least four IB exams in May, finish the EE and the TOK Class and complete the CAS hours required for the Diploma.
- * IB Anticipated Candidate or **IB AC** = a junior in the first year of IB classes who may take up to two IB exams in May, will begin to accumulate CAS hours and will begin the research for the EE.
- * Standard Level or **SL** = designation for an IB course that requires 180 hours of class, sometimes completed in one year but often taught over two years for success on the exam.
- * Higher Level or **HL** = designation for an IB course that requires 240 hours of class and always takes two years to complete.
- * IB **Pre-IBers** = a 9th or 10th grade student preparing for entrance into the IB Diploma Programme as a sophomore (this is not a designation from the IBO but helpful for CHS to delineate levels of students)

IB FACULTY 2007-2008

Group 1/ Language A

IB English I/ Terry Fostvedt
IB English II/ Barry Barrows

Group 2/ Language B (2nd Language)

IB Spanish 4/ Gayle Butley
IB Spanish 5+6/ Carol Forbes
IB French 4+5/ Susie Mitzelfeld
IB German 4+5/

Group 3/ Individuals and Society

IB 20th Century Topics/ Tim Donnelly
IB Asian History/ Johanna Lohr

Group 4/ Experimental Sciences

IB Biology SL/ Ron Haddad
IB Bioloy HL/ Abby Scott

Group 5/ Mathematics

IB Math Studies/ Tina Ramage
IB Math HL/ Fred Peck

Group 6/ The Arts (and Electives)

IB Visual Arts/ Susan Rixey
IB Music*/ Pam Mullen
IB Design Technology*/ Diana Wiant

*new IB courses

The following IB teachers will also be **IB Advisors** during IB Seminars, Thursdays from 1:25-3:00:

Fred Peck
Susie Mitzelfeld
Diana Wiant
Tina Ramage
Tim Donnelly
Abby Scott

Ask these IB teachers, counselors and administrators about their **IB Workshops** in New York or Florida this summer:

Sarina Campbell	Susie Mitzelfeld
Tim Donnelly	Pam Mullen
Johnny Fernandez	Nick Vanderpol
Terry Fostvedt	Diana Wiant
Johanna Lohr	

*Teachers teach because they care. Teaching young people is what they do best.
It requires long hours, patience, and care. Horace Mann*

IB Seminar

Who? When?

Anticipated Candidates

Time: Thurs. 1:25-3:00 (tutor time)

Diploma Candidates

Time: Non-TOK tutor times (1:25-3:00)

What?

The goals and objectives of the IB Seminar are as follows:

- To provide advisor-guided self reflection weekly or bi-monthly for students seeking the IB Diploma
- To provide an organized way for IB students to stay in touch with each of their teachers and their status in each class
- To provide a time for well-deserved rewards, stress relief, and interesting excursions for all IB candidates
- To provide supportive study opportunities with other IB students and/or with IB teachers
- To provide individualized support for all IB candidates
 - * Subject area help from your IB Seminar advisor or from specific IB faculty members
 - * Organization techniques
 - * Research techniques
 - * Personal discussions with your IB Seminar advisor
 - * Stress management techniques
- To provide all IB Candidates with knowledge, feedback, and clarity about any IB questions or issues.

How YOU can help!

Parent Support Team

Please join our team of parents who volunteer their time and ideas to build and maintain a strong IB Diploma Program at CHS. This team is the heart of the program that supports students' pursuits. The present members have surveyed students, teachers, and parents from our first IB year and have developed committees to respond to IB student and family needs. As our program grows larger each year, each parent will be asked to help on at least one of these committees. There will be opportunities to sign up at each parent meeting but there is no need to wait! You may send an email to dawn.dishman@uscm.org to offer your help at any time. The following opportunities are available:

Chairpersons	Food Committee	Fundraising Committee	Freshman and Sophomore Pre-IB Chair
Grant writer	IB Office support/data entry	IB World magazine subscription manager	Newsletter Committee
Proctors for exams (May)	Rewards Committee	Transportation Committee	Volunteer Organization



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HTTP://SCHOOLS.BVSD.ORG/
CENTAURUSHIGH/
ACADEMICS/I.B/
IB_CURRENT_STUDENTS.HTML



WHAT IS THE IB LEARNER PROFILE?

The IB learner profile is the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century.



The learner profile provides a long-term vision of education.

It is a set of ideals that can inspire, motivate and focus the work of schools and teachers, uniting them in a common purpose.

IB learners strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

Read the full [IB learner profile](http://www.ibo.org/programmes/documents/learner_profile_en.pdf) [174 kb, PDF] at
www.ibo.org/programmes/documents/learner_profile_en.pdf

From: <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/slideh.cfm>