Douglas County High School 2842 Front Street Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Volume 19 Issue 1

## DCHS IB Welcomes the Class of 2019!



The IB Parent Organization organized an ice cream social for all new IB freshmen entering Douglas County High School. There are approximately 100 freshman students ready to begin their IB diploma program. The annual information night is designed to be a social for new families and existing IB students. The teachers and parents meet to ask questions they might have for this IB high school diploma.

Dr. Steve Fleet, IB DCHS Coordinator and Kristine Kolbus, IB Parent Organization welcomed the students and families. The parents went to a separate room to ask questions to the IB teachers. Many of the parents had concerns about how much

homework their students will have each night. There is flexibility to the types of classes they choose, so they can choose areas where they have interests.

The IB Council (made up of senior IB members) met with freshmen in the North Commons

answering questions the freshmen have on the first week of school. They also talked of their current experiences leading up to their senior year.

Of course ice cream was served the entire time! Parents and students had many different ice creams, yogurts, and fruit bars to choose from!





Incoming IB students and their parents enjoy frozen treats.



# Coordinator's Corner

## **Express Your Opinions & Listen to Others**

by Dr. Steve Fleet, DCHS IB Coordinator

A recent study (Bergeron, 2015) of International Baccalaureate diploma students indicates that 79% of IBDP students graduate in four years from colleges and universities. compared to the national average of 39%. These numbers indicate that IB students arrive at post-secondary institutions with the skills necessary to succeed and with a mind-set that, when challenges present themselves, quitting is not an option. Additional studies (Conley, McGaughy, Davis-Molin, Farkas and Fukuda, 2014) indicate that confidence in critical thinking, writing, research and time management among IB students accounts for their success. Much of this is common sense, but it also indicates that an International Baccalaureate education provides students with the skills necessary for success after high school. Adopting a perspective in high school that recognizes your opportunities increase as you triumph over challenges, as opposed to avoiding them, has clear advantages.

I have no doubt that IBDP students in the midst of their International Baccalaureate experience can romanticize life away from the demands of the program. I also know that almost every graduate from our program comes to realize the benefits of persisting, growing and developing the skills necessary to succeed. I believe that this begins by becoming confident in one's own perspectives and realizing that the

material you encounter in every subject you study becomes part of who you are and how you see the world. This type of education values, above all, the diversity of opinion and perspective that an authentic education encourages. The acquisition of knowledge may at times be tedious and overwhelming, but with every piece of knowledge comes an exponential increase in the number of connections and associations that can be made. For democracy to be more than a mere idea, we need citizens who have diverse opinions, and we need citizens who recognize that they have a responsibility to at once express their opinions and to the listen to the ideas of others

Every year I am overwhelmed by the growth and commitment to education that I see in our students. Last year's seniors had an impressive 85% diploma rate, but beyond that they listened to and valued each other. In this process of genuinely having interest in and valuing the opinions of others, you simultaneously come to believe in yourself. From this perspective I believe that you catch a glimpse of the most meaningful sense of success...the recognition that you have essential contributions to make in the ongoing effort to "make this world a better place."

## **IB Bulletin Board**

# 10th Graders—take the PSAT for Practice! 11th Graders—take the PSAT for Real!

Sign up to take the PSAT on October 28th. For juniors, this is the test for determining National Merit awards (see page 7 for details). For sophomores, this is good practice for the real thing (no, it doesn't count!) And if you check off the student search box, your mailbox will fill with college solicitation brochures to ponder... Sign up in the Counseling office now! This test is first come, first served! It costs \$20, with checks made out to DCHS.

#### Juniors! See Extended Essay Info on Huskie IBPO Site

Start reviewing the IB essay timetable and guidelines for allowable essay subjects. See some sample topics by past students. Read sample essays and past Grader Reports, so you understand the final product.

All of this (and more!) is on the Extended Essay page on www.HuskielBPO.com.

#### Seniors! Give Thanks!

Remember to send thank you notes to the teachers and counselors who are helping you with college recommendation letters, and especially, your Extended Essay!

#### Save the Date!

The Princeton Review practice ACT/SAT testing will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:00 am in the DCHS North Building. More information coming in the November newsletter.

#### Parents, Students and Teachers

Here is a link to the IB World magazine that has some great articles in it for parents, students, and teachers! http://www.ibo.org/ibworld/

# Foreign Travel Adventures 2016!

# Do you like to travel? Join us in Paris/Florence/Rome!

When: Spring Break, March 18-26, 2016

Who: Families, students, friends – anyone who wants to join!

Trip Itinerary Link: <a href="https://www.eftours.com/#1682351BW">www.eftours.com/#1682351BW</a>

#### For more information,

contact the trip leader: Jill Goeken, Room 212N (e-mail: jill.goeken@dcsdk12.org)



# Do you like to travel? Join us in Switzerland and Italy!

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When: Spring Break, March 17-26, 2016

Who: Families, students, friends – anyone who wants to join!

Trip Itinerary Link: <a href="http://www.eftours.com/tour-website/1589203BU?">http://www.eftours.com/tour-website/1589203BU?</a>
<a href="http://www.eftours.com/tour-website/1589203BU?">http://www.eftour-website/1589203BU?</a>
<a href="http://www.eftour-website/1589203BU?">http://www.eftour-website/1589203BU?</a>
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#### For more information,

contact the trip leader: Loni Smith (e-mail: lwsmith@dcsdk12.org)

#### **DCHS IB Students In the News**



Junior, **Grace Wills**, is the concert master (1st violin) for the Denver Young Artist Orchestra. It is a very competitive position. No one holds the concert master chair for the entire season. Denver Young Artist Orchestra is one of this country's top youth orchestras.

(Email from Ms. Fleet 9/23/2015)

#### **IBPO Marketplace**

Looking for a gift that benefits IB at DCHS? You can purchase mugs, water bottles, window clings and blankets.

Contact Kris Kolbus at ibpo@huskieipbo.com



## Underclassmen Online Mentoring Site

Sometimes, it's hard to be an IB Freshman or Sophomore. You don't understand IB course flows . . . What if you are not on track to take the High Level courses you want? . . . What if you just need to talk to someone who knows the "IB ropes?"

Fear not! We have a Schoology group called **IB Student to Student Connection** where you can post questions, ideas, and comments for other IB students to answer or comment on.

Log on to your Schoology account, click on "Groups" along the top, choose "Join" and enter this access code: 6GRVD-G7NMQ.



DCHS IB Matters September 2015 page 3

## Extended Essay Workshop 2015

The last day of school is very different for junior IB students, while everyone says goodbye, we say "See you at the Extended Essay Workshop next week". That week each student wakes up early and makes their way over to University of Colorado Denver Auraria Library. The library has an amazingly diverse collection of journals and books, all academic literature. Everyone was surprised by how much material there was on their very niche research questions. This year, all students were required to have a research subject and rough research question with several sources. This allowed me to spend more time utilizing the vast library, instead of on my computer finding out what I wanted to do. I enjoy Chinese culture and the environment so I decided to research the rural industries affect of aquatic plants in China. It truly is an essay that you can write about anything that you are interested in, which is a kind of freedom you don't get in your IB classes. When using the library, I found books not only on pollution in China but specifically written on water pollution in the northern area of China, which so happens to be the area of interest for me.

Ms. Clever and Ms. Yates spent the workshop moving through the grading criteria and sharing their tips on how to write the best essay possible. A librarian also talked about navigating your way through the library and how to find the best sources for your paper. Ms. Clever and Ms. Yates touched on the small details that can make or break an essay, such as if your Abstract is even one word over the limit, an automatic zero is given in the section. The workshop was extremely beneficial for the Extended Essay since I was allotting time to be spent only on research and to get help when you need it. They aren't exaggerating when they say that the workshop is the only times you really can learn about what IB is asking us to do.

It wasn't all work though, many students got lunch downtown after the workshop and even got some shopping in. It was a great workshop that I'm sure boosted my EE score greatly and the best part is that all participants get access to the Auraria library for an entire year for IA's if you are just interested.

~ Colin Kolbus '16

## 2015 IBDP College Information

Our 2015 DCHS IB Graduates received almost \$1.5 million in scholarships! They were offered over \$5.5 million.

100% of the 2015 IBDP candidates are attending college.

40% are attending out-of-state colleges/universities.

# Student Art Back on Display at Starbucks

Back by popular demand—the student art is back! Please visit the Starbucks in the King Soopers Shopping Center (not the one inside of King Soopers). Treat yourself to a tasty beverage or snack, and check out the amazing display of photography that is featured at our local Starbucks.

# IB matters

HuskielBPO.com

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page 4 DCHS IB Matters September 2015

## **Upcoming IB Events**

# Juniors—Save the Date! 9th Annual Extended Essay Workshop June, 2016\*

The Class of 2017 is invited to attend this valuable workshop next summer.

On-line registration will be open April, 2016.

\*This workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 6-9, 2016.
Final dates will be confirmed in early 2016.
Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

P.S. You can already RSVP to this event on the Huskie IBPO Facebook page! Do you "Like" us?

## 8th Grade IB Info Nights!

Thursday, Nov 12th & Wednesday, Dec 2nd 5:30 p.m., DCHS North Commons

Students and parents are invited to attend this session as

Dr. Fleet gives an overview of the

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at DCHS.

Please pass the word to any 8th grade families you know!

Hear details of the IB curriculum and guidance on applying to the program. Teachers will be in attendance to explain their subject areas and answer individual questions!



# Schedule and Counseling Requests

DCHS has requested we ask all IB parents and students to remember the old adage when it

comes to requesting schedule changes or general assistance:

"You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar."

Our counselors and the front office staff do the best they can with the limited resources available to them.

If you cannot find the solution you want at DCHS, remember alternatives are available:

- Check the IBO web site for possible online classes
- Check Arapahoe Community College for course options
- Check with other local high schools for course options
- Check other online resources

While no one will fault you for being your child's advocate, and, in fact, we encourage you in this role, remember . . . counselors are people, too!

#### IB students are Involved Students!



# % of IB students in these groups!

FBLA	64%
Student Government	56%
Orchestra	36%
Drama	34%
Band	31%
Choir	13%
Newspaper	13%
DECA	9%
Yearbook	9%

#### <u>Athletic</u>

Boys Tennis	46%
Boys Soccer	33%
Girls Cross Country	29%
Spirits Poms	20%
Girls Volleyball	18%
Boys Golf	17%
Softball	14%
Spirit Cheers	11%
Football	9%

#### PP/CAS/EE Column

Welcome to the new PP/CAS/EE column. Our mission is to keep readers informed on the core aspects of the Middle Years Program (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade) and Diploma Program (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade). We are Leah Yates and Kimberly Clever and we have coordinated CAS and EE together for 8 years. Leah has coordinated the PP for the past 4 years. We both teach in the MYP Honors Program and the DP program (Leah in English and Kim in Social Studies).

#### Personal Project (PP)

The Personal Project is the capstone of the MYP and allows for sophomores to engage in the exploration of a topic, skill, or event that is of interest to them while applying skills that they have developed throughout the MYP. Although no topic is off limits for a PP, all PPs involve research, a report, a presentation, and reflection. The focus on the PP is not the attainment of the end goal (let's say building a canoe) but rather, the focus is on the process of goal setting and reflection when a goal is met or not met. Students work with a staff supervisor who mentors them through the process, helping to keep them focused and on target. Our PP students are still early in the process having narrowed their focus on a topic. However, in the next couple of months, they will be conducting research and developing a plan which will enable their success. Some of this year's PP topics are crafting a baseball bat, writing a book, becoming a positive person, and improving as a skier. There are obvious ties between the PP and the CAS and EE components of the Diploma Program listed below. And while the PP aims to develop these skills (inquiry, research, and reflection) in students for their success in the DP, the development of these skills also encourages their feeling of success in life. The process that students go through in the PP is very much like the "real world" processes we engage in, in our daily lives. Plus, how cool is it that you can learn about whatever you want?!

#### Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS)

Students complete this component of the Diploma Program (DP) over the course of their  $11^{th}$  and  $12^{th}$  grade years. Students engage in activities and record hours in all three components, which will total roughly 150 hours over the course of 2 years. In addition, each student will work in a group to complete a sustained project. Each student works with a faculty advisor who helps them to determine suitability as well as where reflection is necessary.

This year our seniors students have completed and reflected on roughly 100 hours of their requirement and will finish the last 50 hours over the course of the next 5 months ending in a panel presentation.

This year our juniors are just getting started, they have identified 50 hours and are working on identifying their CAS project which will involve working in groups with other IB students. They will be meeting with their advisors over the next couple of weeks to talk about their project plans and discuss reflection possibilities. Some examples of things students are working on or have completed: many mission trips, a variety of sports, learning to cook, learning to draw, writing original music, a group of juniors is working on bringing the World Food Prize project to our school, a group of seniors created and painted a new mural in the south building to beautify the school. What a great group of students!!!

#### Extended Essay (EE)

Another component of the DP program is the EE. Students begin this journey in the middle of their Junior Year and complete it in October of their senior year. Students engage in research on a topic which is of interest to them. This research culminates in a 4000 word research paper/literature review. They work with a trained faculty advisor to support them through the process of choosing a topic, gathering research, writing an outline, a rough draft, and a final draft. The highlight of this program is a 4 day research camp at Auraria Library during the first week in June, immediately after school is out. Please mark your calendars, this camp is **NOT** to be missed (note that this seminar is ONLY for students who are entering their senior year).

Our current seniors are about ¾ of the way through the process as this article is being written. They are in the process of meeting with their faculty advisor to receive feedback and support on the first half of their essay. These individual meetings allow students to work through expectations and requirements of the paper prior to handing in the rough draft on September 28. The final draft of the EE will be submitted on November 2. Students have chosen from a wide variety of subjects: Literature, Psychology, Mathematics, Biology, and World Religions. Within these subjects student have chosen many interesting topics: the role of yoga in Hinduism, Ghengis Kahn's accomplishments as a leader, and ways in which ancient Greek mythology has commonalities with modern religions. We can't wait to see the finished products. We will be publishing their titles in the May issue of IB Matters.

#### What is a National Merit Scholar?

In the fall of the Junior year, students at DCHS participate in the PSAT test. This national test is given to over 1.5 million high school students each year. Of the students tested, the 50,000 with the highest test scores qualify for the National Merit Scholar program. In April following the test year, these students are invited to name two colleges to which they would like to be referred by the program. In September of the Senior year, the students are notified if they are qualified as a "Commended" student or a "Semifinalist."

Commended students, making up 34,000, or 2/3 of the initial pool, are recognized for their academic achievement but do not continue in the competition for National Merit scholarships.

Semifinalists, 16,000 students, representing the highest scorers equally in all 50 states, can advance to the Finalist stage by completing application materials and other academic requirements.

In February, 15,000 students are notified that they have advanced to Finalist standing. Winners are chosen from the Finalist pool based on abilities, skills and accomplishments. Scholarships are awarded to Finalists from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, 250 Corporate sponsors and approximately 200 colleges and universities. Scholarships awarded can be renewable for all four years in college.

DCHS IB is proud to have had many past National Merit Commended and Finalist students. For more information about this prestigious program, see: http://www.nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php



## Attention Sophomore & Junior Parents!!

Now is the time to prepare for IB Exam costs!

The average cost of IB exams is \$847 per student for a total of six exams. Juniors can take up to two exams, spreading the cost of the exams over two years. Each registration is \$164, each exam subject is \$113 and a \$5 shipping fee. These fees are due in early fall of the junior and senior year and are not included in district registration fees. You will be invoiced by the IB office. A late fee of \$50 is assessed if the fee is not paid on time. This cost does not include any AP exams fees, which are due in January of the senior year.

While this fee may seem expensive, should your student gain their IB diploma and attend a public university in Colorado or Texas, they will enter college as a sophomore. Many other colleges & universities offer similar status for IB students. That's a 25% savings on college tuition & room and board!

**ESCAPE (Eliminating Student Cost for Advanced Placement Exams) is the federal AP/IB Exam Fee Program in Colorado.** Through this federal grant, the Colorado Department of Education will pay for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams taken by low income students.

Please contact Tracy Hagan, IBDP Secretary, 303-387-1008 for more information on how to reduce your IB Exam Fees. Deadline to contact Mrs. Hagan for this is **NOVEMER 2, 2015** 

Your student's college planning should include checking each university's web site for credit they give for the IB diploma and individual IB test scores. If you cannot find the information on the web site, a call to admissions is warranted.

# Case Study in the "Value" of an IB Diploma

IB Test Fees vs. One year at CU Boulder

 2014-2015 Tuition & Fees at CU\*:
 \$13,154

 Room and Board:
 \$13,194

 One year total:
 \$26,348

 IB average test costs:
 \$847

 Your savings:
 \$25,501

\*CU tuition, fees and room and board figures obtained from the CU Boulder web site. Figures do not include books or personal expenses. Tuition averaged from the five colleges offered.



# Universities Recognize IB Diploma with Scholarship Opportunities

Do you often wonder if IB is "worth" it? The International Baccalaureate organization keeps a list of universities, worldwide, who recognize and grant scholarships to graduates who obtain the coveted IB diploma. Many additional universities and colleges offer course credit for the IB diploma and test scores above a certain grade.

Charts are available by state. To view the posted information, visit:

http://www.ibo.org/recognition/university

# College Standardized Testing National Calendar

#### **SAT Reasoning / Subject Tests**

www.collegeboard.org

	Register by
November 7, 2015	Oct 9
December 5, 2015	Nov 5
January 23, 2016	Dec 28
March 5, 2016	Feb 5
May 7, 2016	Apr 8
June 4, 2016	May 5

#### **ACT Testing**

www.actstudent.org

October 24, 2015	Sep 18
December 12, 2015	Nov 6
February 6, 2016	Jan 8
April 9, 2016	Mar 4
June 11, 2016	May 6

#### **IBO** Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

"You have many options in your life. Never make giving up one of them"

---Austin Carlile

## **Fall College Fairs**

www.collegefairsdenver.org

#### **Out-of-State College Night**

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Monarch High School 329 Campus Drive, Louisville

#### **Out-of-State College Night**

Thursday, October 8, 2015 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Lakewood High School 9700 W. 8th Avenue, Lakewood

#### In-State & Out-of-State College Fair

Saturday, October 10, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mountain Vista High School 10585 Mountain Vista Ridge, Highlands Ranch

# IB matters Newsletter Needs You!

The IB matters newsletter is always looking for talented young writers to provide insightful articles about IB. We have immediate openings in the November issue for:

- CAS projects
- Seniors! We are looking for a journal-type article on your upcoming English oral.
- Freshmen! We are looking for articles about why you chose the IB program.
- TOK articles. What it is, when it is, how you are dealing with the night class, and who the teachers are!
- Trips abroad.
- Free association. Just write an essay on what you think is interesting about IB.

Keep your articles, relevant, funny and insightful!

Articles and pictures should be sent to: newsletter@huskieibpo.com



# Where Did They Go?

#### **IB Graduates 2015**

**Christopher Ahrens Emily Anderson** Jamal Aslamy Eric Bayman Elise Becker Michelle Belden Kaitlyn Bentivegna **Kylie Brunette** Morgan Buchanan Penmai Chongtoua **Ariana Cord Elaine Cox** Katelyn Doyle **Grant Engberson** Jonathan Fermin Madison Flynn Alyssa Forman Climaco Gonzales Nicole Hamilton Samantha Hardy Madison Haywood Tiffany Huang Alexandria Hughes Jesseri Jensen Hannah Jorgensen Elma Kajtazovic **Natalie Kary** Michael Kirby

Pratyush Kothiyal

Univ of Northern Colorado University of Wyoming CU - Boulder University of Arizona - Tucson **Baylor University** Seattle University Colorado State University Univ of Montana - Missoula CU - Boulder **Brown University** University of Denver **Duke University** Colorado State University Colorado School of Mines CU - Boulder Colorado State University CU - Colorado Springs Drake University St. Lawrence University CU - Boulder Oklahoma State University CU - Boulder CU - Boulder Colorado State University CU - Boulder CU - Denver Metro State University Colorado School of Mines

Georgia Institute of Tech

Savanah Lankford Mitch Lauffer Jessica Laury Mikaeli Lechuga **Emily Li Hugh McCreery Grace Messer Tucker Middleton Alexander Mullison Tess Neel** Susan Ossareh Makenna Porter **Christopher Reese Andrew Rudd** Jadyn Rufe **Colton Salsbury** Sanskriti Saxena **Alexis Schroeder** Lakshmi Senthilnathan Caleigh Stinsom **Patrick Tan Paige Trexel** Adele Vaughan **Amanda Witherell Kyle Wolfe** Chase Youngman **Arthur Zabronsky** 

CU - Boulder West Virginia University College of William and Mary University of Utah Colorado State University Colorado School of Mines CU - Boulder University of San Diego New Mexico State University University of Denver Colorado State University Colorado State University CU - Denver South Plains College CU - Boulder Western State Colorado Univ University of CA - Berkeley Metro State University Georgia Institute of Tech Colorado State University Western State Colorado Univ Cornell University San Diego State University Fort Lewis College **Baylor University** CU - Boulder

CU - Boulder

## ....Also offered Admission to

Our students were accepted at the following fine colleges, but chose not to attend:

Coe College
CU - Colorado Springs
Drake University
Hofstra University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University
Ithaca College
Kansas University
Knox College
Nebraska Wesleyan
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Ripon College

Roanoke College
South Plains Junior College
Syracuse University
Unity College
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of South Alabama
University of Utah
University of Wyoming
Washington College
West Virginia University
William and Mary

# DCHS Calendar

<b>OCTOBER</b>	
6	Choir Concert (6:30pm)
8	Band/Orchestra Concert (6:30pm)
9	NO SCHOOL (Professional Development day)

12-18 FALL BREAK
22-23 DC Live (7:00pm)
23 IB Exam fees due

#### **NOVEMBER**

3	NO SCHOOL (Election day)
5-7	Theater Production (7:00pm)
6	End of 2nd 6-week grading period
12	8th grade IB Prospective Student Info Session (5:30pm, DCHS North Commons)
18	9th/10th grade curriculum night (5:30pm, DCHS North Commons)

25-29 THANKSGIVING BREAK

WINTER BREAK



#### **DECEMBER**

21- Jan 1

CLMDLI	
2	8th grade IB Prospective Student Info Session (5:30pm, DCHS North Commons)
8	Choir Concert (6:30pm)
10	Band/Orchestra Concert (6:30pm)
11	IB applications for new students 2016-2017 due
15	FINALS: periods 1, 2, 3
16	FINALS: periods 4, 5, 6
17	FINALS: periods 7, 8
18	NO SCHOOL (Grading Day)



Douglas County School District Douglas County High School International Baccalaureate 2842 Front Street Castle Rock, CO 80104