

Granite Bay High IB Parent Update

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Parent Support Is Essential to Student Success in IB Program!

Would you like to visit our IB courses?

Whether you are the parent of a IB-registered 9th, 10th or 11th grader, please feel free to sit in on one or more of our IB courses. Please contact Sharry Colnar ahead of time via email so the teacher can be contacted to find out if the lesson plan for the day you want to visit would be of interest.

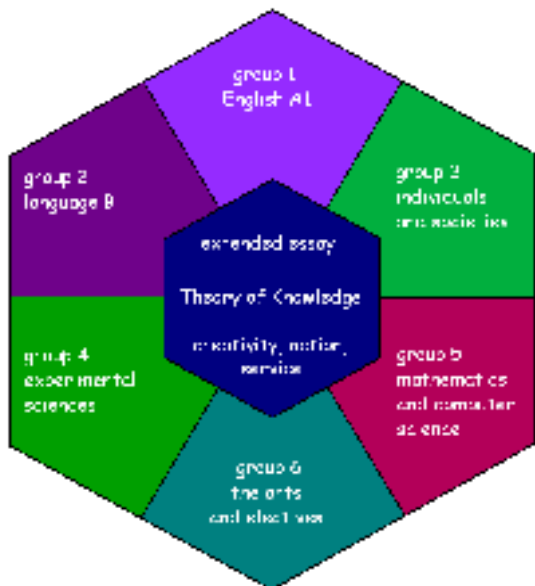
How is the parent support group progressing?

Many of the 9th and 10th grade parents attended the meeting held Dec. 1, 2008 and signed the forms to give me permission to use their email addresses to include them in our planning activities. I am happy to announce that **Angela Ziegenhorn** will be in charge of all the parent groups and she will also oversee the **Class of 2010 Parents** group. She is organizing the email lists of the 9th and 10th grade parents, and soon she will contact those parents to ask for a volunteer to head up Class of 2011 and Class of 2012 parents. Some of the activities we are planning include a potluck dinner for the Class of 2010 parents later in the spring. We will also hold some breakfast and lunchtime gatherings (with treats, of course) for 9th, 10th and 11th graders separately. We would like to create annual traditions like these that provide social opportunities for us to mingle.

How can I find out about these activities?

We will announce these via parent emails, the GBHS website at www.granitebayhigh.org/academics/ib/, and the GBHS newsletter. We will need your help to make treats, so please stay in touch if you are interested in volunteering.

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Focus on IB Science Courses

Which science courses are available?

Currently GBHS offers IB Biology HL and IB Chemistry HL and SL. Next year we will have a two-term IB Physics SL course ready. The IB Biology and IB Chemistry courses are presently blocked over two years during period 1.

How many IB science courses are required for the Diploma?

All IB Diploma students must take a minimum of one IB science course, and at this time at least one of these must be at the HL level. Most 11th graders are taking both IB Biology HL and IB Chemistry HL. We know that colleges tend to recognize HL courses more often than SL courses. If an IB Diploma student does not take two IB science courses, an IB elective course needs to be taken in its place in order to satisfy Group 6 on the IB hexagon. We hope to have IB Psychology in place soon as an additional elective, perhaps as early as Fall 2009.

How do the IB science courses differ?

Actually IB Biology and IB Chemistry have almost identical internal and external assessments. The internal assessments extend over two years and are comprised of college-level laboratory experiments, some of which the students must design themselves. Around February of 2010 students will select from their portfolios their best labs that exemplify design, data collection and processing, conclusion and evaluation. Some of these will be mailed to other countries where IB-trained graders will score them and compare the scores with those of the GBHS teacher. This is called moderation and is one of the ways that IB courses are held to international standards. **The internal assessment makes up 24% of the final IB score.**

The external assessment in each IB science course is comprised of three papers (other subjects have only two papers). Paper 1 is comprised of general multiple-choice items; science is the only IB subject that has multiple-choice questions. Paper 2 is comprised of short-response items that cover the core curriculum of the course. Paper 3 has short-response items from the two optional topics that are taught in the second half of the course. In IB Biology the topics are "Evolution" and "Ecology" while in IB Chemistry they are "Medicine and Drugs" and "Food Chemistry". **The external assessment makes up 76% of the final IB score.**

What are the dates for the external assessments this May?

The first external assessments (EA) will be administered at GBHS in May 2009 to students currently enrolled in IB World Language and Math courses. Here is the testing schedule:

Th, May 7	IB Math SL	1:00 pm	Paper 1 (90 min.)
Th, May 7	IB Math Studies	1:00 pm	Paper 1 (90 min.)
F, May 8	IB Math SL	8:00 am	Paper 2 (90 min.)
F, May 8	IB Math Studies	8:00 am	Paper 2 (90 min.)
M, May 18	IB Spanish SL	8:00 am	Paper 1 (90 min.) Paper 2 (90 min.)
Th, May 21	IB French SL	8:00 am	Paper 1 (90 min.) Paper 2 (90 min.)

The exams for all other IB courses are given in May 2010. Once completed, all the exams must be sent by courier to IB-trained scorers in various foreign countries. Results for final IB scores (which includes both internal and external assessments) are available to students online on July 6.

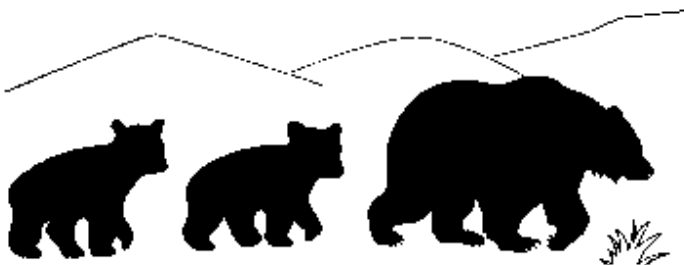
Fundraising and Recruiting Updates

We are proud to announce that the **Granite Bay Kiwanias Club** is committed to supporting our IB program by donating funds to assist about five families each year who cannot afford to pay all the testing fees. We really appreciate their participation!

If you have ideas for any other local business or service clubs that may be able to do similar contributions, please email me. Exam fees average about **\$300** in October of 11th grade and **\$350** in October of 12th grade. IB charges a one-time \$128 registration fee plus \$88 per test. One of our top goals is to eventually raise enough money to pay the \$128 for every IB Diploma student!

Also, we need IB parents and students to help recruit friends into the program. Students who transfer from outside school districts actually bring their state funds with them which helps support the IB program, so if you know students in Auburn, Loomis, Rocklin, Folsom, etc, who may be a good fit for the IB program, please contact me.

Remember, I prefer email correspondence (not phone), so please contact me via email at scolnar@rjuhsd.us



One Family — IB students, parents, teachers

Extended Essay (EE) Deadlines

What is the Extended Essay?

This is a requirement for IB Diploma students only and is part of the core of the IB hexagon. The EE is a 4,000-word (maximum) research paper that the student writes on any IB topic. The effort must be completely original and follow all professional research and documentation formats.

What are the deadlines?

We held the kick-off (one year to D-day) for the Extended Essay in mid-November. All IB Diploma students were given information by Judi Daniels in IB English, followed by more info by Sharry Colnar in IB Chemistry along with an EE binder which students may store in room 610. Various deadlines for the EE are listed in the EE binder. Students are currently deciding upon their EE topics and hunting for teachers to be their EE supervisors for their selected topics. Hopefully your student can bring home their EE binder to show you all the information about this “masterpiece” that they will create by next November! I told the students that a copy of their EEs will be kept forever in our library (both electronic and hard copies), so it is like a legacy that they will leave to GBHS! How cool is that?

What are some important statistics relating to the EE?

The most recent stats for the choice of EE topics is shown below. These are from the May 2007 exams given in the northern hemisphere. The topics are totaled within the six groups on the IB hexagon. This list shows the percent of essays written in each of the six areas:

- 15% Group 1 English
- 5% Group 2 World Language
- 55% Group 3 Individuals & Society
- 16% Group 4 Experimental Sciences
- 3% Group 5 Mathematics
- 6% Group 6 Art and Electives

Another interesting look at the EE is the average points that these different topics earned in the IB scoring process. These averages are based upon a 5-point scale:

- 3.53 Group 1 English
- 3.46 Group 2 World Language
- 2.99 Group 3 Individuals & Society
- 2.72 Group 4 Experimental Sciences
- 3.03 Group 5 Mathematics
- 3.24 Group 6 Art and Electives

Where can I see examples of well-written extended essays?

I have purchased a CD from IB that contains 50 outstanding essays collected from all over the world on different topics. Many students have already brought in flash drives for me to copy essays for them in subjects that they are considering for themselves. Let me know if you would like to see some of these. They average about 5Mb each, so unfortunately they are too large to email.