

Week of September 20, 2021

IB NEWSLETTER

Hillcrest IB Weekly Newsletter



Dear IB Parents,

MESSAGE FROM OUR IB COORDINATOR

Hello IB Parents. Mid-terms are behind us! The end of 1st quarter (October 22nd) is rapidly approaching.

We received the news this week that our Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and our IB Psychology teacher, Mr. Ron Hill will be leaving us, he has made the decision to retire from teaching. We will miss Mr. Hill's passion and love for teaching that he brought to Hillcrest each day. Mr. David Veenstra, currently our IB 20th Century World History teacher will take over the TOK and IB Psychology courses, and we will begin the search for a new IB History teacher to replace Mr. Veenstra

We will have our annual "Mentor/Mentee Lunch" on September 27th. We assign a senior IB student as a mentor to a junior IB student, the mentee. This event will take place during lunch on the 27th. We encourage our seniors to be good mentors, "to be the mentor you wished you had." We also encourage the juniors to reach out to their senior mentor, to ask a lot of questions and to seek advice when needed.

MESSAGE FROM HILLCREST IB GRADUATE – SRAAVYA PINJALA CLASS OF 2020

"College is hard but I am so incredibly grateful to have been a part of the IB Program. Not only was the material covered in my classes a review to me, but I was also prepared for the workload of college. Having a base understanding of difficult concepts allowed me to explore them deeper in college. IB is all about making the most out of your education and that is something I continue to do in college. Now as a sophomore in college, I feel prepared for my higher-level classes, am on the Executive Board for an Organization, and have made many incredible friends. IB and the learner profile have helped me grow as a student and as a more confident and capable individual."

- Sraavya Pinjala, Pre-Professional Health Scholar Temple University
College of Science and Technology

MESSAGE FROM SELENA YU, IB STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hi IB students. Thank you to all that came to our social last Monday, we had a blast!

The IB Student Council has been working on coding a forum, functioning kind of like Reddit, to answer any questions you may have. For now, we have a form on the hillcrestib.org website on the home page. Click on the green box "IB Forum" to submit questions. As always, free to reach out to myself, any of the IB officers, Mr. Olsen, or Ms. Veenstra as well. You can find all of our emails on the "Contact" page of our website.

This week, many colleges are hosting webinars that students are welcome to attend. Links to register can be found on the calendar on Managebac. These are great opportunities to hear from multiple colleges at once and ask questions directly to admissions officers.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **September 13 – October 15** : Every IB Student will meet with Mr. Olsen regarding IB examinations for the May 2022 IB exam session. IB exams cost 119.00/exam, payment for exams will be due by November 15th. Invoices will be sent home after these meetings.
- **September – November** : “College Visits” - We have representatives from Universities all over the country come to Hillcrest High School to speak with our IB students. Parents are welcome to attend these visits. They are held in the presentation room, please make sure you check in at the main office upon your arrival at Hillcrest.
 - **September 23** – University of Chicago College Visit, 9:00am.
- **September 27th**: Mentor/Mentee Luncheon
- **October 31**: Full rough draft of EE due to EE supervisors.

Official Hillcrest IB Website : <https://www.hillcrestib.org>

Important Contact Information

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Ms. Veenstra – Executive Assistant, CAS, Career Program Coordinator,
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“I THINK THEREFORE IB”

Q: What is TOK?

A: Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is one of the components of the IB Diploma core and is mandatory for all students seeking to earn the IB diploma. TOK is structured as a “thoughtful and purposeful inquiry into different ways of knowing, and into different kinds of knowledge, TOK is composed almost entirely of questions.” Like, How do we know? What counts as evidence for X? How do we judge which is the best model of Y? What does theory Z mean in the real world?

TOK helps students to be able to demonstrate the ways in which they can apply their knowledge with greater awareness and credibility.

Examples of TOK questions that a student could choose to look at more in depth. (there are 35 of these prompts/questions)

What counts as knowledge?

What counts as good evidence for a claim?

To what extent is certainty attainable?

Is bias inevitable in the production of knowledge?

What is the relationship between knowledge and culture?

***if you'd like a question answered under the “I think therefore IB” section of the IB newsletter, please submit your questions to john.olsen@canyonsdistrict.org**