

IB NEWSLETTER

Hillcrest IB Weekly Newsletter



Dear IB Parents,

We are happy another year has begun! This year, Mr. Olsen and our IB Student Leadership council will be submitting a weekly newsletter. Future newsletters will include important announcements, upcoming IB events, a message from Mr. Olsen our IB Coordinator, and a message from Selena Yu, our 2021-2022 IB student president. You will be able to access the newsletter from our official Hillcrest IB Website.

MESSAGE FROM OUR IB COORDINATOR

Hello parents, my name is John Olsen and I am the IB Coordinator at Hillcrest High School. I consider it an honor to work with each of your students. They have chosen the most rigorous academic pathway that leads not only to a Utah high school diploma but also to an internationally recognized high school diploma.

As a new school year begins, I want to encourage both IB students and parents to reach out with any questions or concerns about the IB program. There are a lot of misconceptions surrounding the IB program, as I regularly tell the students, please reach out to me to get accurate information about the program. I often hear from IB students, "is this really worth it?" The answer to that question is yes!! Many IB graduates come back and tell me their story of life after the IB program, and the vast majority say that above anything else, the IB program is what prepared them the most to succeed at the university level. Here's one example from a Hillcrest IB graduate.

MESSAGE FROM HILLCREST IB GRADUATE, LAURA WAN, CLASS OF 2020

"As a former Hillcrest High IB student, IB really gave me the skills I needed to succeed in college. Being trained to write quickly and well in many different subjects was one of the most useful things IB taught me, as this skill was extremely applicable in college. I have had several professors compliment my writing in different subjects, which I completely credit to IB's rigorous writing requirements. Additionally, some of the subject material covered by my IB courses aligned with my college classes and gave me a bit of a leg up. I remember questioning whether IB was "really worth it" as a high school student, but now as a college student at a prestigious university, I can confirm that it absolutely was. It really made the transition to college much smoother than it would have been otherwise, and gave me confidence in my ability to thrive in college academically."

Laura Wan - Vanderbilt University and Hillcrest IB Graduate

MESSAGE FROM MS. VEENTRA

Senior first CAS Interviews have already started and they have gone very well! IB has meticulously represented how an extracurricular resumé should look like for all universities, especially for highly selective universities (i.e. Stanford, Harvard, Columbia, etc.). 2nd Senior CAS interview will start on October 2nd before college applications really begin. This is what makes a "well-rounded" student!

Juniors will be introduced to CAS on September 7th at 7 am or September 8th at 2:30 pm. Juniors need to pick one CAS orientation date to come to. This is a mandatory meeting. Parents can join these orientation meetings too. We would love to see you support your students. These orientations will be held in the beautiful new Presentation Room, across from the main office.

MESSAGE FROM OUR 2021-2022 IB STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hey everyone! My name is Selena Yu and I'm super excited to work with you all. Feel free to reach out to me or any of your other IB officers with any questions you may have this year, we're happy to help! Your IB officers for this year are:

- Zoe Liu and Ruth Woodland - CAS/EE Vice Presidents
- Erin Zhang and Isaac Middlemas - Social Vice Presidents
- Sathya Tadinada and Sowmya Paritala - Service Vice Presidents
- Jayashabari Shankar and Michael Chen - Website/Tech Vice Presidents
- Campbell Hone and Swetha Iyer - Secretary/Treasurer/Academic Honesty Vice Presidents
- Pranavi Gundu and Rishab Nayak - 9th/10th-grade representatives

Seniors, remember to get in contact with your EE supervisors this week and get those rough drafts going.

We will send out information later this week regarding a start-of-year social that will take place the week of September 13th, so be on the lookout for that. Congrats on making it through the first two weeks of school. I hope everyone's been able to stay safe and adjust to the new building. Keep up the good work, and let's have a great year!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Olsen will be meeting with every IB Junior and Senior over the next month to go over their IB exam plan for the May 2022 IB examination session. Mr. Olsen registers each student for their IB exams. The deadline for registering students for their IB Exams is November 15th. IB exams cost \$119.00 per exam. Mr. Olsen will send home an invoice that will need to be paid by November 15th. There will be more information regarding IB exams in upcoming newsletters.

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

Important Contact Information

Mr. Olsen – IB Coordinator – john.olsen@canyonsdistrict.org, 801-826-6118

Ms. Veenstra – Executive Assistant, CAS, Career Program Coordinator, lisa.veenstra@canyonsdistrict.org, 801-826-6018

I THINK, THEREFORE IB

Q: What exactly does it take to get an IB diploma?

A: The IB Diploma Program (DP) is made up of six subject or curriculum groups and the DP Core, comprising of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) and the Extended Essay (EE).

The six subject groups are:

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature (English)

Group 2: Language Acquisition (French, German, Chinese or Spanish)

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Group 4: Sciences

Group 5: Mathematics

Group 6: The Arts/electives

There are different courses offered within each subject group. A student must complete 1 class from each of the subject groups (usually completed over two years with just a few exceptions). They also must complete the core requirements (CAS, TOK, EE) to earn the IB Diploma. An IB student takes a final IB exam for each subject in May, as a culmination of their two years of study. Based their exam results and completion of the IB Core requirements they earn an IB diploma.

***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**