

August 6, 2009

Letter to parents

Dear Parents of Grade 11 Students:

Since the school's 2005 IB Self-Study we have been looking for ways to increase class time in Higher Level (HL) classes to meet the 240-hour instruction time requirement from the IBO. It has not been possible up until now.

This year we have created a flex block that will give an extra teaching block per Higher Level subject every 14 days. This will lead to approximately 30 additional hours for an HL class over a two year period. Based on our calculations this will mean the HL classes will have 230 hours of instruction time. Flex block will always be block C and will therefore occur on the uneven days.

To implement this change we have had to create mixed HL/SL classes, except in the case of discrete SL classes such as Math SL or the *Ab initio* Language classes.

We *will* require SL students of a mixed HL/SL class to attend this flex block as well. The teacher in charge may choose to teach the SL students with the HL students or allow them to work on their other subjects. If the teacher chooses to teach the SL students during any particular flex block it is expected that these students will be provided with recompense time to study sometime during the year.

Please note that discrete SL classes will continue to have normal study blocks.

In the past IB students in grade 11 had 7 study blocks every 14 days.

The increase in student time spent in HL classes will reduce the number of study blocks for grade 11 students.

We feel sure the extra teaching time will help to minimize the pressure on both HL teachers and their students as they complete course requirements. Hopefully, it will reduce cramming or the need for extra classes after school or on the weekend. This should translate into students being better prepared for their IB exams and perhaps, just as importantly, students being less stressed and in a better position for exams in May 2011.

If you have any questions regarding this HL class time increase please feel free to contact our IB Coordinator, Mr. Michael Daly or me.

Sincerely,

Gary P. Melton
Middle-High School Principal