



April 30, 2013

Hello South Hills students, parents, and staff

This is our second IB newsletter, and we are excited about where we are headed and the energy and incredibly positive attitude of students, parents and staff as we start the process of discovering who wants to be in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme [we'll start using Program from now on, but IB uses the English version].

In the week before Spring Break, our coordinator met with all the freshman Honors English classes at South Hills. As of this moment, if everything goes according to plan, we have approximately 50 students interested in the Diploma Program when they enter their junior year, and another 15 or so interested in certificate classes [stand alone HL classes]. This number may lower as we draw closer to their junior year and students physically applying to be in IB, but these are great numbers to start with, and the students are genuinely enthusiastic. In the meantime, we are sending our Chinese teacher to a workshop in October, so we aim to offer Chinese SL as a one-year Language B class in Group Two when we hopefully begin offering IB classes in 2014-15 and beyond.

A few days ago in our communication with the International Baccalaureate of the Americas, we received confirmation of their receipt of our application, and we in turn provided an initial series of dates for our authorization visit. We gave them dates from the beginning of December to the second week of that month, because we have our WASC visit earlier in the semester, and also in the fall a cohort of students and potentially staff are headed to China as part of our exchange with our sister school in Shanghai. Everyone here is excited for the future.

As a side note, it is vital for all students, parents, and staff to be aware that once we have IB in our school it raises the levels of expectations for **all** academic programs as far as university and college admissions are concerned. On many applications and documents sent to the colleges and universities, they request that we fill in a box that states whether or not we offer IB. It changes the way they look at transcripts and evaluate potential incoming freshmen. In schools that offer IB and AP, the expectation is that students vying for those top spots are engaged in a

academically rigorous and challenging program or series of classes [particularly given the possibilities offered at the school].

We are well on the road to a successful and vibrant International Baccalaureate Program here at South Hills, and if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerest best wishes,

Mike Ryan
IB Coordinator
South Hills HS

Contacts:

Assistant Principal [IB]: Kevin Hodgson [khodgson@cvusd.k12.ca.us]

Extended Essay Coordinator: Julie Starrett [jstarrett@cvusd.k12.ca.us]

Community, Action and Service [CAS] Coordinator: Barry Hepner [bhepner@cvusd.k12.ca.us]