

Warwick High School Centre for the International Baccalaureate

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<http://warwick.nn.k12.va.us/ib>

Rory P. Stapleton, PhD, Principal

Patty Chaney, Program Director



November 5, 2010

Dear PreDip/IB Parents,

As we finish the first marking period, I wanted to update you on the IB Program at Warwick High School. I plan to send quarterly letter to the parents to keep you informed about the program. There is a monthly newsletter (*Reflections*) for the students each month that is sent to you too. If you don't receive a copy by email, a copy can be found on the Warwick IB webpage (warwick.nn.k12.va.us/ib). Please read them so that you will know what is happening with IB on a more frequent basis. In this letter, there will be some areas which may or may not apply to your student depending on the grade level.

Strengthening Communication: It is important that we be able to communicate as needed. Email is the easiest method for me, but you may call me if necessary. My email is patty.chaney@nn.k12.va.us and I can be reached at 757-591-4700, ext 67521.

PreDip/IB Parent Meetings: I was pleased to meet many of you at the IB parent meetings which we held in October. Parent meetings for general information will only be held as needed, but we are in the process of organizing a parent advisory board. Several parents signed up at the October parent meetings. One role of the parent advisory board is to provide the students with opportunities to relieve some stress and have some fun. Our first "fun" activity is a movie night. We are planning to have the movie night on December 10th. Students will pay \$2 and sign up in advance. This will allow us to order pizza and sodas, as well as some popcorn for the movie. If you would like to help with this, please contact me.

IB Information Night: The next large-scale parent information meeting for prospective candidates is set for January 4, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. in the auditorium. The focus of the meeting will be to explain the IB program, to address the registration process for the 2011-2012 school year, and to hear from our alumni who will share their college experiences. The IB Student Advisory Board will handle the presentation. Parents/students presently enrolled in the program may wish to attend since another highlight of the January format is a panel of college admissions counselors who will give their views on the *IB Student as a College Applicant*.

Registration For IB Examinations : The November deadline for registration has been met for juniors and seniors who will take examinations in May 2011. We are very fortunate in that the Newport News Public School District budgets to pay the fees for the IB the same as they do for the AP. Over a two-year period, the average student fees will be approximately \$650.00. There are many districts where the students are invoiced for the fees. Our system only asks that a student be motivated to fulfill the requirements of the IB and do the best that he/she can. We can now look forward to the examinations which will be administered at either the George Washington University Hampton Roads Center or the Warwick Senior Center. If your son/daughter is involved in these examinations, you should have signed a copy of the registration form. Hopefully, we have corrected all errors. Any corrections we make to the details after November 15th will incur a change fee. You will be expected to pay for any changes you make after that date. Please regard this as your notification that should your child fail to meet the criteria for the course(s) or drop the course(s), you will be obligated to reimburse the school.

Extended Essay: Mr. Corrigan will hold a session for the juniors on the extended essay through their language classes.

PSATs: This year, NNPS paid the fees for all juniors to take the PSAT. Sophomores and Freshmen purchased a planner which included the price of the PSAT. Some students have not yet paid for their planner, but were allowed to take the PSAT. Please pay as soon as possible for your test. The results should be distributed in December.

Viva Voce Seminar: The seniors have completed their Extended Essays and presented them in their ToK classes. As a culminating event, selected students will be presenting/defending their research in a seminar scheduled for November 17th at 12:00 pm in the school auditorium. The superintendent, school board members, central office subject supervisors, and CNU professors have been invited to critique the presentations. A reception will follow the event in the WHS senior center. Parents are invited to attend this event. It promises to be an impressive event.

Planners: Students have received planners again this year and should be making effective use of them. They are urged to record homework, grades, and important events therein. As dates come about which I wish for them to include, I will print them in their *Reflections* for them to transfer to their planners. The planners are important tools to assist them with organization and time management.

Important dates include:

November

5th - end of first marking period

8th - no school for students

17th - report cards issued/Viva Voce Seminar

24th - 26th - no school

December

10th – last chance to place senior orders at WHS

13th - Interims issued

December 23rd – January 2nd no school

January

4th - **Alumni Day** and -Kick off of registration period with IB Information Night

4th - Information Night

17th - no school

26th - end of second marking period

27th – 28th no school

CAS: The Creativity, Action, and Service component of the IB program enables students to learn to understand community needs and learn to share their resources. Students are required to complete 150 hours during grades 11 and 12. *Most* students because of their participation in sports, service clubs, church, etc. have already earned many hours. There are 8 learning outcomes that need to be met by the students during the two years of the program. The learning outcomes are:

1. **Increase awareness of strengths and areas for growth**
2. **Undertake new challenges**
3. **Plan and initiate activities**
4. **Work collaboratively with others**
5. **Show perseverance and commitment in activities**
6. **Engage with issues of global importance**
7. **Consider the ethical implications of their actions**
8. **Develop new skills**

Each activity that the student does for CAS should be approved in advance by the CAS coordinator. I am the CAS coordinator for the juniors, and Mr. Corrigan is the coordinator for the seniors.

There are forms which must be completed as part of the CAS project. The forms are available from Ms. Chaney or on the Warwick High webpage. Students will be made aware of activities they could participate in by means of the *Reflections*, the bulletin board outside of the main office in the senior campus, and/or they can check the newspapers for volunteer requests. It is helpful for students to choose internships in businesses/organizations where they may have a career interest. We will participate in several projects as a group. The students should currently be finishing collecting money for UNICEF.

Senior Responsibilities: I hope that seniors are well on their way in the process of completing applications to colleges and will then tap every possible source for scholarships. (Helpful websites- www.cashe.com/ www.finaid.org/ www.collegenet.com/ www.collegeview.com) Hopefully by December 1st, most college applications will have been mailed. Scholarship deadlines vary. Ms. Slagle has set deadlines for submitting material to her. Seniors should pay close attention to these deadlines so applications can be submitted on time.

Another important point is that over 500 colleges/universities in North America alone recognize the IB (Website-www.ibo.org). A few others are not so well informed. If your student wants to apply to a college that is not aware of the IB program, we send a flyer of information, but I can submit more information if needed so your student gets all of the college credit they deserve.

From Ms. Slagle, IB School Counselor louisa.slagle@nn.k12.va.us

Summer Governor's School

Sophomores and Juniors:

Information and applications are available for the 2011 Summer Residential Governor's School (SRGS). You were notified in your English class when the applications were available as well as the application procedures. SRGS academic, visual and performing arts and mentorship programs are a month-long and housed on various college campuses throughout Virginia. The academic programs are in Agriculture; Life Sciences and Medicine; Humanities; and Math, Science and Technology. The Mentorship Programs are in Engineering and Marine Science. For students interested in the Visual and Performing Arts, there is an application process. If you apply for visual arts, there will be a portfolio review. If you apply to music, dance or drama, you will be asked to perform. A student can attend only one of these programs. The application process is competitive but we highly suggest that if you have not only an interest in one of the areas but have experience, please apply! The Commonwealth of Virginia and the Newport News Public School System provides funding so the program is free.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **SAT**
12/4/10 (deadline to register 11/5)
1/22/11 (deadline to register 1/7)
- **ACT**
12/11/10 (deadline to register 11/5)
2/12/11 (deadline to register 1/7)

SENIORS

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Application Date	Deadline for Turning in Applications, etc. to Ms. Slagle
12/1/10	11/12/10
12/15/10	11/30/10
12/31 - 1/04/11	12/03/10
1/05/11	12/06/10
1/10/11	12/15/10
1/15/11 (Sat)	12/15/10
2/01/11	1/18/11
2/15/11	2/01/11

It is highly recommended that you apply on-line! The above dates are for Ms. Slagle's materials for your college application (see your packet, college application procedures). Please be kind and considerate by submitting to Ms. Slagle your application checklist with appropriate materials by the above deadlines! Any questions? Stop by her office! If you turn your paperwork in late, she may not be able to mail it by the college's deadline so don't delay! Also she will only accept materials that are completed and attached to the application checklist.

**MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF
TURN ALL APPLICATIONS ON THE SAME DAY!**

Please be kind and considerate by submitting to me your application check list, applications, transcripts, etc. by the above deadlines! If you turn in your packages late, I cannot guarantee that it will arrive to the colleges on time!!!!

I am already finding that many of you are not adhering to the above dates for turning in your application materials to me. These dates are not just arbitrarily thrown together without thought or reason: I have deadlines because it is the only way that I can get all of the volume of applications out prior to the college's deadline. AND it is the only way that I can have the time to review the materials to make sure that everything is sent out properly and done well.

RESUMES: Seniors! There are still many of you who have not turned your updated resume to me. The resume is a vital piece to the college application – this could make or break your acceptance to college. All resumes are part of the transcript package. Don't delay!

JUNIORS

Start gearing up to take the SAT and the ACT. It is recommended that you take it two times during your Junior year. **DON'T** wait until your senior year to test. For more information, go on-line to: www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org

Look for upcoming dates in the Spring. I will be working closely with you beginning second semester on the application process, resume writing, and gearing up for the next level: College!

Juniors may want to start visiting colleges. Many colleges and universities have Open Houses (most of these events are on a Saturday). Go to the specific web site for the college, and you should be able to find the dates for these very important visits. Also you may want to start thinking about visiting colleges during Spring break!

SOPHOMORES AND FRESHMEN

I will be visiting your classes soon, as well as taking you into a computer lab to complete some on-line career assessments.

Extended Essay: With the start of the 2nd quarter, juniors will receive a packet to bring home that describes the process and the deadlines for their extended essay. The first deadline is in November by which time the students should have a faculty mentor and should have selected their major topic of study.

Full Year Commitment: When your child makes application to the PreDip/IB program, it is hoped that the commitment is for one full year. Each year students are asked to reaffirm their commitment. The process is not designed to intimidate students. If your student continues to maintain the recommended minimum GPA of 3.2, they will be encouraged to continue in the program. I will continue to monitor academic progress and to seek methods to assist your child in developing the skills necessary to stay on the honor roll.

With the reaffirmation process which occurs in January-February, we find that there is great benefit in having the parents and students reflect on prior experiences with the program, review the criteria for completion of the program, and make the decision as to whether or not they wish to proceed. As a portion of the process, we ask teachers to assess the student's capabilities, and we ask the students to place in essay format their aspirations and reasons for wishing to continue.

Juniors: It is not too soon to begin exploring colleges and scholarships. Many scholarships are specifically for juniors. I hope your child will understand that it is in the junior year that the SATs and ACTs should be taken, the grades from the junior year are reviewed, and the resumes (we will have a resume workshop) must be well developed. Hopefully, by the time your child is a senior, there will only be the task of completing the college applications.

Grades: Ms. Slagle and I have contacted each student who had an interim reports with multiple Cs, Ds, or Fs. We have made suggestions as to how to improve the grades. Students are invited to come to my office should they need additional help. I have noticed that the majority of students with poor grades have the same comment...missing assignments. Let's encourage them to **do the work**. I generally contact parents if there are several poor interims.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU FEEL THAT WE NEED TO HAVE A PARENT CONFERENCE.

I will be monitoring the marking period grades (Report cards will be issued on November 17th) and meeting with those who seem to be struggling. Bear in mind that the first quarter is often a difficult one for PIB/IB students who must adjust to a program which fosters improving study skills, developing critical thinking, delivering oral presentations, and refining writing ability. Generally, after the first quarter, the students become acclimated to the instructors and rigors of a higher level of instruction, they learn to better manage their time, they learn to be responsible for setting their own academic course, and they use self-motivation to meet the tasks. If grades are lower than your child usually brings home, please be assured that rarely is this indicative of the outcome for the semester which is posted on transcripts. As the school year progresses, you will notice an improvement as students continue with the program. This is the norm. Sit back and watch your child grow academically! Also be assured that the benefits of this program will become abundant as students reach the college years and beyond.

Beat the Stress: Students are often not practicing healthy time management and study skills. Too often, I find that students are trying those old habits of doing things at the last minute which worked in middle school, and now they are overwhelmed. They are not eating properly, nor exercising, nor getting enough sleep. *Result-High Stress Levels.* Please watch them closely and try to help them to correct these poor habits. Our juniors who are taking a full complement of college courses for the first time really need our support. They can do the IB and participate in "fun" activities, but it needs to be done the right way.

Tutoring : For all subjects, the IB teachers will graciously meet with students after school upon student request. We can also arrange for students to set study sessions. Students in need of assistance should contact me. Students should never feel that they can not get help.

Invigilators: Because our number of participants has increased, we will need assistance with the proctoring (invigilation) of the May 2011 examinations which will be from the 3rd to the 23rd of May.

If you are available to proctor a few sessions during that time, please let me know.

Alumni Day: We look forward to having our alumni return and share their college experiences with us. This year on January 4th we will have an assembly and highlight our 2010 graduates after which we will invite an alumni panel to speak about the IB experience as it affects their college experience.

The next newsletter will be mailed around the end of January. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to working with you to help your child to have a rewarding high school experience. Enjoy the holidays of the coming seasons!

Sincerely yours,

Patty Chaney
Program Director
WHS International Baccalaureate