

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The District has received the May 2011 International Baccalaureate (IB) exam results and has been reviewing them in relation to the prior year's statistics and the average world-wide global scores. You should have already received your child's individual IB test results under separate cover. The IB exam grades range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest), although most universities in the U.S and abroad will accept scores of 5 and above to receive college credit.

Our students took 330 IB exams spread across 13 subject test areas this spring. Both the number of students sitting for IB tests and the number of IB certificates awarded at the end of the school year have increased. The High School's overall IB test average also went up and on the whole, our students did better in many of the categories. Subjects where students exceeded the 2010 test results included French BHL, English A1 HL, French B SL, Spanish B SL and HL, Americas History HL and Visual Arts HL. The Physics exam average remained approximately the same as the previous year with students averaging 4.08 on the test, however, there were an additional 30 students who participated in the course and took the IB exam this past May.

While we are pleased with the results in a number of these subjects, as we went up in some and held our own in others, we also realize there are other classes that need improvement. On a positive note, the IB program continues to grow as evidenced by the increase in the number of IB sections and the addition of new IB courses. In May 2011, 100% of the eligible upperclassmen (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders) took at least one IB test. The average grade obtained by IB Diploma candidates was 4.77. In most of the subject tests, Dobbs Ferry students were equal to or above the world-wide grade averages. Approximately 20% of the graduating class earns the full IB Diploma each year.

The High School IB teachers will be reviewing our students' overall performance, identifying trends and analyzing this information in tandem with other statistical benchmarks in order to strengthen the program. The IB Committee is presently investigating adding more high level (HL) courses in math and science, increasing teacher training so that every teacher is skilled in and qualified to teach at least one IB subject area and gathering feedback from evaluators all over the world who reviewed the exams. In May, the Dobbs Ferry High School IB program sent student papers to 19 locations in 12 countries on four continents to be graded.

This is truly an internationally-focused program and we are now in our 13<sup>th</sup> year of offering IB's rigorous two-year college preparatory curriculum to Dobbs Ferry students. The IB Program at Dobbs Ferry is open to all students who want to challenge themselves. As a general rule IB courses, like AP Programs, are recognized for their academic rigor, however, there are some key differences in the content and testing. Basically, the IB Program is more comprehensive and connects subject areas with a focus on multiple methods of assessment, as opposed to AP courses, where a student is evaluated by the results of a single end-of-course exam. The IB Diploma is also an internationally recognized standard of excellence, accepted by universities and other institutions in over 80 countries.

If you have questions about your child's individual exam results or the IB Program, please contact the High School office at 693-7648. Click the link below to view comparative IB data for the last six years and results from the May 2011 exams.

**[IB Exam 6 Year Comparative Data and Grade Distribution](#)**

Sincerely,

John Falino  
Principal