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John A. Ferguson Senior High School International Baccalaureate

FEBRUARY 2007

Lead Teacher Message

Juniors and seniors, you have 3 more months (barely) to prepare for your IB written examinations. You have invested 2 ½ and 3 ½ years, respectively, in preparation for this May. The next 3 months are critical to your success. I urge you to make optimal use of this time, so that you never have anything to regret. You should be focused and energized. You should be forming study groups, and meeting on weekends to spend a couple of hours reviewing, especially for higher level subjects. As Helen Gurley Brown said, "I hope I have convinced you – the only thing that separates successful people from the ones who aren't is the willingness to work very, very hard."

Seniors Receive College Acceptances

Some of our seniors have already received letters of acceptance from colleges and universities. It is really exciting to have these letters arrive, and to be able to write them on the posters outside the IB office! While most schools send out letters in February and March, some seniors have already been accepted to the University of Florida, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, University of North Carolina,

University of Miami, Stony Brook, Tulane, Georgia Tech, FIU, and others. In addition to college acceptances, many students are receiving scholarships! Some schools automatically qualify students for money without asking them to apply, while other schools tell students to apply for specific scholarships for which they are eligible. Juniors should be taking the SAT and ACT this spring, and checking on college and university

websites to find out if schools to which they will apply require SAT II exams. Some schools require specific exams, some tell you that you may take any SAT II exam, and other schools do not require any SAT II exams. *As a point of information, a **college** is a four year institution where you can earn a bachelor's degree. A **university** is an institution that offers a bachelor's degree and also master's and/or doctoral degrees.

IB Students



IB Oral Exams are in Progress

The IB Foreign Language Orals began on February 1st. Students are being tested in Spanish from February 1- February 9, in French on February 12, and in Italian on February 21 and 22. Students prepare for their examination in advance by selecting a topic and having it approved by their teacher. They then have an opportunity to do research, take notes, and practice with the teacher.

grade is the score the student receives on the written examination in May. Orals usually count as about 30% of the grade in that subject. English Oral Examinations will begin on March 1 and continue through March 12. For these examinations, students have studied several specific works of literature over the two years of their Higher Level English course. Passages from the literature are used for the English Oral

Each student is given a date and time to meet with the teacher to take the exam. The student talks about his/her topic for approximately 6 or 7 minutes, and then the teacher engages the student in a discussion/ dialogue about the topic. The student receives a score from the teacher, based on the IB rubric. The interview, which is taped, is then sent to an external IB

Exam. Although students know which passages are potential exam selections, they do not know exactly which passage they will receive. The passages are randomly placed in envelopes and sealed. Then students' names are written on the envelope. Each student is given a date and time to report to the "Prep" (preparation) Room. Students must report to the "Prep" Room without any

examiner, who listens to the tape, and gives it a score based on the rubric. Then the scores of both the teacher and the examiner are sent to IBCA (International Baccalaureate Curriculum and Assessment Centre) in Cardiff, Wales. There, the final score is determined. The final score is part of the grade that the student will receive in the subject. The other part of the

books, notes or materials. When a student arrives at the "Prep" Room, he/she is given the assigned envelope, opens it, and then has 20 minutes to read, analyze, and take notes on the passage. Then the student goes into the testing room, where he/she gives a commentary of the passage to the teacher, while being tape recorded.