

THE DP DIGEST

News and information about the Blair IB Diploma Programme



In this newsletter:

A Word from the IB Coordinator

Page 01

Subject Briefs

Page 02

The "Core Corner"

Page 02

[Calendar This!](#)

Page 03

[Exam Fees](#)

Page 03

[Blair Academic Honesty Policy](#)

A WORD FROM THE IB DP COORDINATOR

Greetings Blair Families!

All of Blair's IB programmes are engaged in teaching and learning that builds students' academic knowledge, and guides them into developing the IB Learner Profile traits in their lives. We believe that teaching our students these traits will result in the "[development] of caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect."
(ibo.org/about-the-ib/mission)

DP teachers recognize that while we are working toward this goal, our students are being confronted on a daily basis with information and choices that challenge what they learn in their classrooms. The DP team has made the ***"Principled"*** learner profile trait our focus for this school year. The attributes of a "principled" learner are described as follows: "We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences." We will be discussing with our students what this means within the context of each academic subject and the DP Core. I would like to invite you to support us in this effort by discussing with your student(s) what being ***"Principled"*** looks like from your perspective. You can use these ["Ten tips for acting with integrity"](#) to start a discussion with your student(s) and other family members.

Thank you in advance for joining us in this effort! -Karen Law-

SUBJECT BRIEFS

A word from our DP Teachers

"Hello, IB Families! My name is Monica Benson and I teach the IB Diploma Programme Music course. I studied music with an emphasis on choral education at California State University, Los Angeles (Go golden eagles!). While there, I also participated as an Honors College ambassador and completed a thesis on American folk music and representation of marginalized communities. I enjoy studying the intersectional effects that society has on music and vice versa.

My favorite parts of the course I teach are when students begin to think conceptually about music they listen to everyday, and when they realize they can accomplish more than they initially anticipated. Making music can be extremely vulnerable, and your student is part of either the Diploma or the Career Related programme because they are up for the challenge! I am excited for another exciting year of experimentation and innovation!"

"Hi! I'm Tania Heredia and I teach IB French ab initio SL. My experiences at Whittier College and CSU Northridge provided me with a solid foundation in education and French. Teaching French ab initio in the IB program has quickly become my mission. I was captivated by the prospect of introducing students to this beautiful language, even those with no prior background. The curriculum's emphasis on language acquisition and cultural exploration aligns perfectly well with my teaching philosophy. I enjoy the opportunity to nurture my students' language skills and foster their appreciation for French-speaking cultures around the world. One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching this course is empowering my students to communicate in a new language. I've seen the program shape not only my students' language skills but also their worldviews, fostering open-mindedness and a deep appreciation for cultural diversity."

The Core Corner Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

Students participating in CAS are required to regularly take part in a variety of experiences and at least one project over the 18-month duration of the DP. A CAS **experience** is a specific, short-term event or an extended series of events. A CAS **project** is a collaboratively planned series of sequential CAS experiences lasting one month or more.

A CAS experience/project should:

- fit within one or more of the CAS 3 strands (creativity, activity, service);
 - be based on a personal interest, skill, talent or opportunity for growth;
 - provide opportunities to develop attributes of the IB learner profile, and;
 - not be used or included in a student's DP course requirements or result in payment for service
- Completion of CAS is based on the achievement of the 7 CAS learning outcomes over the 18-month period:
1. Identify own strengths and areas for growth;
 2. Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken, developing new skills in the process;
 3. Demonstrate how to initiate and plan a CAS experience
 4. Show commitment to and perseverance in CAS experiences;
 5. Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance;
 6. Demonstrate and recognize the benefits of working collaboratively;
 7. Recognize and consider the ethics of your choices and actions.

Students are expected to maintain a CAS portfolio of evidence & reflections on their experiences, and verification from a supervisor of their participation.

CALENDAR THIS!

- **All current IB DP & CP Students** - Complete May 2024 Exam Session registration form by Friday, October 20, 2023. Exam registrations cannot be completed without this information. Access forms here: [Seniors](#) [Juniors](#)
- **1st Exam Registration deadline:** November 10, 2023
- **Coming soon!! (Late October): EE & CAS workshops for Year 11 students**
- **Save the Date! PTSA Parent Program - IB Diploma Programme Info Session with Ms. Law, November 1, 2023 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm**
- [May 2024 IBDP Exam Session Calendar](#)
- [2023-24 Calendar of IB DP School Deadlines](#)

IB EXAM FEES

The exam fee for each subject is :

- \$119 (per exam) before the 1st registration deadline (November 10, 2023)
- \$157 (per exam) between the 1st and 2nd registration deadline (11/11/23 to 1/14/24)
- \$269 (per exam) after the 2nd registration deadline

Fees are now being accepted at the Middle School Office during school hours. Please see the IB Fees Policy Parent Letter for additional details.

[IB Fees Policy Parent Letter](#)

[Payment Plan Form](#)

Blair High School's Mission

We nurture a community of active, globally minded, compassionate leaders who are lifelong learners, committed to service, and who understand and appreciate diversity of thought, culture and values.

Blair High School's Vision

Our students will emerge as effective contributors to society who have been inspired to participate in a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and service to others.