

THE DP DIGEST

News and information about the Blair IB
Diploma Programme



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A WORD FROM THE IB DP COORDINATOR

Karen Law

Welcome to the first edition of the DP Digest! We've heard your requests for more frequent communication about the Diploma Programme, and this is one of the ways we are responding. It is my goal for this to be a bi-monthly means for sharing not only deadlines and due dates, but also keeping you informed about the amazing work our teachers and students are engaged in as they move toward the May 2024 Exam Session.

In addition to this newsletter, one-on-one meetings with the DP Coordinator are available to each family of an IB DP student. It is my hope that this more personal interaction will increase student engagement, improve overall understanding about the DP, and provide the multi-tiered support our students need as they engage with their subjects. This will not replace the general IB DP informational meetings, but will hopefully be an additional opportunity for us to build healthy relationships within the Blair IB DP community.

Welcome back!!

SUBJECT BRIEFS

A word from our DP Teachers

"I love teaching, especially mathematics. With a Masters Degree in Education, Bachelor's Degree in Applied Physics, and full Credentials in Teaching Mathematics I have the background to build upon the instructional material in the most effective manner. I have taught Mathematics & Physics at high school level for many years. In my personal time, I love reading math and the history of math and physics. When I teach math, I include a brief history of the subject matter and its application in students' day to day lives. Learning about this information makes my classes cool, interesting and engaging and brings out the creative side of my students. My teaching style also awakens the love of mathematics in my students, wanting them to learn more and engage more as we progress through the curriculum."

-**Zareh Davidian Zarneh**- IB Math: Apps.&Int. SL

"My name is **Jim Goffred** and I teach the IB Psychology SL course. This course dives into the brain and how it works. We look mostly at how the brain functions under normal circumstances, but also look a little at what happens when the brain is not working normally. The class is framed within the IB model of "how do we know what we know". In psychology, we approach that by looking at psychological research and how this research has been developed into accepted psychological theories. I love learning about the brain as it is who you are, and students typically like learning about how their own brain operates, which gains them better insight as to who they are and why they do what they do.

We are currently working through research methods in psychology with a test coming up shortly. We will then move into a mini-unit on mental disorder diagnoses before jumping into the brain as an organ."

The Core Corner

Theory of Knowledge

Extended Essay

Creativity, Activity, Service

"The Core is about developing the whole student. Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is training in critical thinking (the process of knowledge acquisition, development and evaluation).

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) aims for students to "demonstrate attributes of the IB learner profile in real and practical ways, to grow as unique individuals, and to recognize their role in relation to others." (IB DP CAS Guide) The Extended Essay (EE) aims for students to engage in independent research with intellectual initiative and rigor; develop research, thinking, self-management and communication skills; and, reflect on the research and writing process. It is 4000 words of academic writing that results from independent, personal research"

(thinkib.net/IB School Leadership/The Core) Completion of the Core is a mandatory requirement for students seeking to earn the IB Diploma.

CALENDAR THIS!

- **Extended Essay Workshop (Grade 12)** - Thursday (9/14) and Friday (9/15) during 1st Period in the Library. Bring a 1st draft of the EE and your laptop to the workshop.
- **Reflective Project Workshop (IB CP Grade 12)** - Thursday (9/14) and Friday (9/15) during 1st period in the Library.
- **CAS Workshop (Grade 12)** - Thursday (9/14) and Friday (9/15) during 5th Period in the Library. Bring your current CAS plan and documentation for any activities (complete or in-progress)
- **1st Exam Registration deadline:** November 10, 2023
- **Coming soon!! (October): EE & CAS workshops for Year 11 students**
- **[May 2024 IBDP Exam Session Calendar](#)**

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

Course Candidates (i.e., non-full IB DP or IB CP candidates) may enroll in any or all aspects of the core. The core fees (per course, per candidate) are:

- Extended Essay (\$91 - 1st deadline, \$129 - 2nd deadline, \$196 - after 2nd deadline)
- Theory of Knowledge (\$46 - 1st deadline, \$84 - 2nd deadline, \$196 - after 2nd deadline)
- CAS (\$10)

[Click here to see the entire IB Fees Policy Parent Letter](#)

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.