

Welcome Back IHS Families!

Hello IHS Families and Welcome Back to the 2023-2024 School Year! *Si desea traducir este mensaje, haga [clic aqui](#).*

My name is Courtney Dearing, and I am taking over as the new Head Teacher for Eugene International High School. For our returning IHS families, welcome back! We are excited to see your students back in our classrooms this fall. For our new IHS families, we are so excited to meet you and your student! It's always hard to say goodbye to summer, but we are looking forward to another great school year!

Introduction

First, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a Literature teacher in IHS for the past 9 years, and before moving to Eugene, I taught IB Literature first in Chicago and then in the suburbs of Washington, DC. This is my 21st year as an educator, and I am excited to take on this new role as Head Teacher of IHS. As Head Teacher, I will serve as the teacher leader and liaison for the IHS staff while still teaching two classes of IB 12th grade literature at South High School. This dual role of school leader and classroom teacher is unique to IHS--it is a core value of our school that our Head Teacher remains in the classroom and continues to serve the school as a classroom teacher. Over the course of my tenure in IHS, I have taught grades 9-12 at all three IHS campuses--Sheldon, Churchill, and South--and I have a good working relationship with the administrations and staff at all three schools. Whichever campus your student attends, if they are an IHS student, I am the first point of contact for any questions or concerns that may arise about their IHS experience. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime!

I am also a 4j parent--I have a 3rd grader at Charlemagne Elementary School and a 6th grader at Roosevelt Middle School. Since my two boys are in the French Immersion program, I will also be an IHS parent in a few years. As a parent of school-aged children, I'm sure I share many of the same hopes, expectations, and concerns for my children's public school education as many of you. My goal as Head Teacher is to build a stronger collaborative relationship with our IHS families to support our students and their goals for the future.

Parent Site Council Representatives Needed

Every school in the 4j school district uses a site council to help make decisions for the school. Site councils are made up of teachers, classified staff members, administrators, parents, and students. The goal of the site council is to have a body of stakeholders available to discuss important issues that arise throughout the school year. This year, I would love to have a dedicated parent volunteer from each of our host schools (Sheldon, South, and Churchill) as part of our site council. We meet once a month, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, from 4:30-5:30 at South High School. Snacks are provided :)

If you are interested in being a parent member for IHS Site Council, please email me:
dearinger_c@4j.lane.edu.

Important Info for the Start of the School Year

- 4j has adopted a new bell schedule for the coming school year for all high schools. We will now be operating on an A/B/Flex schedule. Students will take 8 classes each semester--4 on A Days (Mondays/Thursdays) and 4 on B days (Tuesdays/Fridays) and Wednesdays will be FLEX (C) day, when students will attend all 8 classes with an early release for teacher professional development. Please see below:

REVISED HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday (A) - 90 min		Tuesday (B) - 90 min		Wednesday (C) - 30 min		Thursday (A) - 90 min		Friday (B) - 90 min	
Period 1	8:30 - 10:00	Period 5	8:30 - 10:00	Period 1	8:30-9:00	Period 1	8:30 - 10:00	Period 5	8:30 - 10:00
Passing	10:00 - 10:10	Passing	10:00 - 10:10	Period 2	9:05-9:35	Passing	10:00 - 10:10	Passing	10:00 - 10:10
Period 2	10:10 - 11:40	Period 6	10:10 - 11:40	Advisory	9:40-10:15	Period 2	10:10 - 11:40	Period 6	10:10 - 11:40
Lunch	11:45 - 12:15	Lunch	11:45 - 12:15	Passing	10:15-10:25	Lunch	11:45 - 12:15	Lunch	11:45 - 12:15
Period 3	12:20 - 1:50	Period 7	12:20 - 1:50	Period 3	10:25-10:55	Period 3	12:20 - 1:50	Period 7	12:20 - 1:50
Passing	1:50 - 2:00	Passing	1:50 - 2:00	Period 4	11:00-11:30	Passing	1:50 - 2:00	Passing	1:50 - 2:00
Period 4	2:00 - 3:30	Period 8	2:00 - 3:30	Lunch	11:35-12:05	Period 4	2:00 - 3:30	Period 8	2:00 - 3:30
				Period 5	12:10-12:40				
				Period 6	12:45-1:15				
				Passing	1:15-1:25				
				Period 7	1:25-1:55				
				Period 8	2:00-2:30				
				Collaboration	2:45-4:00				

- IHS 9th and 10th graders take (3) IHS classes in this new schedule. They are divided into cohorts, and they take their (3) IHS classes together in these cohorts. Cohorts will remain the same throughout the entire school year, but they change from grade to grade.
- IHS 11th and 12th graders take (4) IHS classes in this new schedule. Junior and Senior Seminar have now been added to the core school day--the purpose of this new Seminar course is to help students complete their graduation, IB, and IHS requirements, including the Extended Essay and CAS (community, activity, service) hours. We also plan to use Seminar to help develop study and research skills, supplement IB coursework, give students time and space to work on homework and projects, and study for IB exams at the end of junior and senior year.
- The first day of school for incoming 9th graders is Wednesday, September 6th.** Traditionally, we give our 9th graders one day to get familiar with the school and their class schedule before the rest of the students return to the building. **The first day of school for 10th-12th graders is Thursday, September 7th.**

Mission Statements and Statement of Inclusivity

Finally, as we embark on a new school year, I would like to highlight a few important values that Eugene IHS works to uphold throughout the school year. The first is our IHS Mission Statement:

As global citizens at Eugene International High School, we aspire to value diversity, ambiguity, and discovery and to act with responsibility, integrity, and compassion.

The second is the IB Mission Statement, which guides all of our curricular and pedagogical decisions at all grade levels:

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

And finally, our statement of inclusivity, which was developed in collaboration with the 4j Equity Managers:

All students are welcome and valued in our classrooms. We seek to provide an environment that is safe and conducive to learning and that honors and sustains student identities. Regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure, race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, citizenship status, religion, creed, or economic status, everyone is welcome and belongs in our school.

I want to highlight these three important statements at the start of our new school year as a reminder to all our IHS families about the values of our school--these are the guidelines by which we make school decisions, develop curriculum, make text choices, and set expectations for all our students. We ask that you, our IHS parents and families, support and uphold these values at home so we can work together to develop these young people into thoughtful, responsible, compassionate global citizens.

I know I speak for our entire IHS staff when I say that we are so excited for the beginning of another school year. I plan to send out emails like this one regularly throughout the school year to keep families updated on the important news of the school. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

I hope you all enjoy these last few weeks of summer--we'll see your students in September!

Sincerely,

Courtney Dearing (she/her)
Head Teacher--Eugene International High School
12th grade IB 20th Century Literature