

Hello Eugene IHS Parents and Families,

While it's certainly hard to believe, we are already approaching the midterm mark of the first semester of this school year. I hope that your student has settled into the new high school schedule and routines, and that these first 9 weeks have been enjoyable. IHS teachers are also getting used to this new schedule, getting to know our students and the unique dynamics of each cohort, and starting to wrap our heads around upcoming midterm grades and parent-teacher conferences (both of which I'll address more below). I usually find that Halloween marks the time when I really feel like I've settled into the new school year with my new groups of students, and this year is no different. We have already done so much--and there's still so much to look forward to this year!

Recap of IHS Events

We held our annual IHS Opening Assembly at the start of October at the South High School auditorium. Our Opening and Closing Assemblies are the only two times all year when IHS students from all three campuses all come together in one place (and this year, that's 1,009 students in total!) Our amazing IHS student government leaders orchestrated the entire assembly (with the help of our incredible teacher supervisor, Kayla Punt) and it went off without a hitch! Teachers strutted the "red carpet" across the stage as they were introduced to the entire IHS student body, current students played IHS Jeopardy against some special guest alumni, IHS clubs and organizations spoke about their work and recruited new student members, and we had an amazing special guest speaker, Savannah Knight-Meigs, IHS Churchill graduate from 2017. It's always so fun to see all our students together in one place!

We also held our first IHS Site Council meeting this month. Site Council is a chance for IHS teachers, students, and parents to come together once a month to talk about what's going on in our school and have discussions about new ideas or initiatives we want to work on this year. We had a great turnout for our first meeting, and we welcome all parents to join us for our second IHS Site Council meeting (see information below).

Both Churchill and South High Schools held Open House Nights to kick off the school year. It was great to see so many IHS parents at each of these Open Houses. If you weren't able to attend, or if your student is at Sheldon, you will be able to meet your student's teachers at Parent-Teacher conferences next month--please see more details below.

Steve Smith, our IB Coordinator, held an IB Information Night for families of juniors--he went over important information about IB exams and assessments, and there was a great turnout! Hopefully you felt like your questions were answered. If you weren't able to attend, you can find a link to the information slides and the IB Parent Handbook on our school website: <https://ihs.4j.lane.edu/>.

I also held an IHS Information Night last month, and we had standing room only! It was so nice to meet many new IHS parents in person--and to see some parents of students

I've had in the past. Again, if you weren't able to attend that night, you can find a link to the information slides on our school website: <https://ihs.4j.lane.edu/>.

IB Registration also wrapped up this past week! All juniors and seniors who plan to take IB exams have now registered and paid for the **May 2024** IB exams. If you believe your student should be taking IB exams but you didn't sign a registration form, please contact Steve Smith at smith_st@4j.lane.edu. It is not too late to register, although a late fee may be applied.

****If your student did register for IB exams and that student qualifies for inclusive testing arrangements through a 504 or IEP, you should have received an email from Steve Smith with more information. If you use a gmail account, we believe this email may have gone directly to your SPAM folder. Please email Steve if you didn't receive this email and you believe your student should be getting inclusive testing arrangements.****

Important Upcoming Dates to Know

The midterm of Semester 1 is **Thursday, November 9**--this is a **NO SCHOOL DAY** for students to give teachers time to finish their grades. **November 9** is also the date by which all Incompletes from last year must be cleared. This means that if your student received an Incomplete in any class last year, they must submit the required work for that class by **November 9** in order to have that Incomplete changed to a letter grade. Failure to submit work in time will result in the Incomplete being changed to an F in that class.

There is also **NO SCHOOL** on **Friday, November 10** in observation of Veterans Day. Students should enjoy their 4-day weekend!

IHS Site Council will meet again on **Tuesday, November 14th** from 4:15-5:15 at South High School in room 539.

THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE EXTENDED ESSAY IS DUE ON NOVEMBER 15TH FOR ALL IHS SENIORS! If your student is a senior, please check in with them about their EE and make sure they are making progress towards meeting this final deadline.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held for all high schools, including IHS, on **Monday, November 20** and **Tuesday, November 21**. Teachers have agreed to work two 12-hour days from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to best accommodate parent schedules. We are waiting for the host high schools to confirm their schedules for these days, and then IHS teachers will be able to select dates and times to meet with parents. There will be a combination of in-person and Zoom options on both days. Please remember that most IHS teachers work on two campuses, so they will need to split their time between two schools on these days. We will do our best to offer multiple options so that any parent who wants to meet with a teacher will be able to do so.

Grade Level Updates--a quick overview of what each grade level is up to this month!

9th grade Global Geography students are learning about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals developed by the UN. In Global Literature, students are reading Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime* and one teacher is piloting the novel *Funny in Farsi* as part of the 4j English/Language Arts curriculum adoption pilot group. Global Health is in our Nutrition Unit and focusing on Sustainable Agriculture, connected the Sustainable Development Goals students are learning about in Geography.

10th graders are currently wrapping up opening units in Narratives & Perspectives and Civics & Engagement. Sophomores will be participating in an 'Enlightenment Salon' to review and wrap-up content they learned about the foundations of societies and European history. In Civics, students will be creating a 'Teenage Bill of Rights' to reflect their understanding, thoughts and feelings regarding civil liberties. In literature, students are reading the graphic novel *Persepolis* with a focus on better understanding Iranian culture and history, along with character analysis.

We are so impressed with our Juniors! They are working hard and staying on top of their FOUR IHS classes: IB Economics, IB History of the Americas, IB "Junior Core," and IB Literature of the Americas. In Literature, students are concentrating on strengthening academic writing and literary analysis skills through study of two contemporary Native American authors: poetry by Joy Harjo, and soon, *The Painted Drum* by Louise Erdrich. In Junior Core, students are practicing the first of their internal IB assessments, the Theory of Knowledge Exhibition (due in January) and starting to explore topics for their Extended Essays (due in April). IB IA's are also starting up in Econ, with students' first of three commentaries coming up soon. In class, students are investigating the invisible hand of the market and exploring how government can impact supply and demand and respond to market failures. Lastly, in history, students engaged in a case study of the New York Times's *The 1619 Project*, and will soon begin a discussion of the concept of justice within the creation and text of the U.S. Constitution.

12th graders have wrapped up their opening unit in IB 20th Century Global History that focused on the causes and outcomes of the Russian Revolution. In IB 20th Century Global Literature, students studied the personal essay form with focus author and poet Ocean Vuong. This unit helped students create a writing portfolio that helped them write their personal essays for college applications. They moved into a study of Russian poet Anna Akhmatova (to support the work they were doing in history class on Russia) and now they are moving into studying a second poet in translation, Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska. In history, students are beginning their study of WWII and the Holocaust. Seniors in TOK are still learning about different ways of knowing and experimenting with various forms of "truth"--these concepts will be the basis for all TOK work this year. And of course, in senior seminar, students are putting the final touches on their Extended Essays so that they are ready to turn in a final draft on November 15th!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Have a great week!

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