



## The IB Newsletter of Christ Church Episcopal School

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### **Did You Know?**

IB examinations:

- begin their production up to two years in advance of the session for which they are intended;
- are written by more than 300 authors worldwide;
- are managed by IB Subject Area Managers and IB assessment experts;
- are professionally formatted and then published by the IB

### *From the Coordinator*

*Dear Students and Parents,*

*Diploma results for the IB Class of 2011 were announced this past July. Of the 11 members of this class, 9 earned the diploma. One of the remaining students is re-taking an exam this fall, and we will receive the results of his efforts in early January. We wish him the best!*

*This year we have a senior class of 11 members and a record-setting 30 junior class candidates. This group outnumbers the Class of 2005 which had 26 members in it, our previous high. We're excited about the heightened interest in our diploma program. It offers, as I have always believed, what should be the norm for high school education, rather than the exception. I can think of no other secondary program that has an equally high set of academic standards, that prepares students for life in a globalized 21st century, and that helps to develop future citizens who will work to create a better, more peaceful world. The IB continues to grow almost exponentially with more than 3000 schools worldwide delivering its programs to over 700,000 students.*

*Speaking of growth, I was again a member of a site visit team to a prospective IB Diploma school in Richmond, Virginia. As is always the case, I come back from these visits re-energized by the enthusiasm of all parties – administration, staff, parents, and especially students – who want to become a part of the IB.*

*During the summer I attended the annual IB Americas regional conference in San Antonio, Texas. The theme this year was "Service in Action" and the featured speaker was Khalid Hosseini, author of The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns. Jeffrey Beard, Director General of the IB, outlined the organization's strategic plan for the coming years. It lists 4 main goals: strengthen leadership in international education; evolve and improve services and support to schools; develop a more diverse, inclusive IB community; and build a sustainable, responsible, efficient organization for the future.*

*So, here we are in the fall of 2011. Our seniors are busily putting the finishing touches on their Extended Essays, completing their college applications, and continuing the IB work they began last year. Our juniors are making plans for their various CAS projects as they begin their IB journey. It is always challenging and exciting!*

*Nancy White*

*A final note:*

*This is our first attempt at using color in the Newsletter! We hope you like it! Many thanks to Daniel Sanders for his help and expertise.*

## CCES Diploma Program receives self-study report

During the school year 2010-2011, the IB Diploma program at CCES conducted a detailed self-evaluation that is required every five years. The study sought input from all constituents of the DP at the school – trustees, administration, faculty, students, and parents – in both anecdotal and questionnaire formats. The evaluation was submitted to the IB Organization in June and the results were received in September.

The questionnaire and supporting documents were analyzed by a team of Diploma Program coordinators, heads of schools, and IB Americas staff. Outstanding as-

pects, comments, recommendations and/or matters to be addressed are based on the evidence provided. The self-study is organized around the major standard areas of the IB Program Standards and Practices document: philosophy, organization, and curriculum, with an additional section focusing on the student.

Thirty separate items were ranked by the evaluators as either “demonstrates a very good standard,” “shows good progress,” or “needs improvement.” Of these, the CCES Diploma program was rated as showing good progress or demonstrating a very good standard

on 27 of the items. Recommendations included expanding services to students with special educational needs, increasing course class time hours, strengthening the ESOL program, and encouraging more collaboration among course instructors, the CAS program, and TOK.

The CCES IB Diploma program is strong, but always open to improvement. We are pleased with the results of the self-study and grateful for the input received by all parties. The next evaluation will take place in 2016. Complete copies of the self-study report are available in the Coordinator’s office.

## New teachers join IB program

The Diploma program at CCES welcomes three new teachers to its staff, and all three have completed requisite training in their respective subjects at IB workshops.

**John Zebell**, a native of Macon, Georgia, holds a B.A. degree in Theatre with a minor in Psychology from Georgia College & State University, a B.S. in Psychology from Drexel University in Philadelphia, and a Master of Science in Counseling and Clinical Health Psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He teaches the IB Psychology course.

**Amanda Beckrich**, originally from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, holds a B.A. degree in Biology from Williams College in Massachusetts and a Master of Science in Marine Environmental Science from Stony Brook University in New York. She taught for ten years at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, Virginia, and writes a monthly column for *The Science Teacher*, a national journal for high school science teachers with a focus on incorporating environmental sustainability education into their schools. Amanda teaches the IB Environmental Systems & Societies course.

Originally from West Virginia, **Alicia Thompson** earned a B. S. degree in Chemistry from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. from Clemson University. Although she has been working in industry for the past five years, she was a teaching assistant at Clemson for five years. Alicia is teaching the IB Standard Level Chemistry class.



<i>Diploma Pass Rate</i>		
<i>May 2011 examination session:</i>		
<b>World</b>	2307 schools	77.7%
<b>US</b>	752 schools	66.72%
<b>SC</b>	27 schools	56.68%
<b>CCES</b>		82%
* * * * *		
CCES cumulative pass rate (2001-2011): 95% (171 of 181 candidates)		

## Research validates IB programs

IB World School teachers, administrators, students, and parents have long believed the IB Diploma Program gives students the best possible preparation for university success, and now a range of rigorous research studies supported by the IB aims to document this more formally.

Independent non-profit research institute SRI International has completed a series of studies of IB Diploma Program students who enrolled in US universities, concluding that graduation rates for IB students were generally higher than institutional and national averages, and that they were more likely to enroll in “more selective” institutions.

These studies on the post-secondary performance of IB students are joined by an examination of the university persistence of IB students from Chicago public schools,

and the performance of IB students entering the University of California system.

“We’ve had anecdotal evidence in the past, but these studies are a really strong indicator of the IB’s effectiveness,” says Michael Dean, IB Head of Research. The studies are part of a concerted drive to increase the amount of evidence on the efficacy of IB programs, as well as to support schools by providing the information they need to positively influence student outcomes.

Research in the IB focuses on four different areas: program validation (the impact of the program), program development (the theories that underpin the IB programs), quality assurance (professional development and school services), and assessment (the validity and reliability of exam results).

As well as helping with university recognition and parent com-

munication, such findings also raise the IB’s profile. “One strategic aim of the IB is to be positioned as a thought leader in international education,” says Dean. “We work with partners to do that but we’re also proactive in talking to researchers about the IB and encouraging them to conduct independent research. We want our programs to be discussed at major educational conferences, and in the larger education research community.”

Further research is being undertaken across a range of areas. For example, the University of Pennsylvania is doing a longitudinal study on post-secondary access, performance, and persistence.

The above studies and others can be viewed online at [www.ibo.org/research](http://www.ibo.org/research).

*Article taken in part from IB World, Sept. 2011, Issue 63*

## IB announces student world conferences

The IB is partnering with universities throughout the world to host IB World Student Conferences. The first conference in 2012 will be hosted by IE University (Instituto de Empresa)

in Segovia, Spain, from July 2 – 6, and will focus on the theme of social entrepreneurship. The second conference will be from July 23 - 27, on the campus of the University of British

Columbia in Vancouver, BC, where students will explore how to make the world more sustainable.

Both conferences will feature world-renowned speakers and the opportunity for students to engage intellectually with the university faculty. They will be challenged to confront significant global issues as they enhance their leadership skills and build lasting friendships with fellow students from all over the world.

More details can be found on the respective conference websites: <http://ibwscsegovia2012.org> and <http://www.ubc.ca/ibworldstudentconference2012>. Registration began November 1.

## IB World Student conference

**Skills and relationships that will last a lifetime**

Segovia, Spain, 2-6 July 2012

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 23-27 July 2012





### IB Class of 2013 is school's largest

*Photo courtesy of Donna Miller*

The thirty members of the IB Class of 2013 are already setting records for the school's Diploma program. Not only are they the largest IB class to date with their number, but they also represent the largest percentage of a CCES class seeking the diploma at 32.2%. The previous record was held by the Class of 2005 which had 26 candidates representing 31.7% of the entire class.

### Information Meeting on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at CCES

What is the Diploma program?                      Is it a good choice?

FOR:        8th, 9th, and 10th grade students and  
                 their parents

WHERE: Upper School Presentation Room

WHEN:     Wednesday, December 7, 2011

The meeting will feature an overview of the IB diploma program, comments from current and past IB students, and a question and answer session.

### Other Important Dates

December 9:

Final deadline for  
Extended Essay  
(IB seniors)

January 3:

IB Diploma  
Ceremony –  
Class of 2011



International  
Baccalaureate®