

THE IB UPDATE

*The Official Newsletter of Samuel Clemens
International Baccalaureate Program*



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WELCOME TO THE IB UPDATE!

by Lauren Rollins - IB Coordinator

Welcome to the September edition of the Samuel Clemens International Baccalaureate newsletter! Our goal is to keep all stakeholders (students, parents, and SCUC community) apprised of the amazing opportunities that are going on within the IB program here at Samuel Clemens. We will publish this newsletter monthly and feature our current IB students as well as our IB alumni. If you have any questions about the program or suggestions for the newsletter, please email it to LRollins@scuc.txed.net. Thank you for your time!

Lauren Rollins
IB Coordinator





Left photo: Logan Michael, Elysia Salazar, Margaret Zentil, and Layla Randolph holding their 9-11 memorial leaves.

Right photo: Various IB students and teachers wear the new IB t-shirt for the 2022-2023 school year.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN IB CLASSROOMS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER?

Literature HL for Juniors - taught by Mrs. Rollins - Students have worked with the novel *East of Eden* by discussing and practicing close reading analysis and writings. They've used this to create an impromptu speeches which they give to a partner. They also looked at the global issues that still exist within the novel.

Literature HL for Seniors - taught by Mrs. Crawford - Senior English continued to read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and analyzed the text for authorial choices. Students looked at the main protagonist's growth, wrote a prose analysis of one of that character's most defining moments in the text, and created a poem capturing the essence of a chosen theme within the novel. We are now transitioning to reading and analyzing the poetry of William Blake.

IB History of the Americas HL for Juniors - taught by Mrs. Baker - Students completed our unit over the American Revolution and will begin Unit 4: Building our National Identity. We also introduced the research paper.

IB History of the Americas HL for Seniors - taught by Mrs. Frink - Students just completed their first exam over Paper 3 topic, The Great Depression and the Americas. On Sept. 12, students designed Survivor Tree leaves in honor of September 11th. It is a tree that was found under the rubble at Ground Zero. Barely alive, it was nursed back to health and replanted at the 9/11 Memorial in NYC.

IB Anthropology - taught by Mrs. Baker - Students are continuing to read our first ethnography, *Learning Capitalist Culture Deep in the Heart of Texas*, and applying different anthropological theories.

IB Math Applications - taught by Mrs. Smith - Students have been working on probabilities in class. We have used Cumulative Frequency Graphs, Venn Diagrams and Tree Diagrams to help visualize our data. We have studied probability distributions using tables and then studied binomial and normal distributions using technology to solve probability problems.

Biology HL for Juniors - taught by Mrs. Alvarado - Students have been learning about molecules by building models of carbohydrates, lipids and proteins. They have now moved on to learning about cell structures and are creating old fashioned collages using pictures from magazines while using their writing skills to come up with analogies between common items and cellular components.

Biology HL for Seniors - taught by Mrs. Alvarado - Students have just finished learning about nucleic acids and how their production from DNA is the central dogma of biology. They finished the unit by creating some fabulous DNA models!

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) - taught by Mr. Seiler - Students learned about areas of knowledge in the natural & human sciences as well as discussed knowledge involving indigenous societies.

IB Spanish - taught by Señor Hecox - Students have researched famous Hispanic Americans. This doubles as learning for Hispanic Heritage Month and reviewing preterit vs imperfect tenses. We put short bios in the hall for all to see and shared a few sentences of the research over the announcements for the whole school to hear in English and Spanish!

IB Art - taught by Mr. Lewis - Students have created their first resolved artworks and have practiced art criticism and critique by giving and receiving feedback from peers.



Deana Zuber-Hero c/o 2011 leading her own students through a piece of music.

ALUMNI UPDATE

When you are sitting in high school, you don't always know that you will end up right back in a high school one day - only this time you are the teacher and not the student. For Deana Zuber-Hero, this is exactly where she is at in life.

Deana, a graduate of Samuel Clemens in 2011, went on to go to Texas Lutheran University to earn a Bachelors of Music. A self proclaimed big band nerd, she loves sharing her passion of learning music with others which is why she decided to become a music teacher. "After studying abroad and completing my Fulbright (program) in Austria, I knew international teaching was calling my name. I started to make connections with international schools and landed this job teaching at an international school that specializes in the IB diploma in Rabat, Morocco," she shares of her journey. She is currently teaching grades 6-10 band and music technology/production.

With presence in over 150 countries/territories and over 5,000 IB World Schools worldwide, the IB is globally renowned for excellence. There are 950 Diploma Programs in the United States, with 83 of those program in Texas.

The phrase, it's not easy, but it's worth it is definitely one that we say often in IB as teachers. Deana echoes this sentiment, "It's not an easy challenge, but it's one worth trying if you'd like to get a head-start in your higher education."

"Not only is the education priceless, but the atmosphere and friendships you make along the way will help you be a better human."

DEANA ZUBER-HERO C/O 2011



Of teaching at an IB school and being a past IB certificate student she said, "It's fascinating to see IB from the teacher perspective. I don't teach an IB course (yet!), but it's such a higher-level of learning and teaching than "normal" high school level. I also have more credibility with my students being the only teacher on campus that has actually been through the program."

Being in the program has given Deana many valuable skills that she still implements in her current job. "This program taught me project planning and time management skills. Being able to chunk up work into manageable tasks is vital to finishing a big project."

While students are in high school, she encourages them to be in the moment. "Enjoy the process. The highs, the lows, the meh days. They are all necessary for achieving any difficult dream," Deana says. One of the best perks of being in IB is the connections you make with your cohort. Since you spend a large portion of the day together, students build strong bonds. "Not only is the education priceless, but the atmosphere and friendships you make along the way will help you be a better human."

LEARNER OF THE MONTH

Trait: Inquirer

The International Baccalaureate Program is known for having 10 Learner Profile Traits that make its program distinct from other higher education programs. IB Students are Inquirers, Knowers, Thinkers, Communicators, and Risk-Takers, who are Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Balanced, and Reflective.

September's trait is "Inquirer". According to IB, inquiring students "nurture their curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. They know how to learn independently and with others. They learn with enthusiasm and sustain their love of learning throughout life."

Each month, the IB students and teachers vote on the student who consistently displays this trait - not just in September but each month. The student who has been awarded with the Inquiring Learner Profile trait is Merlin Janson (c/o 2024).

One teacher said, "Merlin always comes in with a smile and is ready to learn. He knows when to ask questions to help expand his understanding and is there to help his classmates when needed."

"He is invested in his learning process and has the want to fill in the gaps in his knowledge," one peer shares.

Another teacher states, "He learns independently and with others and demonstrates skills for inquiry and research. Merlin's enthusiasm drives his learning and is inspiring to his peers."

October's learner profile trait of the month is "Balanced". For more information about the learner profiles, click [here](#).



c/o 2023



Dalton Lacy 2023 cohort



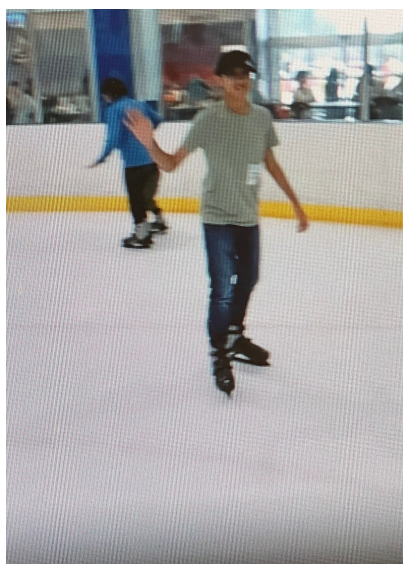
EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXTRAS!

Varsity Swim

As a competitive swimmer for the past 7 years, Dalton Lacy (2023 cohort) has had a love for the water. "I enjoyed being in and around the water from a young age and leapt at the opportunity to swim more often when I was given the chance to swim competitively," he shares. He's been to several championship swim meets and even advanced to Regionals last year.

As difficult as it is to compete, Dalton says that it hasn't deterred him. "It taught me not to fear hard work but to work all the harder just because I knew I could do better. The sense of accomplishment that can be achieved by pushing yourself farther than you thought you could possibly go... Going faster, farther, and achieving something that you thought was impossible. Not much beats that," he shares.

Although finding time to sleep between early morning practices and last night meets is difficult, Dalton has managed to balance IB and swimming. When asked how he does it, he jokes, "Very carefully!" But when asked to be more specific he says, "In all seriousness, you must be meticulous in your schedule keeping. Outside of both swimming and IB, I'm an active member in both my church and Boy Scout Troop. In order to maintain all of those competing activities and extracurriculars I must plan how and when I do anything and everything and be as proactive as possible on everything I can." In the pool or in the classroom, Dalton is a valuable asset to Clemens. We know his hard work and dedication will pay off in big ways this year!



Caitlynn Phipps, Richard Nguyen, and Clara Pickering (not pictured) (2024 cohort) learning a new skill - how to ice skate!

CAS CORNER

Creativity - Activity - Service

Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS) is one of the three essential elements that every student must complete as part of the IB Diploma Program. The goal of CAS is to show students the benefits of Creativity, Activity and Service in their life as well as for their community. Creating a physically and mentally healthy life style is one of the goals for IB students. Along those aims, IB asks students to try new experiences that will help them achieve that goal. One new activity that not many high school students in Texas have ever done is going ice skating!

When asked why they picked ice skating, Caitlynn said, "We wanted something that would be fun but that would also classify as physical activity." While Catilynn had been ice skating before, Richard Nguyen had not. He says of it, "The experience was exhilarating and brand new. That doesn't mean I didn't fall once or twice, but what felt like just a few minutes were hours!"

While she would love to go with a bigger group next time, Caitlynn says that she learned, "If I take the fear of falling out of the equation, it's a lot easier to have fun and pick up speed!" For more information about CAS, please click [here](#).

EXTENDED ESSAY (EE) EXHIBIT

As part of the IB diploma requirements, students are required to write a 4,000 word Extended Essay over a topic which they are passionate about. When students are interested in a topic, they are able to connect with the topic on a deeper level. Senior Ethan Muñoz decided to write his EE on "The Effect of Western Influence on the Japanese Empire's Colonial Expansion". When asked why he picked this topic, he replied, "I really enjoy history and the topic that got me interested as a whole was Japanese History. So why not pay homage to that with my EE??"

One challenge he faced while doing his EE on this topic was being able to find sources. "There are not as many sources as I wanted on the Japanese Expansion. I had to dig into the online libraries to find essays that might be even slightly related to my topic and dig through it," he said.

When asked if he would change anything about his EE experience, Ethan states, "Nah, it's fun to write about my topic, and I hope it is for others too. My brother and dad constantly told me to write at least 250 words a day. I did not like the suggestion, but that suggestion really helped me on getting ahead in this huge research paper." He also shares that IB and completing his EE has helped him become more of a planner and more driven.

For more information about EE, please click [here](#).



Ethan Muñoz (2023 cohort)