



IB INTELLECT



A GROWING CULTURE OF SUCCESS

Adams High School has earned some new achievements in excellence! The results of May 2014 Session for IB testing set records, as a total of 21 students out of 27 Diploma candidates graduated with the prestigious IB Diploma. That represents 78% of all Diploma candidates, the highest ever for the school.

Our success rate equals the world average of 78% and exceeds the national average of 69% for diploma success. In turn, a total of 158 students earned the IB Certificate, and the total of 179 students who completed IB tests places Adams High School in the top five high schools (private and public) in Indiana for IB student participation. We are proud to acknowledge our high ranking as one of the two top public high schools with IB participation.



Deanna Stangas joins Lauren (l) and Ashley Strzelecki (r) after the graduation ceremonies. Photo: Courtesy Ashley Strzelecki

Among the IB Diploma graduates, the average grade per course earned by students was an impressive 4.86 out of 7 points, with the highest total earned points for a Diploma at 38 from a possible of 45 maximum points. The average total points obtained by candidates who passed the Diploma was 31. The number of points needed to earn the Diploma is 24.

IB Diploma student success promises to grow over the next few years, making a big impact to the overall academic culture of the school. Based on latest student registrations in the required Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, a total of 43 IB Diploma candidates will be seeking the Diploma in May 2015, followed by 68 IB Diploma candidates in 2016. We look forward to continued growth and excellence, with diligent guidance and effort from teachers and administrators. All teachers deserve kudos and our appreciation for the hard work and efforts that have helped make this success possible.

MAY 2014 IB TEST RESULTS

Over the years, comparisons have been made as to the success of one year versus another, and May 2014 is no exception. We start by reporting that this past year was the best in terms of test scores achieved in subjects.

The average scores in our IB tests were above world average scores in 7 subjects! The previous high level of achievement is found for May 2009 and May 2012 when 6 subjects achieved higher than world average status. The scores surpassing the world average this year were found for Visual Arts HL (5.43), followed by English HL (5.38), Spanish SL (5.09), Physics SL (5.0), French (5.0), Music SL (5.0), and History HL (4.39).

The grades for TOK were the best ever for the school, and credit for this must be given for the teaching and the regular class period that followed the adoption of the 7-period day. The mean number of points achieved by the IB Diploma graduates was 31 out of a possible 45 points, while the mean grade for IB Diploma was 4.86. Only one year surpassed this achievement, and that was in May 2009 when the mean number of points was 32, and the mean grade for IB Diploma was 4.69.



CLASS OF 2014 IB DIPLOMA GRADUATES

Our graduating IB Diploma class was the largest in the history of the IB Program at JAHS. We recognize the students below who earned the Diploma along with the schools they are attending this fall.

Kelly Beatty – U. of Michigan
Abigail Brockman – U. of Chicago
Galen Brown – Dartmouth College
Michael Dang – U. of Notre Dame
Paddy Driscoll – IU Bloomington
Anton Gillespie – Harvard University
Kirill Gillespie – Skidmore College
Raymond Han – U. of Chicago
Andrew Henderson – IU Bloomington (Wells Scholar)
Lukas Hostetler – G. Washington U.
Daniel Jackman – IU Bloomington
Harvey Mills – IU Bloomington
Phillip Moss – Duke University
Natasha Reifenberg – Notre Dame
Claire Rice – Vanderbilt University
Thaameran Sarveswaran – Georgetown University
Jessica Steinhiser – IU Bloomington
Deanna Stangas – Northwestern Uni.
Ashley Strzelecki – Drake University
Lauren Strzelecki – Creighton Univ.
Willow Thomas – IU Bloomington



NEW PRINCIPAL AND TEACHERS WELCOMED AT ADAMS

The new school year promises to be exciting as a new chapter in the life of Adams High School begins. We welcome our new principal Mr. James Seitz, who brings a fresh perspective to the school. It is safe to say that classes have started off very well. Modifications in behavior and codes of conduct have been seen across the school, with empty hallways during class periods and respect amongst the student body. Teachers seem to be very pleased with the developments, and positive comments have been echoed by many. We are also very happy that Mr. Seitz is a strong supporter of the IB Program and all the opportunities it offers to the students.



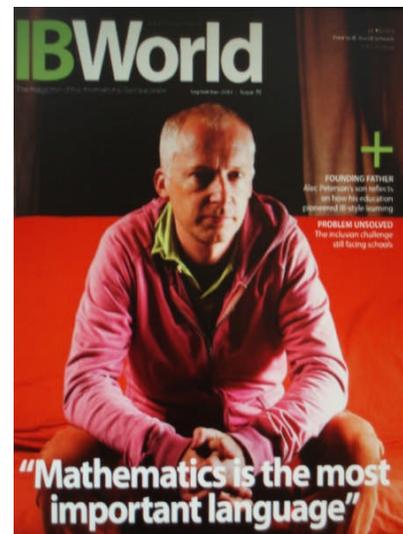
We also welcome several new teachers who have taken on teaching roles in the IB Program. These include Mrs. Dawn Worsham and Miss Amanda Zablocki (Visual Arts) who received training this past summer and will be helping with the growing student demands in Visual Arts. We also welcome Mr. Mark McCown who started at JAHS this fall and Mr. James Elrod (English) who are teaching the IB English classes. Finally, in the science Department, we welcome Mr. Mark Wilson (Chemistry) and Mr. Daniel Walsh (Physics and Chair of Science), who also received training in their IB subjects. Thank you all for your new roles and for your invaluable contribution to the IB Program.

IB PROGRAM RECEIVES NOTICE IN THE IB WORLD MAGAZINE

The JAHS IB Program has received notice in the September 2014 issue of the official IB World Magazine. According to IB World Editor Cathryn Newbery, our collaboration with the Amish in northern Indiana is worth “*sharing with our readership of 40,000 subscribers.*” Our program is mentioned in one paragraph of an article entitled “*The Continuing Quest for Inclusion*” that can be found online at http://issuu.com/internationalbaccalaureate/docs/ibo_sept-1?e=2630412/9242925

Making a difference

However, you don't need the backing of a global network to make an impact on inclusion; the smallest efforts can make a big difference. Students at John Adams High School, Indiana, US, have connected with members of the local Amish community, who have strong religious beliefs and reject modern conveniences in favour of a more traditional lifestyle – a world away from the school's home in inner-city South Bend. “Last year our students visited an Amish farm and school, and we were delighted when a group of Amish children wanted to visit our high school this year,” says IB Coordinator Dr. Mika Roinila. “My highlight was seeing their curiosity in our school and culture,” says student Alyssa Joyce. “I had forgotten how truly different their lives are from ours, and their visit must have given them a new view of our culture.”



IB STUDENTS PRESENT FINDINGS AT IU MEDICAL CENTER

Senior IB students Chloe Sherry and Adam Staszewski, with IB Junior Aidan Reilly were recently named finalists in the Indiana Science Talent Search competition and presented the findings from their science investigations of this past school year at the IU Medical Center on Sept.19-20, 2014. The competition encourages more high school students to enter the fields of medicine, mathematics, engineering and other allied health fields.

Chloe's investigation was entitled "A Study of the Effects of Transplantation of Tissue from Planarian Flatworms with Light-Shock Therapy into Naive Planarian Flatworms." Planarian flatworms are gaining notoriety in the scientific field as creatures extremely useful for research. These worms possess the curious facility to regenerate lost tissues and repair damage to their structure; if cut in half, the worm will regenerate new anterior and posterior ends accordingly to form two new fully functioning planaria.

Adam's investigation focused on "Identifying Pollen Cells Using Computer Analysis: An Aid for Allergists, Immunologists and Other Health Care Specialists." The project was to create a computer program that would analyze digital images of different pollen cells and quickly identify them using computer analysis software.

Aidan's work "An Evaluation of the Effects of Nutrient Supplementation on the Bioremediation of Hexane Contaminated Lake Water" focused on improving the efficiency of removing ground water pollution by a unique process called bioremediation. Aidan has focused on this area of study for more than a year and expects to continue his work during next school year. Following the excitement of this experiment, he has indicated an interest in pursuing water studies as a career.

All three students have already presented their findings at a major convention where they competed against other top students from around the world. Chloe and Adam both presented at the Intel International Engineering Fair in Los Angeles and Aidan presented his poster and defended his work in Washington, DC at the Stockholm Junior Water Competition for a week in mid-June.



Chloe Sherry, Adam Staszewski and Aidan Reilly pose in front of Adam's research presentation. Photo: Courtesy Nevin Longenecker



Ashleigh Bush at IU Bloomington

LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from our IB graduates who continue to stay in touch with their former teachers.

This month we share the success of Ashleigh Bush (IB Diploma 2012) who is a junior Cox Research Scholar at IU-Bloomington majoring in Biology and Exercise Science.

I received credit for several classes through IB exams, and I am on track to finish my chemistry minor and pre-med chemistry requirements at the end of my junior year. I hope to attend medical school after my undergraduate education.

I can say with certainty that the IB Diploma Program prepared me for my college workload. I think the best benefit of the IB Program is that I learned how to think about problems and concepts holistically. To the students at Adams today: enjoy your time at Adams and the connections you make here. I still keep in touch with all of my friends from Adams. In fact, I am and have been roommates with Bethany Green since freshman year! If you ever have any questions about anything about IU, please feel free to email me at ashnbush@indiana.edu. Nothing would make me happier that to help a fellow Eagle! (Source: e-mail to Dr. Mika Sept.12, 2014).

For more about Ashleigh, read an article published this fall by the IU Office of Scholarships at <http://scholarships.indiana.edu/spotlights/scholars/ashleigh-bush.php>





WHERE DID YOUR TEACHERS GO LAST SUMMER?

Jim Bartholomew (Math SL) - My family and I took a southern Caribbean cruise this summer in June. We went to the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, and St. Maartens. We went snorkeling, swam with dolphins, and ate well!! (Photo on left)

Bryan Cline (History HL & TOK) – went on a very successful fly-out fishing trip in northern Ontario, Canada and caught a walleye that was eaten by a pike at the same time! Two fish on the same line. Wow! (Photo on right).

James Elrod (English HL) - I went backpacking up in Manistee National Forest and completed my final course for my MA.



Judi Kubacki (Visual Arts HL) - I spent 5 weeks in Tampa where my daughter lives. We welcomed our first grandchild on August 15!!!! Madison Joanne. I was there for the entire event and it was wonderful.

Heath Weaver (History HL & TOK) – I visited Greece and Egypt with my family and also visited Costa Rica with a group of teachers who lead trips with Explorica. One of the highlights was bungy jumping in the Corinth Canal in Greece!

Mika Roinila (Anthropology HL) – traveled to Minneapolis, MN to visit family and also participate as a keynote speaker at the annual FinnFest USA conference/festival where he spoke on the “Finland-Swedes in North America”.

UPCOMING TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Several trips are planned for this coming year and next summer that may be of interest to our students. Sophomore magnet students will have an opportunity to travel to Toronto and Niagara Falls, Canada during the 2015 Spring Break.

Dr. Mika will lead a group of students and adults with EF Tours on June 23-30, 2015 to Beijing, China where we will visit the Great Wall of China and immerse ourselves in the Chinese culture. A total of 11 people thus far have signed up for the trip. For more information on this travel opportunity, please check out <http://www.eftours.com/1446177XW>.

Another exciting adventure is being organized by Mr. Heath Weaver, who will lead a tour to London and Paris in June 17-24, 2015 as well. The group has over 20 travelers enrolled already and will spend three days in London and three days in Paris. For more information on this exciting trip see www.explorica.com/Weaver-2697 or contact Mr. Weaver.

IB STUDENT EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE CANCELLED

Due to cuts in funding, the IB Student Experience Conference that many of our Junior IB students had attended in the fall over the past several years, has been cancelled. Word was received from the director of Hoosier IB Schools (HIBS) that the major funder for the conference cut support for IB. HIBS plans to regroup and will come up with a new plan, hopefully moving the conference to the spring.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE IB INTELLECT

Stories from students and teachers are encouraged. Please submit materials to Dr. Mika. The deadline for the next issue will be Monday, December 1, 2014. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list for Adams IB Magnet families, please send your e-mail address to Dr. Mika at mroinila@sbsc.k12.in.us.



The IB Intellect is a Newsletter of the John Adams High School
International Baccalaureate Program
808 S. Twyckenham Drive
South Bend, IN 46615
Principal: Mr. James Seitz
IB Coordinator: Dr. Mika Roinila
Room 2117, Phone: 574-283-7733

