



THE FORUM, the official newsletter of Westerville South High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, is published electronically four times annually (January, April, August, and November). Please feel free to share this publication with others who may be interested in learning more about IB at Westerville South High School!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1:

- WSHS IB Grads Encourage, Advise Current Wildcats
- Middle School Information Night Scheduled for Thursday, January 26

Page 2:

- ToK Juniors Reason through Debate Process
- IB Spanish Seniors set to Exchange Ideas/Experiences with Colombian students
- Accept the Challenge to "Aim Higher" as the 2017-18 Registration Process Begins

WSHS IB GRADS ENCOURAGE, ADVISE CURRENT WILDCATS

On the afternoon of December 15, 2016, Westerville South's iStudio was a place where South's past, present, and future came together. On this day, seven IB graduates returned to talk to our current Diploma Program candidates about how IB prepared them for college!



The panel of graduates responded to questions that were submitted by our current students, ranging from **"How did IB prepare you for your college classes?"** to **"What advice do you have**

for us, based on what you know now?" and **"Is it hard to make friends in college?"** Graduates spoke about how their IB experiences provided both tangible (college course credit, scholarships) and less tangible (mindset for success, perseverance to succeed, study skills) benefits that continue to pay dividends years after graduation.

We sincerely thank the following graduates who participated in this informative and eye-opening event: Jeshurun Adarquah-Yaidom (Class of 2016, currently attends Spellman College), Anna Aylor (Class of 2014, Wittenberg University), Ben Coffey (Class of 2016, The Ohio State University), Gaby Fuentes (Class of 2016, Georgetown University D.C.), Hartlee Johnston (Class of 2015, Davidson College), Morgan Oates (Class of 2013, The Ohio State University), and Jacob Williams (Class of 2015, Capital University).



IB GRADUATES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES



IB Graduates, from left, Gaby Fuentes, Jeshurun Adarquah-Yaidom, Hartlee Johnston, Morgan Oates, Anna Aylor and Jacob Williams share their experiences with IB students on December 15 in the WSHS Media Center. See story top right for details.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT SCHEDULED JANUARY 26

An **IB Information night**, geared toward 8th grade students and their parents, will be held on Thursday, **January 26 from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Westerville South High School Media Center.** Please join us as we discuss the benefits of participation in the IB Program. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to hear from IB faculty members, current and former students, and IB parents. While the primary focus is for 8th grade students, all current middle school students and parents are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you on January 26th!





IB Juniors (from left) Josh Coffey, Megan Western, Michael Kielmeyer and Alivia Olson engage in the debate process (see full article to the right, this page).

TOK STUDENTS REASON THROUGH DEBATE PROCESS

One of the core requirements of the IB Diploma Program is IB Theory of Knowledge (ToK). In this course, students are challenged to examine what they know, how they know it, and how to justify knowledge claims. As a culminating activity after exploring reason as a way of knowing, juniors in ToK formed teams and engaged in spirited debates on topics of local and global significance. Through this process, students learned how to construct and deliver convincing arguments, how to recognize and point out fallacies in others' arguments, and the importance of considering multiple perspectives when analyzing complex situations and dilemmas. Here are some comments from students after completing this experience:

"I have learned a great deal through this experience. Not only do I feel that I have a better sense of recognizing divisive language, argument, and reason (either valid or invalid); but I also feel that this experience helped me see how different people can approach these situations and problems...this type of exercise makes me more tolerant of others' views."

"I learned that I should walk into any situation with an open mind, because you must understand both sides to form an accurate opinion."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **IB Information Night for Current Middle School Parents and Students~Thursday, January 26 (7:00-8:30 PM)**

**WSHS Media Center.

**Learn about how the IB Program can help shape your future!

**Learn about IB Placement at Westerville South High School (for students who live outside South's attendance boundaries)

- **IB Booster Meetings**

**Here are the upcoming dates for IB Booster Meetings

- Thursday, February 9
- Wednesday, March 8
- Monday, April 10
- Wednesday, May 10

**Come and join us at the IB Booster Meetings to learn how you can help support your son/daughter in WSHS's IB Program!

Questions? Contact Us:

Westerville South High School
Bill Heinmiller, IB Coordinator
 303 S. Otterbein Ave
 Westerville, OH 43081
 614-797-6086

heinmilb@wsoh.org



IB SPANISH CLASSES TO INTERACT WITH COLOMBIAN PEN PALS

Students in Mr. Rowsey's IB Spanish Year 2 classes will soon embark on a cultural exchange with students in Cartagena, Colombia.



This exchange may include writing letters, sharing cultural traditions, video chats, and discussing high school life in general. This opportunity highlights the focus in IB World Language courses on cultural exploration and understanding. Look for a story in a future issue of *THE FORUM* on this topic!

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018 IS NOW UNDERWAY

January and February are very important months, as students and their families are making decisions regarding their courses and the many outstanding opportunities available in the Westerville City School District! We invite you to strongly consider Westerville South's IB Program. Courses are offered in six subject areas, and students can pursue the prestigious IB Diploma by taking courses in all six subject groups and the Diploma Core. Information is available in the High School Course Description Guide, by talking with your school counselor, or by contacting Mr Bill Heinmiller, IB Coordinator (contact information available to the left). Accept the challenge and AIM HIGHER!



"If you aim higher than you expect, you could reach higher than you dreamed of."

– Richard Branson