



## ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

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### IB Newsletter - Alexander Mackenzie High School

December 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hope you are doing well. In this newsletter, you will find some relevant information and updates about our IB program at AMHS.

#### End of semester evaluations:

The winter break is coming soon, and shortly after the break students will be in the mode of exam preparation. Here is the schedule for the January exams this semester.

| Jan 22   | Jan 23   | Jan 24   | Jan 27   | Jan 28   |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 5 | Period 4 | Period 3 |

Please note that ALL students will write the in-school January exams for semester 1. For Grade 9 and 10, students will also write the in-school exams in June. For DP1 students, they will write Math and Group 6 IB Exams in May, but not the in-school exams in June. For DP2 students, they will write the 4 IB exams in May, they do not need to write the in-school exams in June.

When students are writing exam on the specific day based on the period listed on the timetable, please remind them to arrive at school at least 15 minutes before the exam starts at **8:30am**. Students are expected to leave the school after the exam for each day unless they have an appointment with a teacher.

Final Summative Assessment may take up to 30% of the entire course mark. Most courses have multiple final summative tasks such that the 30% is not entirely dependent on the "Exam". Other components of the final summative would occur before the exam schedule starts. Please check with your child or the teachers if you want to make sure the composition of the final summatives.

#### Pre-IB Grade 9 and Grade 10:

IB Council is going to organize an after school event for Gr. 9 and 10 IB students in the second week of January. The intention of the event is giving them an opportunity to learn and talk about exam preparation strategies. Some Gr. 12 IB student leaders will share their insights of strategies in exam preparation and stress handling. They will have time to mingle with each other and have more in depth conversations if needed.

The exact date for the event will be posted on their Google Classroom soon.

**Course selection:** Students will begin selecting their courses for next year soon. This year the course selection for school year 2025-2026 is from February 13th to 21st, 2025.

It is important for your child to pick the right courses for next year. Please refer to [this document](#) for more details.

Current Gr. 10 students will have to pick the courses for DP1, when the Diploma Program formally starts. This year, we are excited to announce that **Psychology HL** is one of the options for them to choose. Overall, students in the Diploma Program will take [3 HL and 3 SL](#) courses in 2 years. With Psychology HL in place, students who are not STEM focused can choose English HL, History HL and Psychology HL without taking Chemistry HL. Students who choose this route will still need to take 1 SL course in Science (Physics or Biology).

Students who are more STEM focused are encouraged to choose Chemistry HL as one of their HL courses.

AMHS will plan for next school year based on the data from course selection. The number of sections in each course, the number of teachers needed in the program, are all dependent on the course selection data.

Please have a discussion with your child during this Holiday break. Once the courses are chosen, it will be very difficult to make changes later on. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

### **Alumni shaping the future**

I would like to share [this link](#) with you, from which you can find videos about impacts made by some former IB program alumni. As an amateur astronomer and astrophotographer, I personally resonate with Akihiko Hoshide who is a Japanese astronaut. *"(The astronaut training program)..... it is a tough training period. But during that time I was looking back and said: I did this before, during the **International Baccalaureate**. It (IB) is a tough programme, and it requires a lot of hard work, but once you overcome that, and experience that, I think the rest down the road will be maybe a little easier."* (Akihiko Hoshide)

🌟❄️ **As the Holiday break is coming soon, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a relaxing Holiday break and Happy New Year.** ❄️🌟

Thank you for your attention and continued support of the IB Programme at AMHS. If there are any specific questions about the IB program, please contact me directly by phone or Email.

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