

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world!”

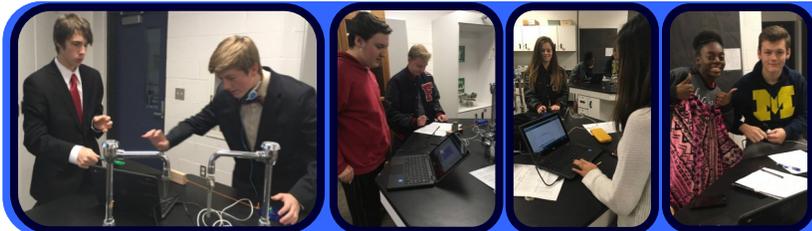
- Nelson Mandela

**CLASS OF 2018:**

- Students have a new calendar of upcoming due dates. Please ask them about this.
- Remember to be collecting CAS hours.
- We're getting close! There is a big push for the next 2 months!

Livonia Franklin High School International Baccalaureate

# THE LIGHTNING BOLT



The IB juniors show more work on the Physics lab.

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## Change of Norms, Expectations, and Leadership Coming For Franklin!

By: Sunshine Weber

Change is never easy, nor should real change be comfortable. We all have to be pushed, well, honestly, sometimes shoved, out of our comfort zones. We discuss this with our students quite often. They have gotten complacent with being able to hunt and peck or to find the “right answer.” As many of us are aware, life doesn’t always have one right answer. That is one of my favorite components to the IB philosophy, but it is also the hardest to teach. Training students to be critical thinkers, to challenge themselves and expectations, and to be accepting of other ideas is our hardest task. This is often because we, too, are often guilty of becoming complacent, accepting the status quo, or just being comfortable in our role. By accepting change, we accept growth of our character and personality.

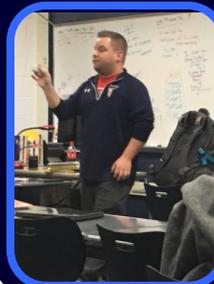
Our junior students are feeling that pinch of change. There is not necessarily one right way or answer in IB. Instead we teach multiple pathways to solve problems. This often requires creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills that just aren’t often able to be taught in traditional classrooms. In Visual Arts, they are working in a small team to develop an advertising pitch to sell more Better Made potato chips or to bring more people into the Detroit Zoo. To not be told exactly what to create and in what medium is presenting a challenge to some of our students. This is the introduction of beginning to explore on their own now that they have the basics of art fundamentals. In history, they are exploring looking at different perspectives of the same event to see the inconsistencies and to deter-

mine what they find to be more credible or reliable and support with rationale. This is occurring in all of their courses. They are not being told what to think but rather are being asked what they think and why. That causes anxiety in many students because it represents a different way of learning that what they’ve done in the past.

The seniors are pros at thinking outside of the norms by now. Once they get comfortable justifying their own opinions, they like the freedom of thought and sharing of ideas that often occurs. They are demonstrating this in their upcoming TOK presentation, in their English Individual Oral Commentary, and in all of the other coursework that they are continuing to hone as we lead up to exams.

The skill of being able to adapt quickly and with confidence is a marketable trait. One current change that we will be dealing with is the movement of Mr. Willenborg from Franklin High School. We are thrilled that he has been rewarded with a move to Central Office, but his daily presence will be greatly missed. Mr. Willenborg started the IB program at FHS and has been a strong supporter of our teachers and students over the years. He valued the philosophies that IB emphasized in the Learner Profile and understood the message that we try to present to students. We know that he will continue his fight against igno-

rance and apathy, but now he is able to fight for all Livonia students. We wish him well as he continues to push for rigor and relevance. So, after 17 years at the helm, we will all have to adjust to the change of a new principal, new roles, and new expectations. You may hear me chanting under my breath, “Change is good. Change is good. Change is good,” but it doesn’t mean that we have to like it!



Mr. Vomastek’s IB Physics juniors worked with documenting and logging the effects of friction on a block. The software allowed them to create charts to analyze.

**CLASS OF 2019:**

- We started TOK this week. Students will be asked, “How do you know what you know?” We will discuss a variety of topics in this course. Ask your student!
- Mr. Ferrell came and spoke about CAS to our students. Make sure to put hours into ManageBac.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Dec. 18 Progress Reports Due
- Dec. 23 Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 8 Return to school
- Jan. 15 No School—MLK Day
- Jan. 19 DIA Field Trip (tentative)
- Jan. 23-25 Final Exam Days
- Jan. 26 No School—Records Day

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