

“Who in the world am I? Ah, that’s the great puzzle.”

- Lewis Carroll

CLASS OF 2018:

- Join us for Senior Honor’s Night on May 24. IB students will be honored on stage for their work over the past two years. This is a lovely event to acknowledge and commemorate their efforts. We’re proud of their accomplishments.

Livonia Franklin High School International Baccalaureate

THE LIGHTNING BOLT



Our lovely senior IB ladies from National Honor Society Induction last year to this year. We’re so proud of all of the hard work, time, and effort that these ladies put forth in everything that they do!

Vol. 5, Issue 8

May 2018

Putting The Puzzle Together To Get The Full Picture!

By: Sunshine Weber

Sadly, we are missing parts of Captain America and Iron Man. This winter, my family slowly worked on a 5000 piece puzzle to keep us entertained in the evenings. Some weeks we were more diligent about spending time working on it, while others we completely forgot about it. We finished a few weeks ago, but to our dismay, we had lost 4 pieces somewhere along the way. Maybe the cat took them, maybe they got hooked on our clothes, maybe they fell off during movement, who knows! So, now we have this puzzle that is incomplete. That’s how I feel about these two months of the school year. There is so much focus on standardized testing, but the results are just a piece of a bigger puzzle that creates an enchanting picture.

Our juniors spent quite a few hours this month taking the battery of tests, including the SAT, that Michigan requires of our students. These test scores, while important because colleges look at them, do not give the full picture of our students’ knowledge, character, and skills. It is one small piece of the bigger picture. Additionally, during the last week in class, I spent the hour helping our juniors work on notetaking skills and organizations. This will be important as they work on their Extended Essay (which they have begun), their History IAs, and various other projects along the way. I introduced them to Dropbox and Evernote as ways to organize and save their work. I really like both, but Evernote is a GREAT way to compile research. None of these are required, just highly recommended! Students are going to be finalizing their first set of Internal Assessments to submit to IB by June.

In April, our senior students uploaded their work to IB. Overall, we submitted 74 individ-

ual pieces of documentation to IB. For some of these, all of the students had to submit their assignments; while for others, IB chooses a sample and those are uploaded. Now, May means IB testing! The students have worked towards these exams for the past two years. We know that they are prepared and ready to rock! Scores will be available to students in July. Please make sure that they get the rest that they need to perform well over the next few weeks. Throw in Prom and the other traditional end of the year drama and you’ll see that these students need some extra love this month!

One of my very favorite aspects of the IB program is that it doesn’t focus on one test score. The strength of the system is in valuing what students can accomplish in timed and untimed settings; verbally and written; prepared and on the spot; with a partner, mentor, or group and individually; and performing both creatively and objectively. The even bigger picture is what we work on in class; the conversations about how we treat others and how we would like to be treated in return; the evenings, weekends, and nights spent in performance or competition; and the ability to problem solve and persevere when we don’t get our way, when things do not go the way we planned or wanted, or when we struggle. While each of these tests, from the SAT to the IB Exams, show a portion of the puzzle that makes up each student, the image is not complete without all of the other pieces joining together to make a whole picture. What beautiful, complex puzzles these young men and women are!



Our IB birthday club recipients for April! Happy birthday to these awesome students. Thanks to Tara for baking the cake!



Sebastian is exploring the art of wood carving. The bottom picture shows where he began until the current fist that he has carved out. IB Visual Arts encourages students to try other media forms of artistic expression. Too often our students stick with painting, when there are so many other forms to explore!

CONTACT:

Sunshine Weber: IB Coordinator
31000 Joy Road, Livonia, MI 48150
sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org
franklinib.org
<http://franklin.livoniapublicschools.org/>
Visit the art page: <http://www.franklinartdepartment.com/ib-art.html>

CLASS OF 2019:

- Students are still struggling with keeping up with homework. Some of our low marking period grades can be directly correlated to missing or incomplete assignments.
- Reminder, IB fees are due in October. This pays for IB registration (EE, TOK, CAS) and 6 exam sets.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 2 Start of IB exam season!
- May 4 Prom
- May 11 Special Olympics
- May 24 Senior Honor’s Night
- May 25 1/2 day of school
- May 28 No School: Memorial Day
- May 31 Graduation Rehearsal
- June 2 Graduation