

“Nobody gets to be good at something without effort, no matter what your aptitude is.”

- Dr. Angela Duckworth

- CLASS OF 2019:**
- Students should have applied to college by now. If they haven't, please do so by October 1st.
 - IB fees due by October 19. The fee is \$900.
 - Students should have worked on EE and CAS this summer.

Livonia Franklin High School International Baccalaureate

THE LIGHTNING BOLT

Vol. 6, Issue 1
September 2018



Josh spent time this summer working with impoverished youths. He taught a summer camp about sports for needy children. Ryan spent his time outdoors, hiking, fishing, and spending time in the water!

Giving Our Students the Support to Power Through!

By: Sunshine Weber

Summer is my time to catch up with reading. Some books are fun “beach reads”, others are young adult books that I might want to recommend to our students, while some may be the latest New York Times Bestseller. Every summer, however, I try to read at least one book to help with my teaching and my work with teenagers (including my own at home).

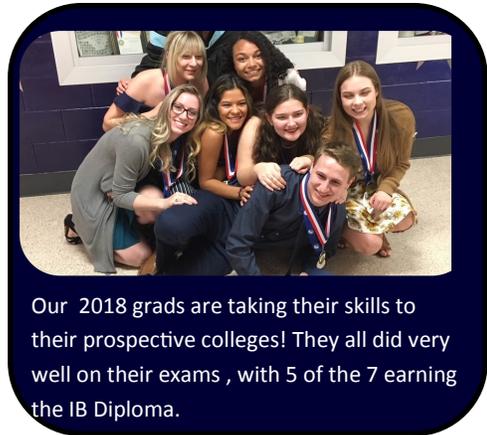
This summer I chose Leslie Odum, Jr.’s book *Failing Up*. He is famous for his role as Aaron Burr in Lin Manuel Miranda’s Broadway version of *Hamilton*. The premise of the book is that by taking risks, pushing ourselves harder, and daring to fail, that we will ultimately succeed. It fit so perfectly with the IB Learner Profile and all that we promote in our courses and program. One of his main ideas is the importance of perseverance. He wrote, “Talent isn’t everything. Talent is nice. In some instances, it is a leg up, but it’s only part of what you’ll need for success ultimately. Hard work and perseverance are almost more important” (Odum 59). While many of our students are intelligent, they don’t see or appreciate the work that has gone into making someone successful. Our students learn more from being allowed to struggle and to fail at a task than they do by coasting through high school. As parents, it is hard to allow for this failing up but it’s necessary for strong adults.

Reading that book prompted me to want to read more about perseverance because I feel that our students and my

own children are often lacking that drive. A bit of research led me to read *Grit* by Angela Duckworth. One of her key concepts is following through and putting in the effort for deliberate practice in order to improve. “Our potential is one thing. What we do with it is quite another (Duckworth 14). The text suggests that grit is, “to invest, day after week after year, in challenging practice. To be gritty is to fall down seven times, and rise eight” (Duckworth 275). High school, college, and life may knock down our students from time to time, but the key for us as parents or IB teachers is to give them the toolbox to pick themselves back up and aim higher.

I chose to highlight these books to start off this year’s newsletter because your students will experience frustration, maybe even failure, at points through our program. We have a great support system of caring teachers, peers, counselors, and others to help guide your student. Allow your student some room to struggle, to succeed, and, ultimately, to grow. I’ll do my best to take my own advice with my kids! We only have your student’s best interest in mind, but we will challenge them to push themselves harder and further than they’ve been required. When they are coasting through their college courses, they will appreciate it - even if they don’t see the true benefit right now.

- CLASS OF 2020:**
- Start logging those CAS hours. It’s easier to get them done early rather than later!
 - Stress can be overwhelming junior year. There are ways to manage!
 - IB fees are due in October. This pays for IB registration (EE, TOK, CAS) and 6 exam sets.



Our 2018 grads are taking their skills to their prospective colleges! They all did very well on their exams, with 5 of the 7 earning the IB Diploma.



Noah had an exciting summer visiting UCLA and travelling with his friends. We can’t wait to hear more about it!

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>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 4 Welcome Back!
- Sept. 7 EE Outline Due (IB Seniors only)
- Sept. 12 Open House @6:30pm
2020 parents can meet with Weber during 7th hour slot
- Sept. 13 Picture Day
- Oct. 1-5 Spirit Week
- October 6 Homecoming Dance