

# US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #17 | December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

## Important Dates

- **January 9:** New Family Orientation. Professional Development Day for Teachers. No school for students.
- **January 10:** First Day of Semester 2. It will be a B Day.
- **January 26:** Whole School Chinese New Year Assembly
- **January 27 – February 5:** Chinese New Year Holiday



## Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

This has been an amazing semester. The individual and school accomplishments of our time together give us all reason to celebrate. SCIS's true community spirit was on full display on our last day of school. Students and faculty gathered in the cafeteria for our annual International Breakfast. It was a great way to send our students and staff off for the semester. Thank you to the parents who helped prepare the amazing dishes for this morning's meal.

As a school, our successful transition into the IB Middle Years Program is a major accomplishment. We would like to thank the teachers for their hard work implementing the program, students for their rapid adjustment to a new way of being assessed, and parents for your support and patience.

As we all head our own directions over the break, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all happy holidays. We look forward to seeing you back next semester.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD  
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks  
Upper School Vice Principal

# Notes

## Winter Uniforms

Winter is here! We encourage Upper School students to dress for the weather, while continuing to support the school identity and community-mindedness represented by the SCIS uniform. Long sleeve shirts and long pants are available in the uniform shop, as well as SCIS hoodies, cardigans, and blazers. Sweatshirts and jackets distributed through ASAs are also acceptable as long as the SCIS logo appears.

## Honor Roll:

With our new grading system, we are introducing a new system for academic awards. Awards each semester will be based on the summative total of students' scores in all of their classes. For example, an MYP student who earned a final semester score of 7 in all eight of their subjects would earn 56 points. Students who are enrolled in ungraded classes will have Honor Roll boundaries in proportion to their number of graded courses.

## Award Boundaries

Program	Points Possible	Honor Roll	Principal's Honor Roll
MYP (7 x 8 classes)	56	48-51	52-56
DP (7 x 6 classes)	42	36-38	39-42

## SCIS Parent Email:

Official school communications are only sent to @scis-parent.org email accounts that are provided to all SCIS parents. If you have not yet set up your SCIS parent email account, please head to <http://schoolid.scishis.net/> to create your email address, set your recovery email, and connect your children to your account. Once finished, you will receive a confirmation message with your new School ID and begin to receive school communications. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Barry Johnson at [pd-technology@scis-china.org](mailto:pd-technology@scis-china.org).

## ManageBac:

Use ManageBac to check in with your child's classes and observe their progress throughout the year. To log in for the first time, follow the link in the welcome email sent to your parent email address. If you haven't seen it, contact Barry Johnson at [pd-technology@scis-china.org](mailto:pd-technology@scis-china.org) and a new welcome email will be sent to you. ManageBac is a web-based software, widely used by IB schools worldwide, that is specifically designed to facilitate IB planning and assessment.

## Attendance:

Please use ManageBac, email, or call the Upper School Secretary if your student will be absent. Jelly can be reached at [jling@scis-china.org](mailto:jling@scis-china.org)

# Summary of Achievement

This page lists the overall semester grades for each class. See class pages for more detailed information showing how these grades were determined.

	Semester Grade
<b>Individuals and societies: History</b> <b>Jeffrey Benson</b> Attendance: 0 Absent 31 Present 0 Late 0 Excused	5
<b>Sciences: Science</b> <b>Marin Dobson</b> Attendance: 2 Absent 30 Present 0 Late 0 Excused	5
<b>Mathematics: Extended Mathematics</b> <b>Garret Newell</b> Attendance: 0 Absent 31 Present 0 Late 0 Excused	6

EXAMPLE

# Sciences: Science

## MYP Assessment Criteria

### A: Knowing and understanding

Rose is able to i. describe scientific knowledge, ii. apply scientific knowledge and understanding to solve problems set in familiar situations and suggest solutions to problems set in unfamiliar situations, iii. analyze information to make scientifically supported judgments.

### B: Inquiring and designing

Rose is able to: i. describe a problem or question to be tested by a scientific investigation, ii. formulate and explain a testable hypothesis using scientific reasoning, iii. describe how to manipulate the variables, and describe how sufficient, relevant data will be collected, iv. design a complete and safe method in which he or she selects appropriate materials and equipment.

### C: Processing and evaluating

Rose is able to: i. correctly collect, organize and present data in numerical and/or visual forms, ii. accurately interpret data and explain results using scientific reasoning, iii. discuss the validity of a hypothesis based on the outcome of a scientific investigation, iv. discuss the validity of the method based on the outcome of a scientific investigation, v. describe improvements or extensions to the method that would benefit the scientific investigation.

### D: Reflecting on the impacts of science

Rose is able to: i. describe the ways in which science is applied and used to address a specific problem or issue, ii. discuss the implications of using science and its application to solve a specific problem or issue, interacting with a factor, iii. usually apply scientific language to communicate understanding clearly and precisely, iv. usually document sources correctly.

Criterion	Achievement Level	Maximum
A: Knowing and understanding	6	8
B: Inquiring and designing	5	8
C: Processing and evaluating	5	8
D: Reflecting on the impacts of science	6	8
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>

Levels achieved for each of the four course criteria.

The IB published descriptors explaining the level the student has achieved on each criterion.

Achievement Level Maximum

Sum of the four criteria levels.

**Semester Grade**  
**5**

This grade is calculated by applying the boundaries below to the sum of the criteria. Since 22 is in the 19-23 band, this student earned a Semester Grade of 5. This is the same grade already listed on the summary page.

Attendance: 2 Absent 30 Present 0 Late 0 Excused

## Comments

Teacher-written comment specific to the student.

Rose is developing as a thinker and inquirer, but she needs significant support to approach the standards of academic English needed for success in MYP Science. Rose conducted an experiment and wrote up her lab report, showing some understanding of Criterion B: Inquiring and Designing, and Criterion C: Processing and Evaluating, but she needs to use teacher feedback to continue to raise the quality of her lab development and data analysis. She has done better on Criterion A: Knowledge and Understanding, and is able to write descriptions of vocabulary covered in class, though she will need to use more details and examples to achieve the higher levels.

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Boundaries	0 – 5	6 – 9	10 – 14	15 – 18	19 – 23	24 – 27	28 – 32

Since 22 is in the 19-23 band, this student earned a Semester Grade of 5.

# EXAMPLE

# Class Reports

## English A: Literature HL

Semester grades from 1-7. For Grade 11 students, this is based on their class work for one semester. For Grade 12 students, this is based on their current work and after three semesters, will normally be consistent with the IB predicted grade to be formally submitted in March.

Monica Murphy

Final Grade

6

Attendance: 0 Absent 31 Present 0 Late 0 Excused

### Comments

Teacher-written comments specific to the student.

Anna Mary is continuing to show commitment to her own learning and diligence in her preparation for every lesson. Her internally assessed Investigation was completed to a high standard, and she has shown significant improvement in constructing detailed arguments on Paper 1 style questions. At this point she needs to focus on systematic review of the entire syllabus and pay close attention to incorporating feedback on her practice Papers. If Anna Mary continues working at the current level, she may expect to earn a final IB score of 6.

## Biology SL

Marin Dobson

Final Grade

4

Attendance: 0 Absent 32 Present 0 Late 0 Excused

### Comments

Anna Mary is continuing to find the demands of DP Biology extremely challenging, and she will need to put in significant work in the coming months if she is to be prepared for her external exams in May. She did not meet the scheduled deadlines for her internally assessed Investigation, and though she has attended office hours a few times, has yet to submit a final her draft. While she has shown some improvement on Paper 1 style questions, she needs to put time into daily review of content, and pay close attention to incorporating teacher feedback. If Edith continues working at the current level, she may expect to earn a final IB score of 4.

## Theory of Knowledge

Luke Scholtes

Final Grade

Theory of Knowledge class will earn Credit/No Credit. (CR or NO-CR)

CR

Attendance: 0 Absent 32 Present 0 Late 0 Excused

### Comments

Anna Mary has continued to show strength as a critical thinker in understanding Theory of Knowledge framework this semester. Her TOK essay is nearly complete, and shows effective application of real-life situations to the exploration of knowledge questions using the tools of TOK.

# Example

# IB Diploma Core

Progress on the core requirements, CAS and Extended Essay, may be "Concerning", "On-Track", or "Excellent".



## CAS:

Individual CAS comment from Ms Shanks.

CAS Progress: **On-Track.**

**Comments:** Anna Mary has engaged in an impressive range of Creativity, Activity, and Service activities over the last three semesters, and has provided comprehensive reflective documentation of her learning from experience through most activities. She is on track to meet this core IB Diploma requirement, and needs only to finalize her evidence, ensure that she has every activity affirmed by a supervisor, and complete her CAS exit interview.

## Key Activities:

2016 G12 China Go! Trip - Hainan



## Extended Essay

Supervisor: *Naomi Shanks*

Individual comment from EE supervisor.

EE Progress: **On-Track.**

**Comments:** Anna Mary made slow but steady progress on her extended essay this semester, and has now submitted her final draft. While she had an engaging research question, she found it challenging to build an argument based on evidence, and missed some deadlines as she put more time into extending her research.  
History: Women in the workplace during the Industrial Revolution

# Example