

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #22 | February 17th, 2017 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- **February 17th:** High School Winter Formal
- **February 17th:** MYP Grade 10 Personal Project check-in
- **February 18th:** Shanghai Swim League Championship
- **February 20th:** JV soccer @ SAS
- **February 22nd:** PSAT
- **February 22nd:** Varsity Boys Soccer vs NAIS, Varsity Girls @ NAIS
- **February 23rd:** JV Boys Soccer vs. DCS
- **February 24th:** Senior Swim Night
- **February 25th:** Shanghai Swim League Championship
- **March 3rd:** Upper School Field Trips (grades 6-11)
- **March 1th-8th:** IB Mock Exams (grade 12)
- **March 14th-15th:** Student led conferences
- **March 17th:** end of 3rd quarter
- **April 3rd-7th:** Spring Break

Still asking, "How was school today?" Changing the question may result in a more interesting answer.

Next time try, "**What was the high point and the low point of your day?**"



Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

This has been another busy week on campus. We had an excellent turnout for the IB Diploma Program Parent Orientation meeting on Thursday. Ms. Shanks explained the IB Diploma Program while Ms. Kelly described how participating in the IB-DP benefits students in university preparation and applications. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce the IB-DP model to 10th grade families in preparation for course selection this spring. SCIS course offerings were reviewed and our newest IB course, Environmental Systems and Societies, was introduced. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Shanks also announced the new online option that will be available for the first time to students starting with next year's grade 11 cohort as part of regular SCIS tuition. Tenth grade families were encouraged to set individual advisement meetings with Ms. Shanks and Ms. Kelly as soon as they have completed the reenrollment process.

Earlier in the week during Dragon Block all of the Upper School students had the opportunity to focus on financial literacy skills. Guest speaker, Trey Archer shared guiding principles for financial decision making. Students were fully engaged in the presentation with time running out before students had a chance to ask all of their questions. Advisors will be following up on this theme throughout the month. This presentation would be a great experience to bring up around the dinner table to spark a conversation.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal



IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM AT SCIS ORIENTATION

Thanks to all parents who turned out for the DP Orientation meeting on Thursday! Your engagement with your child’s education makes a tremendous difference in their success. For those of you who were unable to join us, please note these key points discussed at the meeting:

What is the IB Diploma Programme?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma is an academically rigorous, internationally recognized, externally assessed two-year program, providing outstanding preparation for students headed to virtually any country, university, or career path. SCIS offers the IB-DP to our Grade 11-12 students.

What are the course requirements?

All Diploma students take six courses, each of which runs the full two years. Three courses must be taken at a Standard Level and three at a Higher Level, with extended content in both breadth and depth. Courses are organized into six subject groups. All students must take two languages, individuals & societies, science, and math. For their sixth course, students have the option of either an arts course or a second course from one of the other groups.

What DP classes does SCIS Pudong offer?

For the Class of 2019 (current grade 10s) the following courses will be available:

Group 1 Language & Literature	Group 2 Language Acquisition	Group 3 Individuals & Societies	Group 4 Science	Group 5 Math	Group 6 The Arts (optional)
English A Korean A Mandarin A Mother-Tongue (self-taught)	English B French B Mandarin B Mandarin ab initio Spanish ab initio	Economics Environmental Systems & Society History	Biology Chemistry Environmental Systems & Society Physics	Math Studies Math SL Math HL	Film Music Visual Arts

Are there any other options?

The class of 2019 will also have the option to take one IB authorized on-line class. This option will provide additional course offerings and schedule flexibility, with an IB certified teacher leading a fully structured course in a virtual classroom environment.

What other requirements are there?

All Diploma students will also fulfill three Core Requirements:

Theory of Knowledge: A critical thinking course exploring the nature of human knowledge

Extended Essay: An individual academic research project leading to a formal written essay

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): Continuous engagement in, and reflection on, purposeful planned experiences outside the classroom.

How is the IB Diploma assessed?

All Diploma students will sit for formal examinations, assessed by the IB, in May of their final year. In addition, students will complete a range of tasks for school-based assessment which is also IB moderated. Assessment results are converted to a point total. Students may earn up to 7 points per subject and up to 3 bonus points for the Core elements. Students who earn a total of 24-45 points and meet all requirements will be awarded the IB Diploma.

How can I help my child get into college?

The IB Diploma is recognized as a rigorous academic credential by universities around the world, and earning the Diploma will create opportunities for your child and give them the foundation they need to make the most of those opportunities when they come. Our College Counselor, Maja Kelly, is an expert on tertiary learning opportunities and admissions requirements across the Americas, Europe, and Asia, and we urge you and your child to seek her advice in planning pathways towards their individual goals.

What next?

As students are confirmed for Grade 11 reenrollment, we will schedule individual meetings with you to discuss the Diploma Program and plan their course selections. Please don't hesitate to contact our DP Coordinator, [Naomi Shanks](#), and our College Counselor, [Maja Kelly](#), any time for continuing conversation about how the DP program works and how we can best support our students toward achieving their goals.

Notes

Re-enrollment:

Re-enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is officially underway! If your family has not received a re-enrollment email from the SCIS Admissions Department, please contact them directly at admission@scis-his.org.

Volunteers Wanted:

As a reminder from the most recent PAFA meeting, Mr. Luebbe is seeking parent volunteers to serve on two different groups. Each group will be made up of parents, students, and faculty. The two groups will work towards:

- Improving Schoolwide Communication
- Prioritizing Facility Enhancements Over the Next Three Years

To learn more, please contact Mr. Luebbe at dluebbe@scis-china.org by Monday.

2017-18 Calendar Change for the Class of 2018

Parents of current Grade 11 students, please make a note of planned changes in the calendar for Grade 12 during the 2017-18 school year. Beginning next year, the Grade 12 China Trip will be moved to the last week of May. During the former trip week in September, Grade 12 students will be on campus, benefiting from a carefully structured program focussing on the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge, CAS, and college counseling. This bonus week will greatly relieve the pressures on our senior students in the winter and spring, put them in a much stronger position to achieve their fullest potential in the DP Program, and raise the quality of their college applications. As an added bonus, taking a school sponsored trip together as a class in celebration of completing high school will provide a final opportunity for the class to share a unified experience before going their separate ways, and relieve financial pressures on families who in the past have borne the expense of similar trips. The China Trip program for Grades 6-11 will not be affected.

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.

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 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. Jling can be reached at jling@scis-china.org