



## Academics Report

August 2022

### Annual Goals

*Goal 1: Ensure that all students are educated in the International Baccalaureate Curriculum framework*

*Goal 2: To improve the academic success of all students*

*Goal 3: Build a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment allowing students and staff to focus on the work at hand while minimizing distractions.*

*Goal 4: Institute long-range planning as a built-in aspect of the school's and administration's approach to budgetary and programmatic decision-making.*

### Overview for the month

The month of August marks the beginning of the school year for students. There are several projects that start this month. During the month of August, we had scheduled days, freshmen academy, and the first day of school for students. New teachers were onboarded, took CKH training, and attended BOY PD along with returning staff members. This month we completed diagnostics, level-up classes, and drop students who were no show. JC had to work on a lot of different systems that she did not manage before, and in there were multiple challenges with access to systems like school messenger, performance matters, the closing of the year data in Power schools, link, and BOY set up of power schools. In these months systems like LINKS are updated for new students and updates for IEPS, IHPs, and Home Language and Social work referrals are needed.

### Completed Projects

**BOY PD:** All sessions scheduled in the BOY PD were delivered. We received excellent feedback on the different activities and learn that teachers appreciated the transparency in presenting the state of the school so they know the currency in accomplishing the goals for the school year.

**Covid testing:** Covid testing resumed on the third week of August. We had multiple covid cases this month. Students who have reported feeling sick have been sent home for testing with the nurse.

**Attendance reports:** Principal worked with the front office and HoS to spell out the different steps to track daily attendance. There were a variety of reports not being pulled by VJ, the attendance clerk. We met with VJ and expressed our concerns about her performance and



offer support. PA created a loom to teach Ms. Vervian how to pull absentee reports on daily bases. JC and FM created a timeline to help VJ know the expectations in terms of attendance and this timeline was also communicated to teachers so we can get their support to enter attendance in a timely manner.

**Enrollment process:** Principal met with counselors, AP, and registrar to talk about the enrollment process and what happens after the student is enrolled in the main office. The concern was having students with IEPs, IHPs, ELLs, and social work referrals not identified as soon as they register. The process now will be streamlined by having the registrar make and secure copies of these specific plans and communicate immediately with the appropriate department (SPED, ELL, SW, Nurse). This will ensure all students are identified if they have specific needs. Folders with prongs and covers will be ordered to start facing out file folders, which are not easy to organize, and the student paperwork can fall and get misplaced.

**Classroom readiness checklist:** AP and PR conducted classroom readiness walkthroughs to ensure classrooms are conducive to learning. Teachers missing items on the classroom readiness checklist receive a second visit.

**Nursing Services:** The Nurse Hillard has been reviewing the Louisiana Immunization Network (LINKS) to audit IHSNO students for immunizations.

- 47 students are due immunizations for the months of August and September. Letters are being sent out to the parents/guardians. Counseling

**Senior Common App Workshop: A Common App Workshop was held on August 29<sup>th</sup>.** Ninety-seven percent (97%) of seniors attended the workshop and had the opportunity to ask questions about the platform. Seniors created a common app account, learned about required courses to graduate, ACT and SAT registration, grade tracking in PowerSchool, college admissions, protocols for meeting with the senior counselor, and how to request letters of recommendation.

**Senior FAFSA workshop:** An Educational Consultant from the Louisiana Department of Education discussed the steps to completing the FAFSA application. Eighty (80) seniors attended the session. Seniors created their FASID account and parents will receive instructions during common app parent night on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. An additional session will be scheduled to work with seniors to complete the entire application

**Volunteers Needed:** Plans and agreements were finalized for IHSNO to volunteer again this football season at the Superdome working with Fanatics for \$100.00 per volunteer to be donated to IHSNO Athletics.

## Current Projects

**PTSA:** To start the PSTA (former PTO) organization for the year IHSNO will integrate teachers and students. Parents have received a link to choose the best day for the first





meeting. The possible dates are Sept 20th, 29th, and Oct. 8th. We will have an outdoor event to get stakeholders involved with door prizes and house points awarded to students and families participating.

### *Curriculum and Instruction*

**ELL:** Screening for students who speak a different language other than English at home has started. Students who registered after the screening last school year will also be included.

### **IB Program:**

- IB MYP implementation is in the early stages of planning. IB coordinators will work closely with DP teachers to determine strategies to introduce MYP in 9th and 10th grades.
- The process of request for candidacy is still on track as planned with Reimagine Schools.
- 5-year evaluation committee meeting is scheduled for September 15th.
- The action plan has been updated in MyIB along with a year of staff professional development.
- The following policies will need to be reviewed for the evaluation: Academic Integrity policy, Language Policy, Access and Inclusion policy, and IB handbook.

**Culture:** Ms. Armstrong, the Assistant Dean of Culture, began teacher and classroom observations in accordance with the CKH Walkthrough evaluations. The start of the school year has been very active with student behavioral interventions and behaviors requiring the Culture team to hold mediations and assign various consequences. The large number of Culture responses needed does not allow much time for walkthroughs.

## **Upcoming Projects**

**Parent Meeting:** Parent Common App road to success night will be held on Sept 7th. Senior parents will attend a FAFSA presentation similar to the one students have. We will celebrate parents for supporting students through their academic careers

**Back-to-school night:** AP and PR will be working on the ET for a back-to-school night on Sep. 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

**Constitution Day:** Social studies will receive judge for constitution day. Judge Ervin-Knott will come and speak to students from 9:30 am. The aim is to learn information about law-related topics.

**Progress Learning set-up and training for LEAP course instructors:** The Instructional Coach will provide training on the assessment platform Progress Learning to LEAP course teachers; Algebra, Geometry, ELA I/ II, US History, and Biology. This program was purchased to provide LEAP teachers with an instructional and assessment tool dedicated to



LEAP courses. The goal is to increase school LEAP scores across every tested subject. LEAP teachers will use Progress Learning for all assessments; remediation practice is automatically assigned to students based on assessment performance. Teachers will review the data generated by the program to monitor student progress and assign individualized remediation to students.

**Identification of students for remediation in ELA and SS LEAP courses.** The Remediation Specialist will collaborate with ELA and SS teachers to identify which students need remediation in ELA and SS based on Diagnostic results and academic performance. She will compile a list of students referred for remediation and will create a remediation data tracker to track the remediation cycle of each student referred for remediation. The remediation cycle will last 6 weeks. Teachers will rate each student referred for remediation at the beginning of the remediation cycle. The Remediation Specialist will create a remediation plan for each student.

**First coaching cycle for new teacher cohort:** Pre-observation meetings with the new teacher cohort are being planned. Teachers will complete a self-assessment of their first month of teaching. The Instructional coach will guide each cohort member to create a SMART goal for their first coaching cycle and the first observation is scheduled. The teachers will reflect on their received feedback after observation to create smaller goals to assist them in reaching their first coaching cycle SMART goal. Depending on individual needs for each cohort member's success at reaching their SMART goal, IC will schedule subsequent classroom observations.

**Dual enrollment:** The dual enrollment program student enrollment is (92) for the Fall semester. Students are requesting to be enrolled in the program. Students are working on creating their accounts with Moodle to access the course section.

## Human Resources

### Social Studies

- **Staff Needed:** We began the year with 1 of 3 social studies teachers in place. Interviews have been conducted to fill the positions. At the end of August, there were two long-term substitutes in place from EnrichEd.

### Languages and Electives

- IHSNO received a teacher from TLCP who began in August. The teacher had several challenges with being away from his family in Morocco and has since returned to his home country. His classes have been transferred to other teachers.

**Openings:** The following vacancies need to be filled in academics

- 1 Social studies teacher
- 1 school counselor 9th-10th grade





- 1 social worker
- 1 math and science interventionist

### **Professional Development:**

- 08/10/22- Teachers had work time to finish setting up their classrooms according to the classroom checklist as inspections were upcoming.
- 08/17/22- IBDP teachers meeting concerning upcoming renewal items; AP facilitated a one-hour training on School Connectedness that centered on how building meaningful relationships can help improve academic performance; teachers who did not finish McKinley Vento during BOY training had time to finish
- 08/24/22- Records day for teachers as diagnostic testing ended and the need to rework lessons plans for actual content delivery was a priority
- 08/31/22- Director of Operations did a one-hour presentation on school safety covering fire drill procedures; teachers had 45-minute training on Title IX overview via SafeSchools.
- Workshops will be scheduled for staff/faculty members moving into new roles, especially Eisenlohr in the assistant IB Coordinator role
- Virtual or in-person IB workshops have been selected for EE coordinator and other DP faculty but the status for next year needs to be confirmed before investment.

### **Celebrations/highlights**

- Former Diploma recipients [Derick Mejia](#) and [Marco Pineda](#) spoke with DP seniors as they started the school year.
- Common App workshop was extremely successful and helped seniors visualize themselves enrolled in higher education
- House initiatives, houses kick-off day was wonderful and students are very engaged in the point system.
- Security check-in process has improved significantly since the first week of school
- students are receiving high quality and delicious meals on a daily basis