



Academic Committee

August 2023

Upcoming Events:

- 9/8: Back to School Dance
- 9/13: Back to School Night
- 9/19: CKH Fall Campus Traction Visit and PTO Meeting
- 9/20: Progress Report Conferences
- 9/27: Senior Parents Night
- 10/6: End of Quarter 1
- 10/11: C/O 2024 Ring Ceremony and Q1 Honor Roll Ceremony
- 10/12: 10/13: Fall Break

Highlights

- Eight staff members attended the IB Global Conference 23 in Toronto, focusing on inclusion and MYP implementation.
- High demand for the Diploma Programme among 11th Grade students, requiring adjustments to schedules.
- On-campus workshop on developing the MYP scheduled for September 5th.
- Digital access to textbooks, diagnostics, literacy screenings
- Acquisition of new learning platform for world languages: Passport (French/Spanish/Chinese) from Carnegie's Learning leading group in material design, including IB books and learning platforms.
- Successful schedule day, parents and families updated contact information, signed up for clubs, purchased uniforms, paid fees, and signed up for transportation.
- Smooth transportation services and the addition of a fifth bus to accommodate the high demand of students from the Westbank.

Updates

- **Beginning of the Year PD:** Teachers attended professional development during the first week of August. PD was focused on the state of the school, improvement initiatives, mandatory reporting trainings, culture and climate procedures, data driven instruction, and allocated time for planning and preparation. Staff was briefed on policies and procedures regarding attendance, student well-being, freshmen academy, and MYP implementation.
- **Diagnostic assessments:** Students took their diagnostic assessments on Performance Matters for core classes. Diagnostics were aligned to state standards and created with teachers input. There were a few technology hiccups with the site which were resolved slowly with the support of the Performance Matter representatives and our Technology Coordinator



- **LEAP remediation:** We must provide 30 hours of remediation support to students participating in the state LEAP retesting window in December. Remediation plans are underway and remediation teachers are being secured.
- **Attendance:** Closely tracking student attendance. Seat recovery days are being organized to begin in September.
- **No-shows and dropouts:** Enrollment number is currently at 385 students. We began with 408 students, however some of them did not attend during the first 5 days of school and were dropped from our rosters.
- **Math:** Louisiana Department of Education provided Math teachers with pre-lesson activities called "Accelerate". Accelerate provides data and remediation for 7th and 8th-grade skills that students need for on-level content. Students in 9th grade math classes will be utilizing these activities in addition to their on-level content.
- **Science:** The science team established a solid relationship with the STEM lab to borrow materials and receive planning support for all the sciences. Science teachers are also exploring the Middle Year's Program (MYP) chemistry curriculum and have a lot of positive feedback.
- **World languages:** Teachers participated in a 4-hour interdepartmental Professional Development on using a new curriculum that emphasizes the training for the functionality of these tools in language and art classes in rapport with the integration of the MYP program.
- **Social Studies:** The team is working on an evolving Social Studies Resource Guide that is an easily accessible introduction to basic departmental tools for new teachers.
- **ESL:** The coordinator identified 37 students who require ELPS screeners. ELPS is the English Language Proficiency Screener, standardized assessment used to measure a student's English language proficiency and to determine if the student is eligible additional language supports in content classrooms. All schools are required to use ELPS as their EL screening assessment. Students who required a family language interview have received a form that must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian for the cumulative folder. All returning EL students will receive a Parent Notification of EL Services letter and English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) results by the end of September.
- **Freshman Orientation:** Through the School Climate Transformation Grant, IHSNO is partnering with Link Crew. Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Orientation for incoming freshmen was held on August 9th, 2023, at the school campus, where they received an introduction to Link Crew. Freshmen received IHSNO swag items and participated in an abbreviated schedule for their assigned classes. Link crew coordinators will attend a follow-up conference to improve orientation process.
- **IB updates:** Additional spots were added for the largest group of junior Diploma candidates since 2016. The Final review of Diploma candidates will occur during the first week of September.
- **Culture and Climate: We are continuing to** make progress towards stated goals. Students and staff received communication and training regarding policies like cell phone policy, uniforms, bell schedules and adequate transition times, as well as duty schedule and the required staff support in each duty post. The culture team was trained on how to conduct Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) walkthroughs to ensure all teachers and staff are using CKH properly. The plan is to finish the CKH walkthroughs by 9/14/2023.



- **Instructional Coaching:** To prepare for the start of school, the coach identified required course curriculums and obtained necessary curriculum resources to share with teachers. Certain curricula were updated. Curricula was updated for: languages, ACT prep, Science, Civics, African American Studies, financial literacy, and Quest for Success.
- **Literacy:** Literacy screeners were administered through Fast Forward program. Fast Forward is an adaptive online reading program that uses the science of learning to fast-track learning recovery so students can catch up to grade-level reading. These screeners were administered to all students in their English classes. The data from the screeners is being analyzed and will be used to support students strengthen their literacy skills.
- **Staffing:** We are currently seeking candidates for the following positions: Spanish, ESL, Math, and English.
- **Cultural Celebration:** In the US, we observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. During this time, we celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spanish speaking countries. At IHSNO, our annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration will be on September 29th. The goal of this event is to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and cultivate global-minded citizens at IHSNO.