

Principal Forum Sept 2012 Agenda / Questions / Answers

The following topics were raised and discussed in our meeting, a short written summary is provided below. A recording of the discussion is available at this link.

Concern / background	Question	Answer / Response
SATs	What is currently done to prepare students to take their SATs?	A rigorous curriculum and reading were considered most important. Doing practice tests and getting into the habit of doing a question / word a day. Taking the test twice was considered a good option if you performed poorly. Using intensive professional instruction either in person or online is an option too.
College Essays	What is currently done to prepare students to write their college essay?	Various workshops and counseling sessions provide guidance. So too do classes e.g. English. The importance of a student's voice over polished perfection was stressed. A warning against the use of professional counseling services was given e.g. the "admissions office" – this could disqualify a student.
Grading Assessment	What plans are there for assessment changes in HS? Is HS going to use standards based assessment/grading? Are HS going to report grades in the same way as MS?	The grading and assessment policies in HS are essentially the same as last year. No major changes are planned, the document Assessing, Evaluating and Reporting in the HS at ISB gives additional details. All curriculums in HS are standards based so we will continue to assess and report accordingly – colleges expect nothing less. MS has shifted to reporting student progress and performance using standards based report cards. HS has no intention of doing this. Rather we will use a traditional transcript format, communicating performance against standards using a single summative grade.

<p>ISB's approach to drugs and alcohol.</p> <p>Addressing the perception that ISB knowingly turns a blind eye to students who are users.</p>	<p>What is the school's approach/philosophy in this area? How does drug testing work? Do you do what you say you do?</p>	<p>In short we are 100% committed to ensuring our students fulfill our mission – healthy balanced lives is central to this and we are proactive in helping our students make the right choices. Our testing policy is explained in the student handbook and we follow this policy with complete integrity.</p>
<p>Locking kids out of class?</p>	<p>Why are kids being locked out of classes and made to miss the lesson?</p>	<p>As described this is not an acceptable approach to being late, neither is it a problem we are aware of. This issue should be dealt with by the parent seeking clarification directly with the teacher concerned. If the answer given does not resolve the matter please bring details to the HS admin for follow up.</p>

The following issues were on the agenda but time did not allow us to address them – quick written replies are given here.

<p>Cycle Helmets</p> <p>It was brought to the attention of the administration that many students cycle to school not wearing their helmets properly or only in a token fashion as they go through the gate.</p>	<p>Admin asked to comment.</p>	<p>Like any public health/safety campaign it takes constant reminders and several years before new norms are established. The school will be vigilant and enforce the expectation on campus.</p>
<p>Water Bottles</p> <p>Concern that not selling bottle of water may be a health hazard since</p>	<p>What is the school position on this?</p>	<p>There are no plans to reintroduce the sale of water bottles. Students should be advised by home and school that it is good practice to rinse the bottle and fill it through out the day.</p>

refillable drink bottles sit around all day and can reach unhealthy temperatures etc		
Availability of work placement internships for student	<p>What opportunities are there for students to do job internships at ISB</p> <p>When do we advertise these?</p>	<p>Internships are available through GCW, typically at little cost.</p> <p>Internships are also available through Summer School in June – open to all grades – this programme requires a minimum number of students to enroll before it is viable so it is possible that in any given year it will not run.</p>
Concern that participation in IASAS and MUN were mutually exclusive.	Is this true?	No, there are numerous examples where this has happened.

Several items were tabled and are being discussed at the admin level, written answers or there inclusion in future agendas will be considered.