

PRINCIPAL'S FORUM ISSUES & RESPONSES

This document lists recent concerns shared by high school parents and addressed in a Principal's Forum meeting. These are not the words of the HS administration, but a compilation of the notes taken at the meeting by the high school representatives. Please review, and if further information is needed/desired, please submit your questions to the HS PTA representatives at hspforum@isb.ac.th. If you feel this information is incorrect, again, please contact the HS PTA representatives so corrections can be made if needed. This is meant as a resource for parents, and is not an official statement from the school. Official school policies can be found in the [HS student/parent handbook](#). Thank you!

FLIPPED INSTRUCTION (FI)

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

What are the benefits?

In flipped instruction classrooms, students prepare and receive very targeted instruction on their own, before they arrive in the classroom. Students are able to watch and rewatch videos at their own pace until they understand, or to read and reread materials until they feel comfortable with the information. With the teacher's guidance in the classroom, students explore topics in greater depth and work with other students to apply the information and extend their understanding. FI is increasingly common in universities, with students receiving content online, then participating in partner/group strategies when in class. Online courses generally use FI.

Could students move to another class that doesn't use this teaching strategy?

No, because most teachers are using this strategy. In March 2016, 90% of ISB HS teachers said they are using flipped instruction in some form.

This form of instruction increases computer face time.

Videos are often the preferred method for delivering content. Segments should only be about 8 minutes long.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERVISION (TEACHER EVALUATION)

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

What should I do if I have a complaint against a teacher?

Students are encouraged to bring concerns to the teacher in person. If the problem does not resolve, the next step would be for the parent to contact and discuss the problem with the teacher. If a parent has done this, and is not satisfied with the results, he/she can go to the head of the department, the child's HS counselor, representatives if it is a global issue, then the HS administration. Parents are encouraged to start the process and talk with someone if they have concerns. The HS administration only receives 5-6 complaints about teachers each year, and there are 80 teachers in the high school. Please refer to the [HS Student/Parent Handbook](#), Section 1-Channels of Communication.

How are teachers evaluated?

The purposes of teacher evaluations is to ensure that teachers are the best they can be and that students reach their full potential. Many factors determine teacher performance, including both learning focused standards such as instruction and assessment, and professional standards which include being caring and empathetic. A variety of strategies are used to evaluate teachers by looking for consistent patterns in their teaching:

Walk throughs-The HS administration, leadership team, and Mr. Davies very briefly visit classes unannounced. The classroom setting and student behavior are observed in addition to the teacher's performance.

1+5 visits-Mr. Bradley visits for the last minute of the break and the first 5 minutes of class.

Formal visits-Unannounced visits for 30-40 minutes of the class for new teachers, some teachers prefer announced visits which is accommodated.

Targeted observations

PPP goal setting-2 year cycle

Online anonymous student surveys-A teacher will send surveys out to all students from 3 classes. If the teacher is new or there is a concern, the surveys must be shared with the administration to help analyze the data collected.

Pantherline-The HS administration can glean information from student questions.

Parent surveys-Parents are encouraged to comment on individual teachers in the "comments" section of the online survey.

Counselors

External testing data

MATH COURSES FOR GRADE 9

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

Mathematics is the only subject in which 4 years is required for graduation. The math course a student takes in grade 9 will determine his/her later mathematics course options. A detailed math course flow chart is available on the school website under [academic courses](#). For example, if a student is enrolled in Integrated Math 1 Standard, it will be almost impossible for him/her to take the IB Math HL2 in grade 12. It is possible for parents to "override" the advice of the counselor and request to have their child placed in a higher or lower course.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK (GCW)

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

What is the purpose of GCW?

There are many objectives of GCW and teachers are required to plan trips that fall under one or more of these objectives. A list of objectives and more information on GCW can be found on the school [website](#).

GCW trips are very expensive. Where is the money spent?

ISB does not make money on the GCW trips, and overcharges are refunded (unless below 500 baht). A sample budget for the Bhutan trip can be found [here](#) on slide 20. Budgets will

be listed in the catalog for every trip before registration in the next school year. Generally, fees include the tour guide company, tour fees, visa fees, costs for teacher chaperones and nurses, flights/teacher flights, insurance, montri buses, bank fees, incidentals, etc.

What safety precautions are taken?

All teachers are trained in emergency first aid. Tour groups will have emergency plans in place. School nurses go through each student's medical history with the teacher leading the trip. The health information required on the registration forms will be altered for next year and will ask for food preferences/restrictions, not only food allergies.

What further trip information will parents receive after registration?

In December, parents will have online access to packing lists and other pertinent information regarding their child's trip. Students meet four times with their GCW group and teacher leader. The first two meetings are for team building with only students. The third and fourth meetings are open to parents. In the past, not many parents have attended, but they are welcome.

EXTRA FEES

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

The accounting office works with the major employers to bill certain costs in a way that might possibly help parents to be reimbursed for some items. It is difficult to find a way to roll additional fees (like AP exam fees, trips required by certain classes, and supply costs) into tuition as every student participates in a unique set of classes, clubs, and activities. More information on fees required by certain classes will be available to students/parents at the time of course registration.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

ISB posts whole school [academic results](#) on the school website, which includes the results from the most recent year as well as the average of the five years prior to that. The school will not share the academic results of students of a specific teacher.

University acceptance is sometimes considered a measure of high school performance and the acceptance list for last year can be found posted in the HS counseling office.

IB PREDICTED SCORES

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

UK and some other university acceptance is conditional on predicted scores. A predicted score for a student can range from 10-45 as a total for all classes, with each class having a maximum score of 7. An accurate score prediction is +/- 1 when compared with the actual score. Inflating a score prediction by even 1 for each class taken by a student would inflate their total score prediction by 6. ISB does well in predicting scores accurately, with 66% of predicted grades within 1 point of the actual grade. Universities track an individual school's predictions. Accurate score predictions are necessary for ISB to stay honest and keep its integrity intact.

LAPTOPS TOO HEAVY

(Addressed on [October 20, 2016](#))

There currently is no plan to replace the laptops at this time. The computers the students have are the most cost-effective and sturdy option available. School tried to incorporate the Macbook Pro, but found the screens broke more easily and often. The laptops currently in use weigh only a few hundred grams. Many textbooks are now available online, so students have less books to carry in their backpacks. Students are also encouraged to use their lockers to store heavy backpacks during the day.