



Highro- Glyphics

High School Weekly News

Thursday, March 1, 2012

High School Administration Announcements

IB Extra Block

Steve Petra, our IB/AP Coordinator with the help of the student/faculty IB/AP committee has made a recommendation regarding the use of the "A block" extra hours for IB HL subjects. This has been approved by the HS administration. After surveying the faculty and all IB/AP students, it was determined that the majority of the classes do not require the additional time currently allotted to complete their curricula. The exceptions to this are the IB/AP sciences (as the lab component is difficult to complete during the current class time). Thus, only these courses will continue using the extra hour. The science faculty preferred to return to the after school lab schedule used previously but the students found this to be stressful as it was either at odds with extracurricular activities or cut in to their after school study time. At the request of students we will continue with the "A block flex" and the extra hour will be limited to the first semester of the first year of the course. This allows full IB diploma candidates to have a free block throughout their two year course of study (at present they have two free blocks in semester one of year one and, then, no free blocks for up to the next two semesters).

This takes the total IBHL hours to 223 hours for all subjects except science. Science will have 236 hours. Teachers feeling that they require the additional 4 hours recommended by the IB to complete their lab work will make arrangements for one or two after school sessions.

Course Registration for 2012-13

While it may seem early, the time has come to begin planning for next year. We ask that all families participate in the Course Registration Process even if they assume they will not return to CAC next year. The reason for this is two-fold. First, completing the registration process at CAC allows departing families to take an approved schedule with them as they transfer. This often eases the registration process at a new school. Second, every student who departs will be replaced by another student and while the course selections may vary, it is still useful for to plan as if the student was remaining as we are better able to project the number of sections required for each course.

The timeline for registration is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| March 4 and 5 | Teachers will take a few moments out of class to explain to students the course offerings available to them in each subject area. |
| March 6 | Grades 9 – 11 will have an assembly in which the counselors will walk students through the registration process and will hand out the registration forms. |
| March 7 – 13 | Students complete the registration forms, obtain their current teachers' signatures and obtain parent signatures approving the schedule. |
| March 14 | All registration forms are due to the counseling office. These requests will be entered into our student information system. |

- March 15 – 20 Students interested in the full IB diploma program are encouraged to meet with the IB Coordinator to confirm their program of study.
- March 21 Registration verification forms will be circulated. Students should confirm that what was entered into the student information system is, indeed, the courses they wish to take. If all courses are correct, students should sign and return the form. If any courses need to be corrected or changes are desired, the student should see the relevant teacher for a signature, obtain a further parent signature and return the form to the counseling office.
- March 28 All registration verification forms are due. No changes to course requests will be made past this date.
- Early June Schedules for the 2012-13 school year will be circulated and students wishing to make changes may do so before the end of term or within the first five days of the 2012-13 school year.

Additions, Changes and Deletions from Courses for 2012-13

In preparation for the upcoming registration process, a number of changes have been made to our course offerings.

Additions:

IB Biology SL. In order to allow greater flexibility for our IB students, IB Biology will now be offered at both the Standard and Higher Levels.

IB Economics SL. In order to allow for greater flexibility for our IB students, IB Economics will now be offered at both the Standard and Higher Levels.

English 11: Rhetoric and Composition. This course will focus on writing skills. Thematic in its approach and pulling from non-fiction texts, this writing intensive course will allow students to focus on persuasive, analytical and research writing.

Theater Design and Technology. This course will introduce students to the design process, technical skills and production aspects of theater.

The Contemporary Middle East. This social studies will focus on the 20th Century events and people determining the political, social and economic situation in the Middle East region.

IB Higher Level Language Study. Based on requests from students, we will revive the study of Language B (Arabic, French and Spanish) at the Higher Level. HL Language B study is a two year program.

Virtual High School Classes (AP and non-AP). Students wishing to take a class online that is not currently offered by Cairo American College are encouraged to speak with their counselor about the possibility of taking a transferable online course from our chosen provider (www.k12.com). Students must be aware that online courses require a great deal of intrinsic motivation and independence. It is also possible that the course calendar may fall outside of the CAC course schedule and, thus, some study over vacation may be required. All pre-approved K-12 courses are fully transferable and will appear on both the CAC transcript and in the CAC GPA. Registration for K-12 is on a different calendar and, thus, CAC will not be able to guarantee registration for the online course until later in the term. Should K-12 courses become unavailable or full, CAC students will have to replace the course with a CAC course based on what is available at that time. Thus, course selections may be limited. The courses will carry an additional fee.

Changes:

Biology 9 will change (back) to Integrated Science. Upon completing a K-12 curricular review, it was determined that the best way to serve our students in the sciences is to return to Integrated Science in grade 9. Thus, Biology 9 will be discontinued.

Western Civilization (required at grade 10) will change to Modern World History. The course content has been updated to better serve our students both in terms of relevant course content as well as relevant preparatory skills for further history study in grades 11 and 12. This course will investigate the major events that have shaped the world prior to the 21st Century. The course begins at the Renaissance and ends with the decline of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

Beginning Drawing and Painting will change to Studio Art 1. The content of this course remains largely unchanged but will incorporate elements from the Graphic Design course to expose students to a wider range of art study at this level.

Intermediate Drawing and Painting will change to Studio Art 2. See above explanation.

Advanced Drawing and Painting will change to Studio Art 3. See above explanation.

Explorations in Technology P.E.T. will be called Explorations in Technology. The content will remain unchanged but the name has been simplified for greater clarity on report cards and transcripts.

Explorations in Technology C. M. C. will be called CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing). The content will remain unchanged but the name has been simplified for greater clarity on report cards and transcripts

Astronomy will be called Cosmology. The content remains unchanged but the name has been changed to better reflect the content covered in the course.

Deletions:

Studio Graphic Design. This course will be incorporated into Studio Art 1, 2 and 3.

IB Business SL Year 1. We will discontinue the offering of IB Business after the current SL cohort completes the course in 2012-13. Instead, students will be able to choose between IB Economics SL and IB Geography SL.

Change to CAT System

The administration K-12 has spent some time discussing the effectiveness of our current CAT system in disseminating information to the wider community. It was decided to try something new with CAT for the remainder of the year in the hopes of increasing communication and transparency. The remaining CAT meetings will run as scheduled but will be open forum meetings for anyone from the community who wishes to attend.

To prepare the agenda, we will do the following:

- 1) The Principal will publish an agenda two weeks before the upcoming CAT/Community Forum meeting in the weekly electronic publication (Highro-Glyphics for HS).
- 2) Community members wishing to add other items to the agenda are asked to contact their CAT representative within a week to share their agenda items. The CAT member, in turn, will collect and collate the agenda items to share with the Principal. Please note that only general agenda items are appropriate to a Community Forum. Please do not submit agenda items that only pertain to your son/daughter or a small group of students. Your CAT team member can help identify who you should raise those concerns to (e.g.: teacher, administration, etc.).
- 3) The Principal will publish the extended agenda (including the items raised by the community) in the weekly publication immediately preceding the CAT/Community Forum meeting.

The next CAT/Community Forum meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26th from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. Thus, the agenda will be published in next week's Highro-Glyphics. Community Members will have until Thursday, March 16th to communicate additional agenda items to their CAT representatives (listed hereunder) who, in turn, will share these agenda items with the administration by March 18th. The completed agenda including these items will be published in the March 22nd Highro-Glyphics.

Minutes from the meetings will be linked to the Highro-Glyphics for everyone in the community to reference.

Grade 9 - Chris Giallongo – thegsoverseas@gmail.com – 23800630 / 01507891427
Grade 10 – Flavia Makram-Ebeid – flaviame53@gmail.com – 25083804 / 0123109335
Grade 11 – Elli Hadjievangelou – panoselli@gmail.com – 27561519 / 0102187541
Grade 12 – Stephanie Butter – fam_butter@hotmail.com - 25166430 / 0123794718
Member at Large – Natalie Usher – usherfamily@gmail.com – 25214095 / 0109283629
PTO Liaison - Saro Mathialagan – sarosammi@gmail.com – 23582155 / 0162970334

Homework

Faculty members are reading and discussing current professional writings about homework with an aim to develop a general school-wide philosophical statement about homework and sets of guidelines for homework in the Elementary, Middle and High School. The articles, chapters, and notes about homework that the faculty have been reading and discussing are posted on the Parent Intranet. We hope you'll find them informative and thought provoking.

In the month of March the three divisions – Elementary, Middle, and High School - will come together to host a K-12 parent coffee in lieu of the usual separate divisional meetings. Please mark your calendars and join us on Wednesday, March 14th at 10:00 am in the Elementary Hall for a K-12 coffee focusing on the issue of homework.

As you may know, this semester the faculty and staff of Cairo American College have been reading about “best practice” in the use of homework and have been reflecting on their own practice. Further, as divisions, groups have been discussing the development of a homework philosophy. This work will continue through March in the hopes of publishing a K-12 Homework Philosophy in April along with division specific guidelines.

We would like to include you in this process. To that end, March’s coffee will ask you to reflect on the same topics our faculty are currently discussing. We ask that you come to the coffee having already read the article reached by this link - Rethinking Homework: Best practices that support diverse needs by Dr. Cathy Vatterott.

<http://www.cacegypt.org/HS/PDF/vatHWarticle.pdf>

The article is a synopsis of the reading we have required of our faculty and will help to give context to our time together. During the coffee we will ask parents to react to and discuss various statements of belief from the reading. Your thoughts will help us to understand the issue of homework from yet another perspective while the reading, itself, will familiarize you with the current research in homework “best practice.”

We hope to see you on March 14th!

Parent-Teacher Conferences – April 5

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, April 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration will be done electronically, giving parents the opportunity to select their own time slots to meet with teachers. Students are invited and encouraged to attend with their parents. The High School Parent-Teacher Conference Day is an excellent opportunity to visit campus and discuss your son’s or daughter’s academic progress with teachers. We hope that both you and your child will join us on this important day.

Parents need to sign up from Sunday, March 11 through March 24 to meet specific teachers at the conferences. If a scheduled time is already booked for you, this is a teacher’s request to meet with you. An email will be sent out to all high school parents on Sunday, March 11 with the instructions of the process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the High School Assistant Principal’s Executive Secretary, Ms. Eman Hamza, at 2755-5403 or ehamza@cacegypt.org. Thank you for your attention to these important details.

Upcoming Events

March 6	Assembly schedule – course registration information for grades 9 – 11
March 6	Assembly schedule – senior class photo on field
March 7 – 11	ISST Basketball away
March 14	All course registration forms due
March 14	K-12 Homework Coffee, 10:00 am, ES Hall
March 14 – 18	Honor Band/Choir away
March 15	HS Play, 7:00 pm, Theater
March 16	CAT/Community Forum agenda items due to CAT representatives
March 26	CAT/Community Forum meeting, 3:30 pm, Captan-Amr Room

Joelle Basnight
High School Principal

Mike Schuetze
High School Assistant Principal

Counseling Announcements

General Counseling Information

Freshman, MAP testing is coming up. The Spring testing window is March 12th-29th. Make ups will take place the first week of April.

Juniors and parents, don’t forget to schedule a meeting with your counselor to discuss course selection, standardized testing plans, and the college search. Now is the time to start the footwork for your college applications.

Sophomores and Juniors, please see your counselor to pick up your PLAN or PSAT scores if you have not already.

Academic Services International will again offer an **SAT Prep Course** beginning on **Friday, April 20**. If you are interested in signing up or finding out more information about the course, stop by Ms. Blohm’s office to pick up a brochure. Also, if you have registered for the course previously and plan on participating again, please let her know.

Wondering what to do for the summer? Check out the **Summer Opportunities** bulletin board located in the College Library (3rd floor near the counselors' offices).

March 6: 2012-2013 course registration begins. More information will follow.

University Visits

Great news! Meet more than 20 universities at the CAC mini fair on March 8th on the CAC padio. This is the same group of schools attending the Egypt Int'l Student Fair at the Fairmont hotel. If you want to know which schools are attending, please pick up a flyer from the counseling department for more information.

Information for Seniors

Seniors, don't forget to update Naviance. Please keep your counselors in the loop as admission decisions come in.

Testing Information

SAT Test Dates

May 5

June 2

Register online at www.collegeboard.com. More information is available in the counseling office. CAC is a test center.

ACT Test Dates

April 14 with writing

June 9 with writing

Register online at www.actstudent.org. More information is available in the counseling office. CAC is a test center.

TOEFL

CAC is not a testing site for TOEFL but registration information can be found at www.ets.org.

Seniors who are citizens of countries where English is not the official language are encouraged to take the TOEFL as soon as possible.

Gina Cuthbert
Counselor

General Announcements

U.S. Citizen Services

Attention US Citizens. The American Citizen Services office will be hosting an outreach session on Monday, March 5 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm at the front gate and will provide information and answer questions about Absentee Voting for the upcoming 2012 elections. If you are unable to make the session on Monday and would like more information you may contact the voting team at the US Embassy at 2797-2200 or VoteCairo@state.gov.

Mark Sullivan
Activities Director

Deadline for Senior Recognition Ads is Approaching

The 2012 High School Yearbook is on sale now until March 29 and now you can honor that special **senior** with his or her own personal ad.

Whether it is a **congratulation** for finishing this important milestone in their life, or just a few phrases wishing them the **best of luck** in the future, you can tell that senior your feelings in a special color section of the CAC 2011 High School Yearbook.

All you have to do is to provide the yearbook sponsor, Mitch Saliba, with a favorite picture or pictures and that special message and he will design a colorful and attractive ad placed right after the senior section. Your message can be anything you want to say. But say it fast, because the deadline for getting in all ads is **March 29, 2012**.

Contact the yearbook sponsor, Mitch Saliba, through email at msaliba@cacegypt.org or by phone 2755-5470.

Mitch Saliba
Yearbook Sponsor

2012 International Festival

Saturday, 17 March - 11am to 3pm

Good food, fun, games, and exciting performances

Also still looking for volunteers - selling coupons, drinks, and tickets on the day - every volunteer will get a free entrance ticket. Please contact Moya Ross (01060051335) or Ineke Hodder (01066046797) or cacinternationalfestival@gmail.com. Students : your time contribution will count toward service hours.

Moya Ross
CAC International Festival Coordinator 2012

Egypt Booth for the CAC PTO International Festival

We invite the Egyptian community at CAC (parents, faculty members and others) to please come to a meeting at the ES lunch room (opposite Captan-Amr room) at 1.30pm on Monday, March 5 to discuss preparation plans for the Egypt Booth at the International Fair, which will be held on Saturday, March 17. We will update you on on-going plans regarding the food and activities to be offered at the Booth, an Egyptian performance on stage, and the Egypt country basket.

But we really need your help to make the Egypt Booth a success. Please bring your suggestions, ideas, volunteer times (to help at the Booth on March 17th), sponsors and/or donations (for the food or gifts for the Egypt basket) and above all, your enthusiasm! Looking forward to seeing a lot of you at this meeting.

Mona Madi
Egypt Booth Coordinator

Book Fair Booth for the CAC PTO International Festival

Don't miss the Book Fair at the International Festival, not only will you get this great chance to buy books for the upcoming holidays, you will also get a chance to purchase "The Atomic Weight of Secrets" and get your book signed by our very own CAC parent/author Eden Bowditch. Remember to pass by and not miss this last chance at buying some great titles for ES, MS, HS & Adults.

For any queries or suggestions please contact Suzanne Harrison 0120 100 1007 ssamoharrison@gmail.com or Sherine Elbanhawy 0100 211 4215 sherine.elbanhawy@gmail.com

Sherine Elbanhawy

HS Theme Basket

The PTO will be holding an International Fair on Saturday, 17th March, 2012. As last year one of the attractions was the **Theme Basket Raffle**.

You may choose individually which theme you wish to donate to. Alternatively if you wish to donate a basket for displaying the donations or a monetary contribution this would be also very gratefully accepted. Many thanks everyone.

First Theme: **Graduation Gourmet Treats**.

Second Theme: **Relax and Pamper**.

Starting **Sunday March 4th, 2012**, A Theme Basket will be located in the Activities Office at the ground floor of the HS building for collecting items. Last day of collection will be **Wednesday March 14, 2012**.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Samia Wadman on 012-103-7880 e-mail samiaw@aol.com, Andrea Smithinsky 0122-000-1460 andreasmithinsky@yahoo.com.

Samia Wadman