



# City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL   Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL   Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL   Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

February 22, 2021

Dear CHS Family:

Our school administration, IB Diploma Program Coordinator, district leadership, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) have carefully reviewed our ability to safely administer IB examinations at City Honors in May 2021. We have also examined the current requirements for distancing within our school building and the number of examination proctors required by IB. Taking into account all information currently available, the IB has decided that City Honors will again follow the “non-exam route” for May 2021. The IB has determined that 29% of its schools around the world will be non-examination schools this May.

What does the “non-exam route” mean? As you might expect, it means that our students will not physically sit for IB examinations in May. But it also means that a combination of internal assessment coursework and teacher-predicted grades will be used to award final grades from the IB, similar to what took place for our students in May 2020. During grade-awarding for “non-exam” schools, appropriate grade boundaries are set by IB with an understanding of the disruption experienced in teaching and learning. IB grades will be distributed between schools and students to ensure each individual qualification is an accurate reflection of achievement and that they can be fairly compared with one another. (Please note that the following courses and experiences, which do not rely on May examinations will have the grades determined as they usually would: IB Visual Arts, IB Film, the IB Extended Essay, and IB Theory of Knowledge.)

It is important to understand that we saw no deterioration in last year’s IB results for our students. As an average, student scores actually improved under this approach. However, with the May exam eliminated, this does mean that students must redouble their efforts in classwork and internal assessments. Additionally, as college acceptance and academic scholarship offers are typically provisional and subject to review of final transcripts, seniors will need to continue to maintain their grades.

As with last school year, IB does not anticipate any impact on the value of college course credit for those students taking part in the “non-exam route.” Students must, of course, still do well enough in each IB course to meet the grade that provides credit available at the college/university they will be attending.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child’s IB experience at City Honors. Should you have any questions, please [visit this link](#) for more information regarding the elimination of May IB examinations and do not hesitate to contact CHS IB Diploma Program Coordinator, Mrs. Banas at [ebanas@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ebanas@buffaloschools.org).

Sincerely,

William A. Kresse, Ph.D.  
Principal

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