



WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL

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International Baccalaureate Office

To IB Students and Parents of the Class of 2012:

Congratulations on completing your first year of Theory of Knowledge. One more semester to go! The final semester of Theory of Knowledge/Extended Essay will be the most challenging so far. As we finish up the curriculum for the course, students will be required to complete two major assessments as well as turn in their Extended Essay research paper.

The first of these assessments is the completion of an essay on any one of ten provided prompts. Although we haven't covered enough material for students to complete many of the prompts, it is recommended that students spend some time reviewing the prompts and engaging in independent research so they will be prepared for this assessment which makes up 2/3 of their TOK grade. For more information on this assessment, please see the included handout labeled *Theory of knowledge prescribed titles*.

The second major assessment will be an Oral Presentation based on any topic that students can connect to the TOK curriculum. Students are asked to be creative in their selection of a topic as well as their choice of presentation format. This assessment will be in December 2011.

The most challenging of the assessments is the Extended Essay. At this time, students should be completing the first draft of their Extended Essay. This research paper is required to contain 3500 to 4000 words and numerous sources. The final draft of this paper will be due at the conclusion of the first quarter of your child's senior year. Students who do not receive a passing grade on this assessment **will not** receive their IB Diploma. I have not assigned summer reading so TOK students can continue working on and refining their Extended Essays for their senior year. It is vital that students arrive to school in the fall with a paper with which they will comfortably submitting to a staff member for final revision. Each year, procrastination is the biggest enemy of the students engaged in this process. Any and all parent support and reinforcement is helpful. With this in mind, I recommend parents ask to see their child's Extended Essay at some point this summer to make sure they are actively engaged in this task.

Sincerely,

William Funk
Theory of Knowledge Teacher