**Pre-I.B. Inquiry Skills**

Location: Building 26 Room 208

Instructor: Mr. David Koch

Email: david.koch@osceolaschools.net

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose” (Zora Neale Hurston).

**Course Overview:**

Welcome to Pre-I.B. Inquiry Skills! This course is designed to expose students to I.B. core curriculum and the academic rigor they will encounter during the I.B. Diploma program. Students will develop research, academic writing, critical thinking, organization, and study skills. The assigned coursework aims to challenge students as they prepare for success in the I.B. Diploma Program.

**Tips for Success:**

* First priority: Your health and well-being. Taking care of your health and well-being is essential as both a human and a student. Please remember to:

o Stay hydrated.

o Get at least 7-9 hours of sleep each night.

o Manage stress with strategies that work for you (ex: stretching, journaling, etc)

o Ask for help when you need it.

* Keep track of upcoming deadlines.
* Come to class with a positive attitude and readiness to participate. All voices are welcomed in our classroom. Myself and your peers want to hear what you have to share.

**Supplies:**

*Please contact Ms. Politano via email if you need assistance with supplies.*

* One 5-subject notebook
* 2 packs of Post-It Notes
* 2 packs of colored pencils
* Two four-packs of highlighter (yellow, pink, blue, green)
* Pens (blue or black ink)
* Folder
* Student Planner or Homework Agenda

**Personal Devices, Electronics, and Cellphones:**

Aligning with Florida State and Osceola district policy, usage of personal electronic devices and cell phones is not permitted unless authorized by Mr. Koch. In order to maintain an engaged classroom environment, students must power off personal devices and store them in their backpacks.

**TEACHER CONTACT**

I will respond to all E-mails in a timely manner, usually within 24 hours except for weekends and holidays. You can reach me at [david.koch@osceolaschools,net](mailto:david.koch@osceolaschools,net)

E-mails received after 4:00 P.M. are often unseen by Mr. Koch until 7:00 A.M. the next school day. Please keep that in mind when expecting a response from him.

**CONFERENCES**

I am available to assist students before school, after school and during lunch. However, the student must see me and make an appointment. It is possible that I will request a student to make arrangements for extra assistance, and it is the student’s responsibility to respond to that request. This request will be documented and signed by the student.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students must produce original work that accurately represents their abilities in order to preserve the learning process. In accordance with SDOC’s Code of Student Conduct, as well as I.B. policy, students must not deliberately or inadvertently cheat or plagiarize. This includes, **but is not limited to**: copying work from the internet or another student, allowing another student to copy *your* work, using artificial intelligence to generate responses/solve problems, failing to cite sources, and incorrectly citing sources.

**Absences and Late Work:**

In accordance with school board policy, students will have two days per every excused absence to complete makeup work. An absence is considered “excused” when proper documentation is provided to the front office.

All other late work falls under the following policy: Students are expected to submit work with the corresponding due date listed in Canvas. If students need extra time, they can request an extension via email or in person. Late work is placed on the bottom of my grading pile and will be graded when Mr. Koch finishes grading all other work.

**Grade Configuration:**

Classwork 50%

Participation 10%

Agenda Check’s 10%

Subject Notebook Checks 10%

Projects and Papers 20%

**Grade Distribution:**

* A = 90-100%
* B = 80-89%
* C = 70-79%
* D = 60-69%
* F = 50-59%