

Pre-IB Inquiry Skills



Course Description

Welcome to Inquiry Skills with Mr. Benton! This course is designed to support to rest of the pre-DP and IB curriculum by providing students a solid base of academic skills. These include time management, study strategies, research methods, and test preparation, as well as information on memory, learning styles, ethics, and stress reduction.

Aside from fostering a firm foundation of study skills, this course will introduce freshmen to the attributes of IB Learner Profile. Teaching is driven by inquiry and is focused on effective teamwork and collaboration, making room for differentiation to to meet the needs of all learners.

Classroom Policies

Expectations

I expect you to come to class on time and prepared. It is important that you bring completed assignments and all of the necessary materials to every class meeting.

I also expect you to be mentally present. This means you are avoiding distractions and actively reflecting on your progress and taking ownership over the new skills you gain and the existing skills you continue to refine in this course.

Absences

It is entirely the student's responsibility to identify and complete any make-up work due to either excused or unexcused absences. Students are referred first to ManageBac, the schedule board (as posted in class and online at bentonenglish.com), and their classmates to determine what was missed.

This should not be done at the expense of the current lesson! If additional tutoring is needed to make up the material (due, for example, to a missed lecture), then please schedule tutoring with Mr. Benton. If you missed turning in an assignment, it is due the next day you are in school.

If you missed being assigned work, you have the same due date as everyone else unless you negotiate a different date with Mr. Benton outside of regular class time. If you missed a quiz or test, you must make it up the next day you are at school. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the make-up.

Late Work

Don't do it. Late work is generally unacceptable. Any work turned in one day late will be docked 50%. Work turned in two days late will receive a zero. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, it is due the next day you are present at school. Be aware that I have access to all attendance records via Focus. Long-term assignments are an exception to this policy. All long-term assignments are due on the due date. Please make arrangements for your work to make it to school even if you don't. You may always turn assignments in early. Technical difficulties with ManageBac do not exempt you from this policy.

Please be aware that I reserve the right to consider extenuating circumstances with regards to late and/or make up work. However, it is up to the student to have that discussion with me in a timely fashion.

Academic Honesty

All student work must be the work of the individual student. No collaboration of any kind is permitted unless explicitly permitted *in writing* by Mr. Benton. This includes:

- copying work or any portion of an essay or quiz from another student.
- being in possession of the classwork, homework, etc. of another student.
- using a computer-generated item made by another student.
- sending or receiving info to/from another student or an electronic device on a quiz
- being in possession of unauthorized information during a test.
- advice, guidance, copying, letting someone copy you, use of uncited sources of any kind (print or digital), and "just helping out"

Any instances of malpractice, including cheating or plagiarism, will result in an immediate zero on the assignment and a discipline referral to the IB administrator. Parents will be contacted. Mr. Benton takes a broad view of what defines cheating, so when in doubt, don't do it.

All students have been provided a copy of the IB Honor Code, and a copy is posted in the classroom. Any questions regarding the use and application of the Honor Code should be directed to Mr. Benton. It is presumed that students comprehend the Honor Code and will comply with it.

Necessary Supplies

Students must come to class prepared every day. Lack of materials can result in an unfortunate and completely avoidable loss of points on classwork and homework grades. Necessary supplies include the following:

- plenty of notebook paper
- several blue or black pens
- 4 different colors of highlighters
- a 1" three-ring binder with dividers
- a pack of small Post-it notes
- 3x5 index card

Teacher's Wish List

There are some supplies that are needed for the classroom that are not supplied by the school. Some of these needs are:

- Canon #245 & 246 print cartridges
 - 5-Hour Energy Shots
 - disinfecting wipes
 - hand sanitizer
 - paper towels
 - hand soap
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Tips for a Great Year ...

- Do not allow assignments to pass you by. *Everything* counts!
- Don't be absent. Missing class will seriously affect your grade. Vacations and appointments need to be planned around your school schedule. If you wake up and don't feel well – come to school anyway! Unless you are in the hospital, vomiting, or have a high fever – you need to *be here*.
- Find a way to *get involved*. It will make a big difference in the type of college you get into and the scholarships you could earn. It will also make a huge difference in how much you enjoy school. Colleges are moving away from students who are involved in a million things to students who started during their freshmen year in a club, organization, or sport and continued all the way through. Do not put this off because it will affect your future.
- When it comes time to apply for college, *ninth grade counts* on your transcripts. If you don't like a subject or a teacher – you need to tough it out! That's no reason to ruin your own future. Seniors say over and over again that their future changed because of what they chose *not* to do during their freshmen year.
- Get to know your *guidance counselor*, and make sure she knows who you are! This person will be filling out recommendation forms for you when college applications roll around.
- Middle school is very much *over*. Now you have more freedom and more choices. No one holds your hand anymore. Blowing off assignments could cause you to fail. Colleges are *very* interested in your overall GPA, so every class is important. Enjoy your new freedom, but realize that you also have new responsibilities.
- Communicate with your teachers. Email, Remind message, and stop by: many of your teachers are very eager to respond to questions and will be significantly more merciful when approached one-on-one.

Student Name: _____

Inquiry Skills

Class Period: _____

After fully reading the syllabus, please sign, complete, detach, and return this page by the due date posted on the agenda board or – if you’re entering the course later in the year – two school days after receiving this syllabus packet. Please keep the rest of the syllabus in your binder until the end of the school year.

Syllabus Agreement

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and fully submit to, personally agree with, and shall willfully comply with all of the policies, rules, requirements, expectations, and consequences covered throughout this syllabus for Mr. Benton’s Pre-IB Inquiry Skills course.

Student’s Signature: _____

Parent’s Signature: _____

Teacher’s Signature: _____

Parent Info (please fill in all that apply)

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Daytime phone: () - -

Evening phone: () - - (if different)

Email address:

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Daytime phone: () - -

Evening phone: () - - (if different)

Email address:

(If more space is needed for more family contacts, please attach additional sheets.)

Student Info

Your email:

Your phone:

() - -

What school did you attend last year?

Do you have reliable access to a computer at home?

Do you have reliable access to the internet at home?

Are there any clubs or teams that you are currently part of or considering joining at SPHS?

Why are you in the IB Program?

What do you consider to be your greatest academic strengths?

What do you hope to get out of this class (*aside from* a high grade)?

What is your biggest motivation to do well in high school?

What is one thing about yourself that someone would never know just by looking at you?