

CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)

Creativity can be interpreted as imaginatively as possible, to cover the widest range of arts and related activities----non-IB classes which engage students in fine and practical arts fit in well here, as do many extracurricular opportunities which involve the arts. And, remember too, that in any endeavor that requires problem-solving, creativity is a key element.

Activity includes any opportunity for physical participation---from organized sports within the school or community to PE classes to marching band to yard work on the weekends to active involvement in service projects such as Habitat for Humanity or Walking for a Cure.

Service involves giving of one's time and talents to assist others within the school and/or the local or extended community without expectation of reward or compensation. A multitude of opportunities to help others through the school clubs and organizations, through local non-profit agencies, through environmental and international initiatives are available to our students.

IB requires that students have ongoing experiences in all aspects of CAS throughout their years in school. While the International Baccalaureate Organization no longer requires students to complete a specific number of hours, there is an expectation that CAS will be an integral part of every IB student's education from beginning to end. Students should demonstrate involvement in creative pursuits, in physical activity, and in service to others throughout their high school career.

Additionally, the state of Florida stipulates that for students to qualify for the highest level of the Bright Futures Scholarship award, students must show evidence of at least 100 hours of community service, including an extended project, earned during their high school years. So, CAS experiences are documented, both in terms of duration (length of time in terms of dates involved in the event or activity) as well as in terms of actual hours spent, in order to meet the requirements of both the Florida DOE and the International Baccalaureate.

Pre-IB CAS (9/10) Expectations: By April of 10th grade (Sophomore year) each student should have completed and recorded a minimum of 25 hours of Service, as well as at least two documented experiences in the areas of both Creativity and Activity, totaling at least 25 hours each. (Non-IB elective classes can be utilized to satisfy this requirement.)

IB Diploma Program (11/12) CAS: Students are required to participate and document ongoing CAS experiences over a period of at least 18 months from the end of 10th grade through their senior year. Students must demonstrate, and document mastery of multiple learning outcomes identified by IB over the course of these experiences. A key component of this aspect of the IB Diploma Program is the completion of an Extended Project which incorporates at least two of the three strands of CAS. The recommended duration of this project is a minimum of 75 hours over a period of at least four to six weeks so that the Florida Bright Futures Community Service requirement is met.

All CAS experiences and projects must be approved and documented, signed by supervising adults, and submitted by specified deadlines. Copies of the required forms are available in the IB Office. **IB Freshmen and Sophomores** create a portfolio of their experiences; it can be in either electronic form or hard copy, such as a scrapbook or well organized folder. **IB Juniors and Seniors** are required to use the online ManageBac system to document their CAS experiences during the 11th and 12th grade. *Hard copies of signature forms to verify experiences may supplement the electronic portfolios.*

Local CAS Opportunities are posted on our website and on the bulletin board in the IB office. Many of our teachers are active in our community and can act as advisors to share ideas with you on how to find meaningful CAS experiences. Extended service projects require approval from the IB Coordinator's office; any endeavors which involve the handling of money/donations require approval from the administration. Fund raising events may NOT be scheduled during the school day.

Most IB students are involved in a variety of experiences which can easily be credited toward successful completion of their CAS portfolio. The greatest challenge comes in maintaining consistent documentation of all of those experiences.

Documentation Requirements: ALL THREE elements listed below must be present for a CAS experience to receive final acknowledgement as complete.

TimeLog: Dates & times for all experiences, verified and signed by an adult supervisor, complete with contact information.

Evidence: Photos, videos, copies of online media posts, news clippings, programs, fliers, tickets, receipts, rosters, attendance records---tangible, credible material which shows your presence and participation.

Reflection: Individual written expression which provides meaningful consideration of which of the IB CAS learning outcomes apply to the experience, and specific details on how the student feels he/she has grown/benefitted in each area from the experience.

CAS Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Identify your own strengths and develop areas for growth.** Students are able to see themselves as individuals with various abilities and skills, of which some are more developed than others.
- 2. Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken, developing new skills in the process.** A new challenge may be an unfamiliar experience or an extension of an existing one. The newly acquired or developed skills may be shown through new experiences or through increased expertise in an established area.
- 3. Demonstrate how to initiate and plan a CAS experience.** Students can articulate the stages from conceiving an idea to executing a plan for individual or collaborative CAS experiences. Students may show their knowledge and awareness by building on a previous experience or by launching a new idea or process.
- 4. Show commitment to, and perseverance in, CAS experiences.** Students demonstrate regular involvement and active engagement in CAS.
- 5. Demonstrate the skills and recognize the benefits of working collaboratively.** Students are able to identify, demonstrate and critically discuss the benefits and challenges of collaboration gained through CAS experiences.
- 6. Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance.** Students are able to identify and demonstrate their understanding of global issues, make responsible decisions and take appropriate action in response to the issue either locally, nationally or internationally.
- 7. Recognize and consider the ethics of choices and actions.** Students show awareness of the consequences of choices and actions in planning and carrying out CAS experiences.