

# Ridgeview Academy of Advanced Studies

The *Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)* requirement of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Class of 2016

## Presenters

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# CAS in the Diploma Program



- Creativity Action and Service (CAS) is a self-directed IB core curriculum requirement
- IB Core: This consists of Theory of Knowledge, CAS, and the Extended Essay
- The IB Core supports central IB student learning outcomes

- The Diploma Program Model



# CAS and the IB learner profile



- The elements of the core have three aims: to support the academic disciplines, to foster international awareness, to develop self-awareness and to foster personal identity
- CAS has eight learning outcomes that tie to the IB learner's profile. Each outcome must be supported by at least one activity and be supported by the evidence produced by this activity.
- All three strands of CAS (Creativity Action and Service) must be present during CAS, dividing CAS activities into about fifty hours of each strand.

- Characteristics of the IB learner profile



# The eight CAS learning areas



**There must be a minimum of four proposed outcomes per activity. Each student must show that s/he has:**

1. increased his or her awareness of his or her own strengths and areas for growth
2. undertaken new challenges
3. planned and initiated activities
4. Worked collaboratively with others
5. shown perseverance and commitment in his or her activities

6. engaged with issues of global importance
7. considered the ethical implications of his or her actions
8. developed new skills



# Balance in the three CAS categories



- All three strands of CAS (Creativity Action and Service) must be present during CAS, dividing CAS activities into about fifty hours of each strand.
- At least two of these categories must be present in each activity, though all three *may* be present.

For example: Creativity and Action



# Key criteria for eligible activities



- CAS must be real, purposeful activities with significant outcomes.
- CAS must consist of personal challenges (not continuations of what students already do) that are achievable in scope.
- CAS must be a thoughtfully considered activity that has been planned, approved in advance, implemented and whose outcome has been reported.
- Activities must occur across time (they must be of significant duration) and throughout 18 months; there must be one project that exceeds fifty hours.
- Activities must not replicate requirements of other subject areas in the program.
- No activity may be less than ten hours.



# Required international activity: Personal Energy Transportation (PET)<sup>®</sup> Penney Farms



## RHS International Project

PET was developed in response to a need to help people throughout the world who can not walk and who are in rural areas without hard surfaces where a standard wheelchair could not function.

PET is located in Penney Farms.

All students must complete at least ten service hours at the PET project.



# Who can be an activity supervisor?



All activities must be supervised.

The supervisor

- Should have expertise and the ability to provide support for an activity
- Cannot be a parent or relative
- Students cannot supervise own hours (log hours of CAS work at home)
- Supervisors cannot be another student (for example, the president of a club cannot supervise hours)

Service cannot be self-enriching or be provided to a friend, neighbor or relative.

# Required reflections before, during and after CAS



- CAS must be planned in collaboration with the supervisor and stakeholders.
- CAS paper proposal forms and matching on-line ManageBac forms must be pre-approved in order for CAS to occur.
- Reflections for activities should be commensurate with the length and goals of an activity.
- Reflections should explicitly state how each learning outcome has been met.
- Reflections may consist of logs, photographs and scanned documents.
- A paper completion form must be completed and signed by each supervisor and must be turned in within two weeks of the end of an activity.



# Understanding *Creativity, Action, and Service*



- From the IBO's official CAS guide:
  - *Creativity*: arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking
  - *Action*: physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work elsewhere in the program
  - *Service*: an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student
- An activity may encompass one, two, or three of the CAS categories.
- The CAS project, however, must have all three categories present.
  - Must be 50 to 75 hours
  - Completed during junior or senior year
  - Must involve initiating a service activity
- A “reasonable balance” must be maintained between hours in each of the three categories.
- Proper wording of learning goals may provide the diploma candidate with some flexibility in terms of the category or categories in which he or she would like to have hours added.

# CAS and ethical education



- A component of the IB mission statement includes developing learners that have ethical principles, attitudes, and behaviors.
- Personal growth and the development of personal identity are encouraged during the course of CAS activities.
  - Attitudes towards others are encouraged to be examined.
  - Ideas and preconceptions may be challenged.
  - IB world schools have a responsibility to support students in ethical decision making.



Image source: <http://bisbcas.blogspot.com/2010/09/understanding-learning-outcomes.html>



# CAS and *Theory of Knowledge (TOK)*



- Both CAS and TOK are designed with an emphasis on personal reflection and the development of self-awareness.
- A dilemma related to how to react or to respond to a particular person or group of people during a CAS activity may be somewhat based on a similar type of theoretical dilemma that was explored in TOK class.

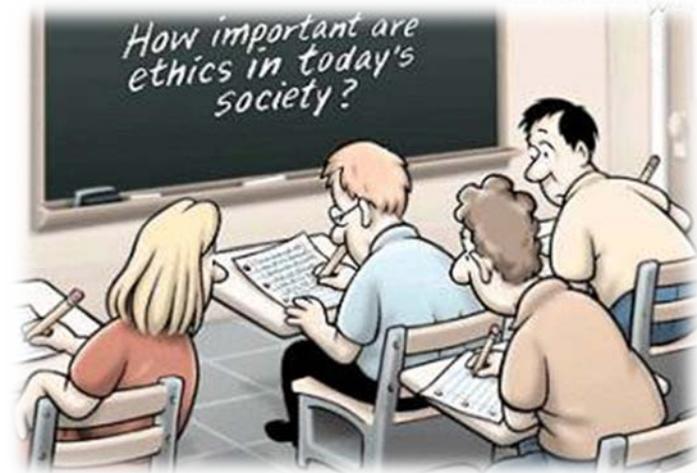


Image source: socialmediaworld.com

# Responsibilities of the student



- Students should choose activities or initiate new activities on their own, though the school does possess the right to make a particular activity mandatory.
  - Some students may be able to do this entirely on their own, others may need considerable guidance from their mentors.
- According the official guide published by the IBO, students are required to:
  - Self-review at the beginning of their CAS experiences (recall the aforementioned summer reflections)
  - Plan activities, execute activities, and reflect upon activities
  - Complete at least one interim review and one final review
  - Maintain a balance of activities
  - Complete a project that involves initiating a new activity
  - Keep records of their participation in activities
  - Show evidence of achievement of the eight CAS learning outcomes
    - Demonstrated through the CAS portfolio that is maintained in the ManageBac online system

# Political and religious activities



- Political activity

- The IBO leaves the decision of whether or not to accept political activity towards CAS entirely up to the individual school, though it encourages schools to consider whether or not the activity may cause or worsen social divisions.
- It has long been the policy of Ridgeview to *not* accept political activity towards CAS.

- Religious activity

- Religious devotion, or any activity that can be interpreted as proselytizing, is *not* eligible for CAS.
- Work done by a religious group in the wider community *may* qualify for CAS, provided that the objectives are purely secular.
  - A mission trip, for example, *may* qualify.
- Service (even of a secular nature) that takes place entirely within a religious community can not meet the aims and learning outcomes of the CAS program.
  - Vacation Bible School, for example, is *not* eligible for CAS.

## What else, specifically, is ineligible to be a CAS activity?



- Ideally, the nature of *CAS* would be concentrated upon rather than the activity becoming a points-counting exercise. The following explanations are nonetheless provided.
- An activity is ineligible to be counted towards the *CAS* requirement if it has any of the following attributes:
  - The activity is already part of the student’s work in the diploma program.
    - Example: He or she already has to sing in a concert for chorus class, or learn Italian for Italian class.
  - The student is compensated with a financial or other tangible reward.
    - Example: He or she is being paid for the activity.
  - The work is overwhelmingly simple and repetitive in nature.
    - Example: He or she will spend the entire time returning library books to their shelves
  - The activity is determined to be dangerous.
    - Example: He or she will learn to free-dive to depths of 100 feet.
  - The activity is entirely or mostly a passive pursuit.
    - Example: He or she would like to visit a museum or attend a sporting event.

# What else, specifically, is ineligible to be a CAS activity? (continued)



- The activity is any form of duty within a family.
  - Example: He or she will train the family's new puppy.
  - Reminder: A family member cannot supervise any CAS activity.
- The activity represents religious devotion that could be interpreted to be proselytizing.
- The activity does not have a leader or responsible adult on-site to verify the nature of the student's participation.
- The activity causes or worsens social divisions.
- Special note
  - Volunteering at a senior care facility or at a children's care facility is *ineligible* if:
    - The student has no idea how the home operates.
    - The student's main responsibility will be making sandwiches, or executing a similar simplistic, overwhelmingly repetitive task.
    - The student will have no contact with the seniors or the children at the home.

# Thank you for your attention



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