

UNDERAGE PAGE

Last chance to be heard

• There are only a couple more weeks before the UnderAge Page goes on summer vacation. Before you get your swim trunks on and break out the sunscreen, why don't you tell us where you are going for the summer. Seniors: Going on a final trip, or any special preparations for freshman year of college? Or, do you just want to recap what a great year it's been? Let us hear your voice before diving into summer!

Submit your year-end article and photos to:

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PUT TO THE

IB, AP students go the extra mile with college credit up for grabs

BY MADELINE KEYSER
TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

A year's worth of work comes down to a single test, for some. For Temple High School students enrolled in International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, these tests offer the chance at possibly getting a head start on earning college credit.

IB is a rigorous course students can take to obtain the highest class of diploma offered at Temple High. It consists of working on a lot of lengthy internal assessments, taking an extra after-school class junior year called Theory of Knowledge, as well as projects, more reading, essays and plenty of extra studying.

Students also have to complete the basic course requirements to graduate, such as P.E. and fine arts credits, in addition to IB classes and course-work.

IB students must also complete 150 CAS (Community, Action, Service) volunteer hours. Students can obtain these hours by actively volunteering or participating in church activities or sporting events.

They must also write an Extended Essay, which is 4,000 words about a topic of the student's choice.

Students take tests in six subjects, three "higher level" tests and three

"standard level tests." The tests are graded on a one-to-seven scale, and the student must get a minimum of 24 total points to receive the IB certified diploma.

If a student doesn't receive the required number of points, the student will still get IB Certificates for a passing grade in the class, but will not receive the special diploma.

A State Senate bill (SB111) was passed in 2005 stating that all state schools are required to give students

high school diploma while taking the same classes as other IB students, but not have to complete internal assessments or CAS volunteer hours. Even if a student chooses not to receive the diploma, they may still take the tests and receive credit for a passing score of four or higher.

Or, a student may choose to avoid IB all together and

A State Senate bill (SB111) was passed in 2005 stating that all state schools are required to give students who graduate with an IB diploma 24 college credit hours.

Furthermore, the law states that state schools are required to give college credit to students who score a four or higher on an AP exam for their correlating classes.

who graduate with an IB diploma 24 college credit hours.

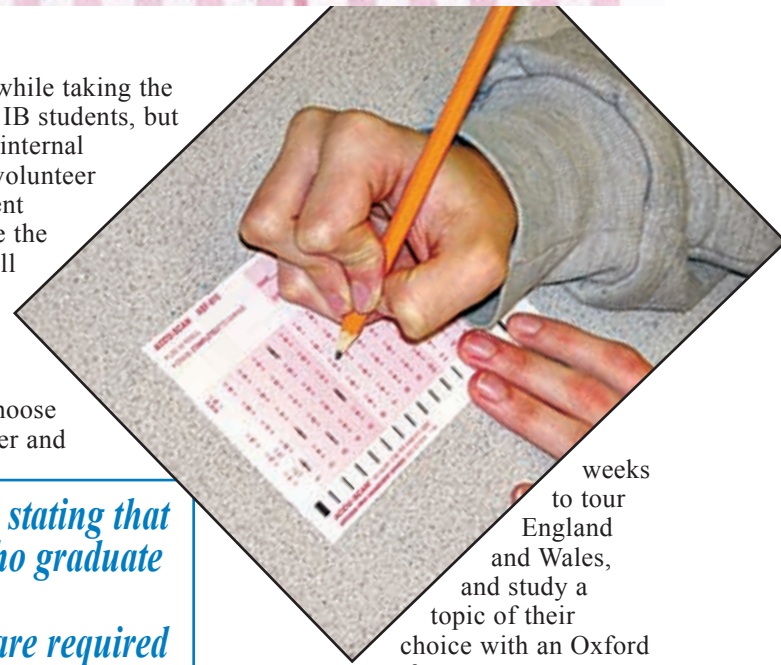
Furthermore, the law states that state schools are required to give college credit to students who score a four or higher on an AP exam for their correlating classes.

An IB student may choose to receive certificates for course completion, but opt out of the extra work required to receive the IB diploma. In other words, a student can receive a regular

take Advanced Placement classes.

AP is another type of course students can take in high school to earn college credit. However, the course-work engages students in different types of discussions and doesn't require the extra assessments and volunteer hours.

Another feature exclusive to the IB students is the study abroad program. This program sends students from all over the world to Oxford for three



weeks to tour England and Wales, and study a topic of their choice with an Oxford professor.

Students must go through an application process to go to Oxford, but once they get in, it's a rewarding experience. The study takes students on excursions to London, Westminster Abbey, Stonehenge, Tintern Abbey, Blenheim Palace and many other places, in addition to getting to see the town and university of Oxford.

While the IB program consists of extra laborious hours of studying, it turns out to be a rewarding experience. IB teaches students how to think through and solve problems differently, and prepares students for college by setting good study habits.

Temple senior wins state speech contest

Receives invite to speak at national convention

BY OLIVIA RAMOS
TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

Temple High senior Ariane Flores competed in the Texas Association for Public Transportation Annual Speech Contest at the state level, taking 1st place in her grade, as well as 1st place overall, winning a \$1,000 savings bond.

This year's theme was "Big Yellow and Built to Protect: Safety Features of My School Bus."

Each year the Texas Association for Public Transportation (TAPT) selects a new theme for the speech contest involving information about school buses. They must memorize their speech completely and recite it in front of about six judges.

"Everyone has the same facts, but it is up to the individual who researched details often overlooked, was more creative with their intro, and who spoke both eloquently and persuasively," said Flores.

Flores won 1st place at the regional level back in February, to advance her to the state competition.

At the state level, all of the competitors are taped while they recite their speech. This year, Flores' tape was sent off to the Board of Trustees for TAPT, and they were so impressed with her speech, they invited her to their National Conference to perform her speech. It is an all



Courtesy photo

Temple High senior Ariane Flores with Walt Prothro, Director of Transportation for TISD. Flores is the winner of the Texas Association for Public Transportation Annual Speech Contest. Flores received a \$1,000 savings bond and is invited to the National Conference in Kentucky in June, where she will give her award-winning speech, then attend a dinner and ball.

expense paid trip to Kentucky.

As the overall winner, Flores is invited to the June Conference where she will perform her speech, and then attend a dinner and ball afterwards.

"I'm just happy to have had this opportunity," Flores said. "It's definitely a good way to end my senior year."

Best of '09 prom

Belton High School



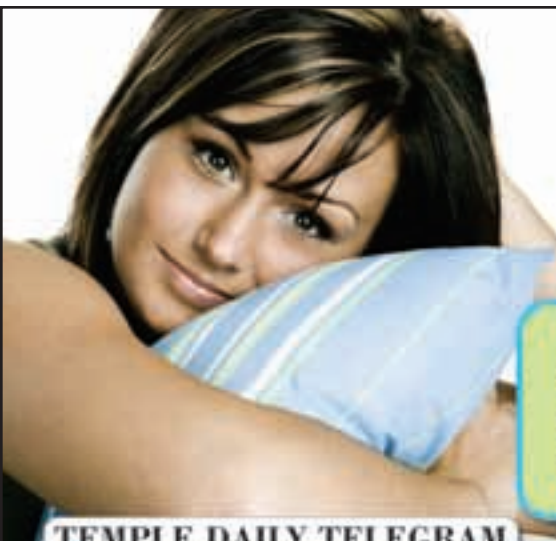
Roxanne Bodkin and Samuel Davis snicker behind surgical masks, taking a humorous stab at swine flu before the Belton prom.

Photo submitted by Robin Bodkin



Temple High School

Belton High School junior Brian Fielder stands in a quiet setting with Temple High School senior Ariane Flores before the Temple prom. Photo submitted by Ariane Flores



Bored much? Get involved!

This page is all about teenagers - their interests, their activities and what they want to read. We accept stories, photos, graphics and ideas from any area teenager.

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