

The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation and the IB Parent's Association: Working Together Equals Success for Everyone

The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation was established by IB parents and faculty over ten years ago. The objective of the Foundation is to fund educational programs directly related to the George Washington IB program. These programs include loans to students with need for the cost of IB exams and books; grants to teachers for advising on IB extended essays; requests by teachers for equipment, books, subscriptions, continuing education; loans to GW Model UN group the salary of IB College Counselor Dan Franklin; and other requests.

Through its tax exempt, 501(c)(3) status, the Foundation offers the opportunity for tax deductible contributions. The Foundation Board is comprised of IB parents, IB faculty, IB Program Director Suzanne Geimer, and alum parents. The board solicits grant requests each spring from faculty member for review and approval.

Approval of grants is highly dependent on the success of fund raising from the previous fall. Over the past three years the Foundation have been given the opportunity to meet a \$15,000 match challenge by another foundation. The challenge has been met successfully for the past three years and has allowed the Foundation to provide much more to the program in terms of grant approvals.

The IB Parent's Association was formed a number of years ago by IB parents to support the IB program at George Washington by organizing informational and educational meetings for IB parents and students. The Parent's Association hosts monthly meetings to provide information on topics such as the college application process, the IB curriculum, student mental health; student panels that discuss their IB experience or their college experiences, external speakers are hosted several times a year as well. In addition, the Parent's Association is comprised of numerous committees that coordinate the Senior Brunch, CAS, Teacher Appreciation, Diversity Appreciation, Recruiting, the IB Broadcaster and many more.

Fundraising for the IB Parent's Association contributes to the support of the meetings, the committee functions, the Broadcaster, a Quick Response fund for teachers to purchase needed items and also to an ongoing project that is of benefit to the entire student body. The IB Parent's Association is comprised of numerous volunteers. As a parent you will find opportunities to contribute in many capacities as well as time commitments that fit with your availability. The IB Parent's Association is also an excellent way to become acquainted with IB parents and faculty.

This fall you will be receiving contribution requests for these organizations. Both are extremely valuable to the success of the IB program at George Washington. Should you have additional questions regarding either organization, please feel free to contact IB Parent Association Co-Presidents Debi Road, Andrea Shea or Foundation President Jamie Kaplan.