Online IB Diploma Courses: What do they mean for your school?

IB Schools of Michigan (IBSOM)

November 2010

Brenda O'Connor – School Relationship Manager

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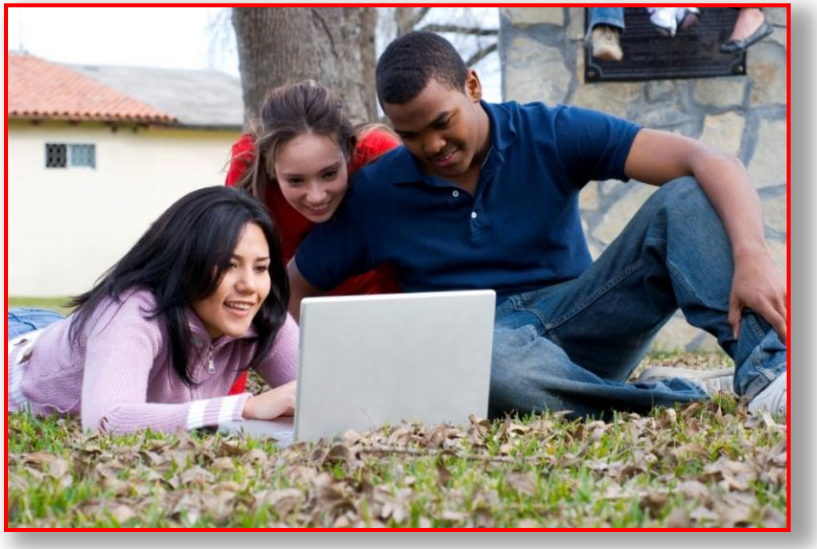
The IB vision

Online education and the International Baccalaureate

- Extend subject choice for students in IB Schools (IB Access Agenda)
- Create international and intercultural classrooms
- Develop 21st century skills that will equip students for life after school



About Pamoja Education

- Founded in 2009 to offer high quality DP online courses for IB Schools

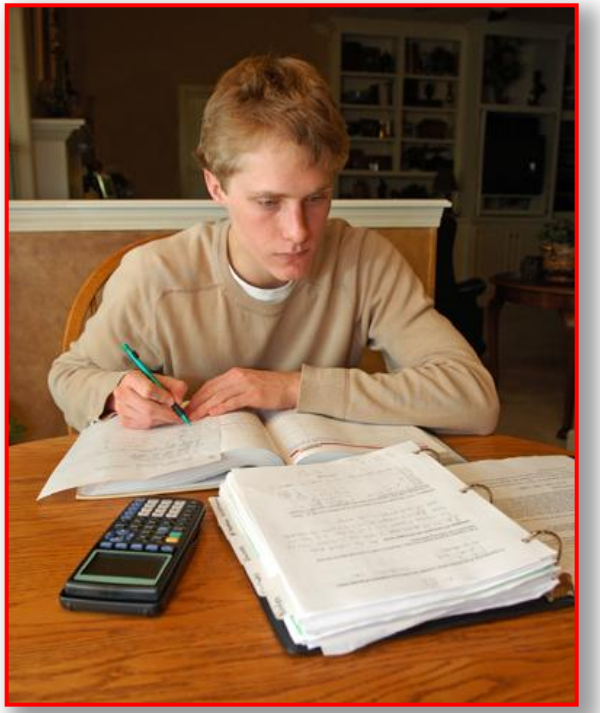
- A social enterprise, established by Pamoja Capital
  - social entrepreneurs and investors in alternative energy and education
  - profits benefit the McCall MacBain Foundation and its work in Sub-Saharan Africa

- Working in close cooperation with the IB
  - Development
  - Staffing
  - Quality assurance
  - Research

The commitment – Pamoja Education

Pamoja Education is committed to:

- Create 27 courses over a 5-year period, covering the 6 subject areas and the IB core
- Design courses using IB-approved Subject Matter Experts following the IB's strict course development and delivery guidelines
- Employ experienced IB teachers and support their continued professional development
- Invest as necessary to ensure that courses provide students and their schools with an online IB experience



The commitment – International Baccalaureate

The IB is committed to:

- Assist in recruitment of Subject Matter Experts and Teachers
- Support Pamoja Education during course development and delivery
- Provide the necessary dedicated resources within the IB
- Collaborate with Pamoja Education on research and development in subject areas which present special challenges online (e.g. Group 4 Subjects - experimental sciences and Group 1 and Group 2 languages)

Pamoja Education's "Project Jump Start"

- A successful "test run", initiated in September 2009
  - uniting 68 students
  - studying 4 subjects in 6 sections
  - residing in 16 countries
  - attending 22 IB World Schools
  - working with experienced IB teachers from 6 countries

Economics SL
Economics HL
Business and Management SL
ITGS HL

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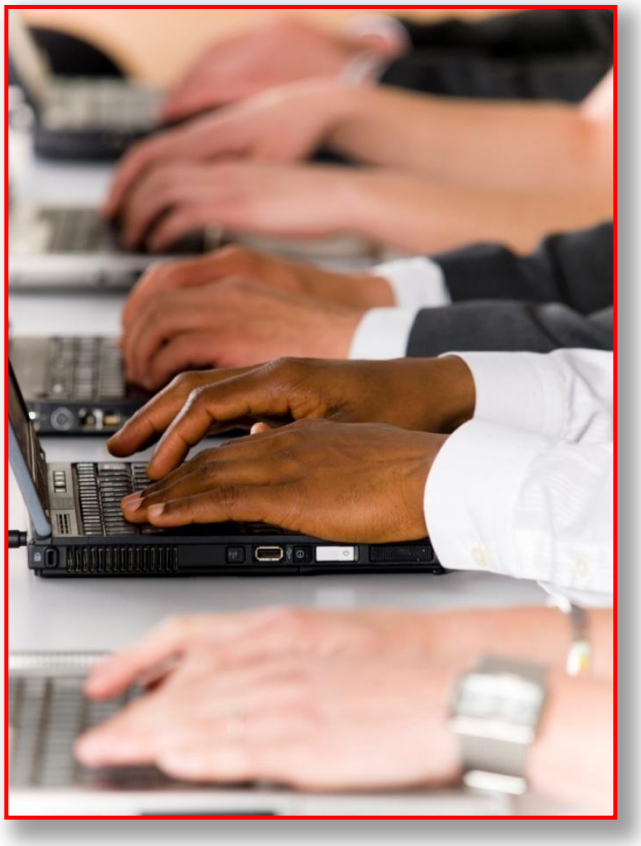
Jumpstart – where are they now?

- May 2010 Examination Session
  - Economics SL: 25 students
  - Business & Management SL:17 students
- September 2010 class resumes
  - Economics HL:17 students
  - ITGS HL: 5 students

Our approach to online education

- Link technology with teaching and the IB learner profile
- Facilitate effective communication between schools, students and teachers
- Teach small cohorts of students
- Integrate assessment
- Adhere to IB curriculum and quality standards (“IB-ness”) through
  - IBO course evaluation
  - in-class monitoring
  - annual external evaluation



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Delivering a true international classroom

- Limited to 25 students
  - Maximum of 5 students per section per school
- Student-centered
- Teacher facilitated
- Encourage collaboration
- Foster a global perspective

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Alignment with the IB's requirements for assessment

- Students complete the same internal and external IB assessments as f2f students
- The IB World School registers students taking an online IB course for external assessments
- Students complete their external assessments at their IB World School

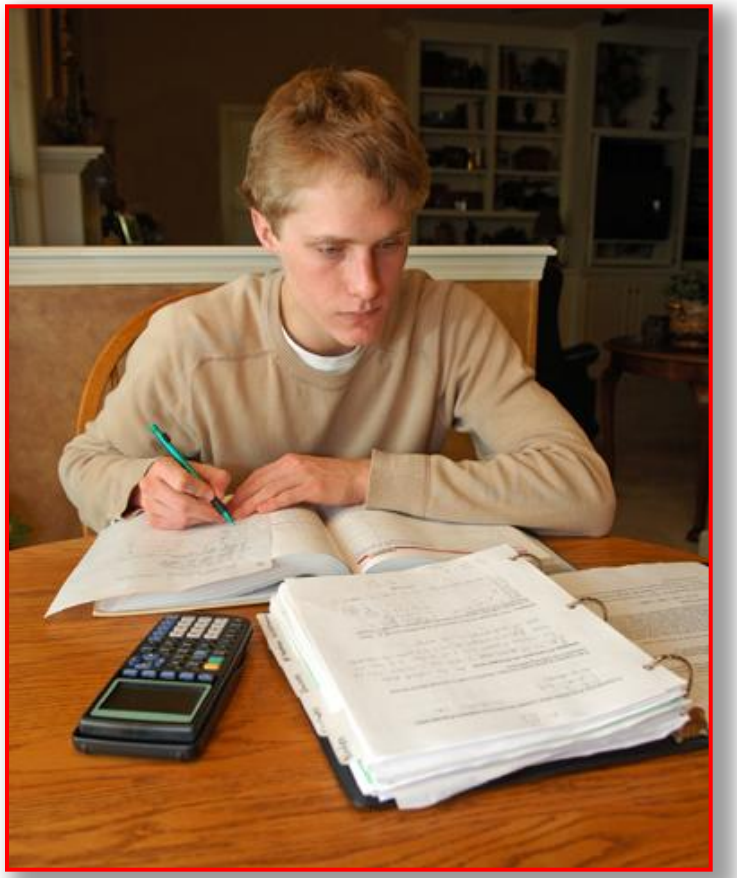
Online Grading – Formative Assessment

- Assessed according to specific descriptors regarding
  - Quality of work
  - Discussion participation
  - Application and analysis of concepts and theories
  - Organisation and presentation
  - Timeliness
  - Group Work

Online Grading – Summative Assessment

- Three to five summative assessments per standard term.

- All summative assessments are graded on the IB 1 to 7 scale



How we approach Internal Assessment

- As in traditional face to face courses, internal assessments are graded by the IB teachers and work samples are sent for formal moderation upon request by the IB

- The students' IB World School is responsible for entering the IA and Predicted Grade into IBIS and obtaining a signature on the IA cover sheet

Academic calendar and course delivery

- Delivered within the academic year
  - Courses delivered over two years
  - Semester-based schedule
  - September 15, 2010 – May 24, 2011
  - September 14, 2011 – April 24, 2012

- Structured weekly lessons
  - runs Wednesday to Tuesday
  - expect 5 – 7 hours per week (includes homework)

- Recommended as part of daily school schedule

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Web 2.0 Tools

Netvibes
subject-specific
current event news
articles and blogs

Elluminate
Virtual office and
classroom

Wiki's
Study guide
Interactive Notebook
Glossary

Podcasting
Audio and Video for
Mobile learning.

eTexts
Interactive textbooks

D2L (L.M.S)

Weekly Lessons and Activities
Weekly interactive checklists
Chat
Customised Course Homepages
Course Documents
My Locker
Technical Know-How-To's
Rubrics

Blogs
Writing for an audience

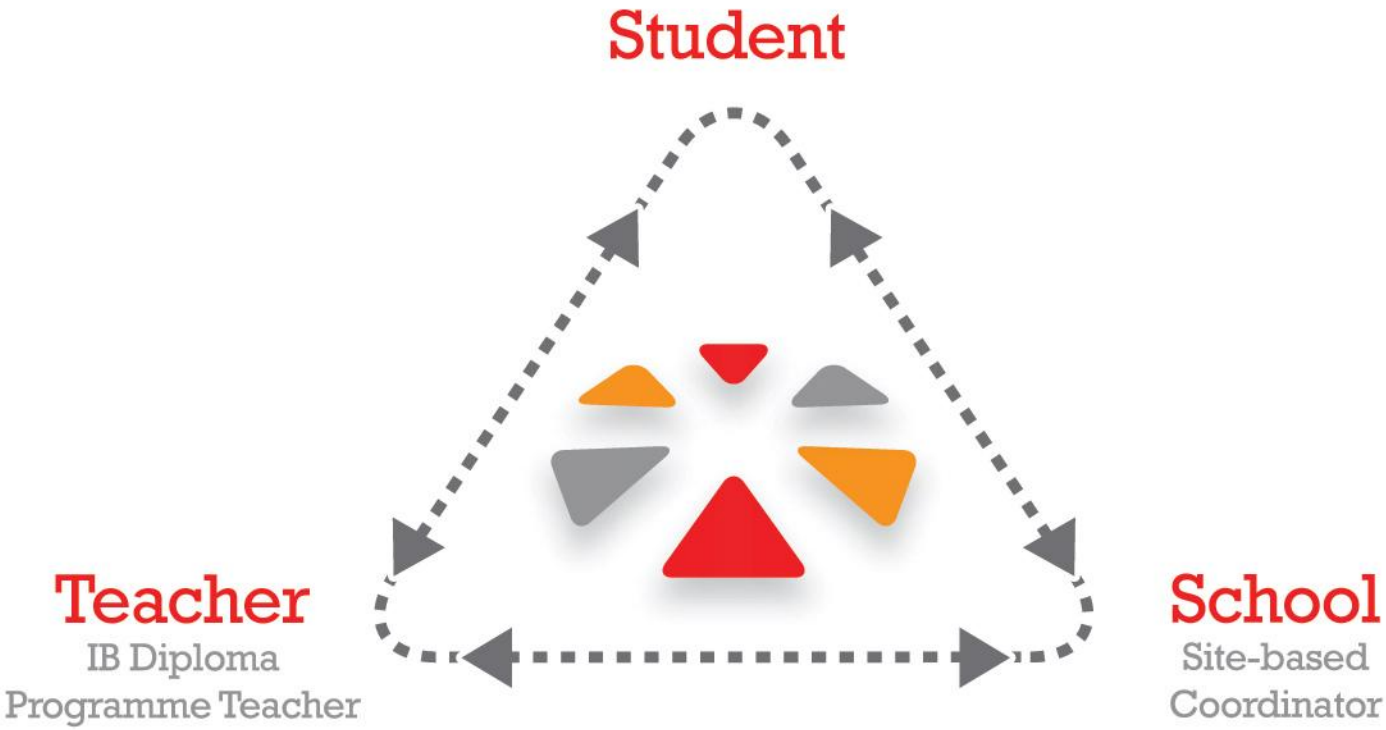
Online Concept Mapping
Using visual learning to
build comprehension

Wimba
Voice blogging

Google Docs
Collaborative Presentations

Diigo
Social bookmarking

Success requires effective communication and support



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We work with IB World schools to ensure student success

We provide

- Outstanding courses
- Balanced cohorts
- Excellent teachers, working under the guidance of our Principal
- A high degree of transparency regarding student performance
- A robust technology platform

The school provides

- A Site-based Coordinator, to serve as mentor to students and an adult point of contact for our teacher
- Selection of students with the necessary maturity and discipline to succeed in an online course
- Time during the student's schedule to work on the course

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Our online teaching staff

- Teach the online IB Diploma Program course by:
  - facilitating learning
  - student centred learning
  - interacting with the students
  - providing feedback
  - guiding online discussion
  - 10 hours per week

- Participate in professional development where they:
  - develop 21st century skills for effective online instruction
  - learn best practices in online instruction

Who would be the ideal student?

- Self-motivated
- Independent learner
- Good written communication skills
- Tech-friendly, though proficiency not necessary
- Interested in the subject

School Site-based Coordinator

- Monitors, advises and supports students taking online courses
- Links the students and the online teacher
- Acts as a teacher presence to parents of students taking online course
- Participates in professional development gaining transferrable skills

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September 2010 Cohort - What a classroom !!

- Pamoja Education Online Diploma Classes are:
  - ✓Uniting nearly 300 students, from 70 schools in 37 countries
    - North and Latin America: 116
    - Africa/Europe/Middle East: 87
    - Asia Pacific: 78
  - ✓Studying 7 subjects (3HL and 4SL) in 15 course sections
  - ✓Working with 11 IB teachers from: Netherlands, Ukraine, Hong Kong, UK, USA, China, Japan, India, South Korea and Bali.

September 2011 Planned course offering

Group 2

Mandarin *ab initio*

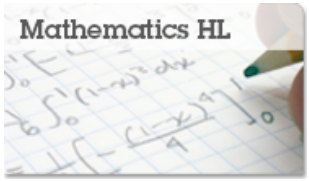
Group 1

German (Language A) HL

German (Language A) SL

Group 3

Group 5



Group 6

Film SL

Reasons why schools choose online courses

- Increased subject choice
- Scheduling flexibility
- Dealing with last minute “situations”
- Providing students with a truly global educational experience
- Teaching students a new approach to learning

Pricing

Course-by-Course Pricing for courses beginning September 2011

• Two-year Standard Level Course	US $950/year
• Two-year Higher Level Course	US $950/year

School Partnerships (savings up to $200 per seat)

• Level 1 Partnership (4 seats)	US $3,200/year
• Level 2 Partnership (8 seats)	US $6,200/year

For More Information

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