



## Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

515 N. Highland Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-529-5980 | Fax: 412-622-5983

September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the new school year at Pittsburgh Barack Obama Academy of International Studies where we offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) to all students. My name is Ms. Karen Bruno and I will be your child's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Individuals and Societies teacher this year. I would like to share some information to help your child have a successful academic year.

### The Course Description:

The students will gain knowledge in World Geography. There are 6 books used during the school year. We study the Foundations of Geography focused around the 5 Themes of Geography. We then engage in activities with the USA and Canada, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. A variety of strategies will be used to help students understand geography and the culture of people around the world. Primary and secondary sources will be used through out the year along with art analysis activities.

### Classroom Rules:

1. Be seated and ready to start warm ups when the bell rings with a 1 inch binder including a pocket, 4 divider tabs, and writing utensils.
2. Be positive, polite, patient, productive, and prepared to learn.
3. Raise your hand before speaking.
4. Keep lotions, sprays, candy, food, sunflower seeds, drinks, coats, hats, brushes/combs, and hair products out of the classroom. Sweatshirts and hoodies may be worn without the hood up.
5. Students are to be awake and sitting up ready to learn daily.
6. Students must keep their hands and feet to themselves along with any inappropriate comments to the teacher or fellow classmates. We need to respect and care for everyone all the time.

### Daily Requirements:

1. Agenda book (Students must have this book at all times and can not be excused without one).  
Students must write the daily/weekly assignments and include future assessment dates to be a successful learner.
2. Writing utensils with sharpened pencils or blue/black eraser mate pens.
3. Binder of one inch size with a pocket. They will need 4 divider labels for: Warm- Ups, Class work, Homework and Project/Rubric sections.
4. Bring any supplies needed for class and projects like markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, flash drives, and small rulers.

### Homework or long term assignments:

All work must be completed on time or a pink homework slip will be filled out and the reason for lateness to keep on file. A homework chart is posted in the room for the grading period. Your child will be given an assignment on their Day 1 class and it is to be worked on for the week and returned the following week on their Day 1. So if their Day 1 is on Monday, it will be due the next Monday.

\*Students who are absent should make up work within the number of days missed from school and place it in the classroom orange and black 6<sup>th</sup> grade homework bin. All work is to be placed in their class section marked "IN" and when graded they can take it for their binder from the "OUT" section.

\*No extra credit will be given and any late work must be turned in two weeks before the close of grades.

\*Late work loses a point every class day it is not turned in.

\*Any student missing class for instrumental/sport sessions must get the class assignment before the close of the day to complete it for the next class day. Your child must also inform me that they will be missing the class too.





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### Discipline Policy:

I would like to share my discipline policy. The following consequences might be applied in part or whole if a class problem should occur.

1. If three (3) verbal warnings are given, a loss of class participation points can occur.
2. Lunch detention can be given to discuss how to resolve a problem after the 3 warnings and make up time of the work.
3. A phone call home will be made to discuss concerns for success.
4. Conference with parent or guardian in school if the issue is still not resolved.
5. Referral to the office.

\*If your child comes to class tardy without an excuse in the agenda book, it will be marked tardy on the attendance roster and if there are four tardy times in the quarter, a week of lunch detention will be assigned. I will call you before the fourth time occurs.

### Grading Guidelines:

All assignments are to be submitted on time. Projects always have a specific due date with ample time to research in and out of school. A possible good idea might be to mark the due date on your home refrigerator as a visual reminder. Projects make up a fourth of the report card, so time, effort, and practice for presentation should be attempted every quarter to do the best work possible.

### Classroom grading follows these guidelines:

Binder or writing assignments -20%, Class work-25%, Homework-10%, Quiz/Test/Project Assessments- 25%, and Participation 20%.

Class participation consists of asking and answering questions, being engaged in group or individual activities, following class rules, completing written work, and having all needed materials daily.

The Pittsburgh Public Schools grading scale is: 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, and 0-59%=E.

### Assessments:

Students will be graded with Formative and Summative assessments. The formative assessments include homework, class work, participation, writing assignments, and quizzes. The summative assessments will occur at the end of the sections, chapters, and/or unit tests or projects. It is your child's responsibility to make up any assessments within **three** days of class absence. If there is an extended absence, longer time will be given to complete the work.

### IBMYP:

Our school is certified to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP). We develop holistic learning and international mindedness in students by actively engaging students in each subject in the six Global Contexts. These areas serve as "lenses" through which students explore ideas, investigate connections across and between subject areas, and apply their knowledge to real world problems.

### The Global Contexts are:

Scientific and Technical Innovation: How do we understand the worlds in which we live?

Identities and Relationships: Who am I? Who are we?

Personal and Cultural Expression: What is the nature and purpose of creative expression?

Fairness and Development: What are the consequences of our common humanity?

Orientation in Space and Time: What is the meaning of what and when?

Globalization and Sustainability: How is everything connected?





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The IB MYP assessment criteria for Individuals and Societies focus on 4 areas. The four areas are:

- A. Knowing and Understanding
- B. Investigating
- C. Communicating
- D. Thinking Critically

The IB programme also works to develop 10 specific attributes to assist students in becoming responsible members of local, national and global communities. The attributes are aimed at having students become more reflective, open-minded, balanced, knowledgeable, caring, principled, and act as thinkers, inquirers, communicators, and lastly being a risk-taker for learning in new ways. These attributes fit in well with our school motto: **“Nothing in life is so complicated, that it cannot be achieved by discipline and hard work.”**

### Managebac.com

I want to share one last piece of information regarding expectations of your child at Pittsburgh Obama. Your child is responsible for completing 30 hours of Service and Action for the school year. This entails extracurricular sports/activities and service in or out of school. If your child volunteers at a day care, place of worship, library, school, scouts, community or any event helping others that is a service.

Go on our school’s website under PROGRAMS and click on IBMYP. On the left side click on: Service and Action Hours, and then scroll to the bottom of the page where a large gray and blue button appears with the letters MB. This will take you to our managebac.com site to fill out the required hours. Your child enters his/her school user name and password (User names will be distributed in September). Students will complete the prompted questions and conclude with a reflection before hitting the submit button. Your child will have a teacher check for hours once a month and mark it as completed or if it needs more details. I will explain it in class to the children, but wanted you to know how to visit it for assistance at home.

I look forward to a great school year with your child.

Feel free to contact me, with any concerns on my personal school message number (412-529-8109) or via e-mail at [kbruno2@pghboe.net](mailto:kbruno2@pghboe.net), or use the agenda book, but make sure you tell your child to share it with me.

Thank you,

Ms. Karen Bruno



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I have read this with my child and understand the requirements for this class. Please ask your child to return this part of the form to me in **Room 132** to ensure helpful communication between you and me this school year. This letter can be found on the Parent's Corner of our website for reference again. Thanks for our future team work for the year!

**The return of this form is a HW assignment.**

Please print the information.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Current home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Current cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*Please notify me when your contact information changes.\*\*\*\*\***

Current work number if permitted to call there \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the newsletter to be prepared for a successful school year.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Approval Hayne G. Halter

\* If there is any health issues or concerns for your child during the school year please inform me on the back.

