Seminar Program Summary 2014-2015

Site Name: Mission Bay High School

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Emphasis: International Baccalaureate World School

Teacher(s)*: Justin Aefsky, Nathan Sheehy, Gebel Anderson, Tracy Borg, Kari Campos, Penny Lewis, Jorge Palacios, Joseph Panian, Casey Platt, Tamara Rasmussen, Melissa Romero, Alberto Sanchez,

The School Environment/Mission Statement:
Mission Bay High School aims to develop young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. As an International Baccalaureate World School, we encourage our students to be active, compassionate and lifelong learners that strive to be:

- **Inquirers**
  We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

- **Knowledgeable**
  We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

- **Thinkers**
  We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

- **Communicators**
  We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

- **Principled**
  We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

- **Open-minded**
  We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

- **Caring**
  We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and the world around us.
- **Risk-takers**  
  We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination. We work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

- **Balanced**  
  We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and the world in which we live.

- **Reflective**  
  We thoughtfully consider our world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

### Curriculum modifications to provide depth, novelty and complexity:

- Rigorous writing program to prepare students for advanced classes junior and senior year
- Public speaking and presenting on current events and topics
- Inquiry and project-based classroom assignments
- Socratic Seminars throughout GATE classes and non-GATE classes
- Vertical Teams and Professional Learning Communities in all core subjects
- On-going professional development, IB training, AP by the Sea

### Opportunities for student choice and creative expression:

- Student choice on project topics and design
- Differentiate critical thinking assignments
- Individualized Learning Contracts
- IB Internal Assessments and Extended Essay are student choice under guidance of a self-selected mentor
- Problem Based Learning (PBL) allow students to explore an ill-structured problem or situation by building a hypothesis, consulting information, constructing solution products, and deepening their understanding of concepts through debriefing

### Unique activities and approaches:

- Technology-based learning (i.e. Webquests, web design, note taking apps (proceedea), schoology)
- Curriculum compacting in Seminar classes
- Document Based Questions—primary and secondary source analysis
- Referencing the IB Learner Profile, the backbone of our school beliefs—classes utilize Kohlberg’s theory of moral development to explore universal ethical principles and apply these principles to real life problems.

*Teacher is GATE certified with at least three years experience **This description is subject to change