

Youth Initiative High School Weekly Student Report, September 4, 2009

Main Lesson: Meteorology and Climate/11th Grade
Teacher: Jacob Hundt

The first week of this class has gone very well. The class seems enthusiastic and engaged—ready to take on the responsibilities of upper class status in the school. In main lesson we have been focusing on some of the fundamental concepts of meteorology—pressure, temperature, humidity, cloud and fog terminology, thermal transfer processes, and the electromagnetic spectrum. Students have begun their daily weather observation journals and we have compared their observations with national weather maps of fronts, precipitation, and zones of high and low pressure. Sadly, the weather has been a little dull. Students should be continuing to make daily weather observations through the weekend and looking for opportunities to complete their cloud sketches. They should also be starting work on their research projects, which will be due on the last day of the class. On Wednesday, Sept. 16, we will be making a morning field trip the NOAA weather station near LaCrosse and we are in need of a driver and at a couple of vehicles. If you might be available for this, please contact me soon.

Student: YY

YY is, as always, a leader in this class. What is interesting is that many of his peers seem to have stepped up their new roles as upper classmen as well. YY seems happy and comfortable. He is doing a great job with the concepts we are discussing, and is the most reliable of the weather journalers.

Youth Initiative High School Weekly Student Report, September 5

Path Class: Latin
Teacher: Jacob Hundt

The Latin class was launched this week with a review of the core concepts of grammar—parts of speech, parts of the sentence, mood, voice, number, and types of sentences. On Friday, we launched into Latin in earnest, with an introduction to classical Latin pronunciation and a preview of the case system. Students had homework assigned on Monday and Friday. In general, Wednesdays will be devoted to in class practice and work on assignments, so that the diligent students will have no written homework on most days, although they are encouraged to practice declensions, conjugations, and vocabulary on their own as well.

Student: XX

XX, having studied both German and Spanish, has a unique perspective to bring to this class. She is off to a great start and I am pleased to be working with her.

Youth Initiative High School Weekly Student Report, September 5

Path Class: Introduction to YIHS
Teacher: Jacob Hundt

The Into to YIHS Social Studies class got off to a great start this week with a lively discussion of cultures, norms and values, and social institutions. For Wednesday's class, students were assigned to read and take notes on an excerpt of an anthropological account of the Mbuti people of the Congo's Ituri Rainforest. Our discussions allowed us to begin to disassemble the pieces that make up culture, which in turn helped us to begin to think about the culture of our school. For next week, students have been assigned to read part of an anthropological study of YIHS written last year by a student from Northwestern University. In addition to reading and taking notes, the class was assigned to begin keeping a detailed assignment notebook. They should keep this notebook for all classes during the fall semester, and I will be checking to make sure they are doing this each Friday. Friday's class will be a supervised study hall. Finally, the class was assigned to attend the All School Meeting on Sept. 15, as well as at least one Administrative Group meeting and one meeting of the Board of Trustees during the semester.

Student: ZZ

ZZ was a strong contributor to class discussions this week and did an excellent job on her reading notes. She is wonderfully calm and sensible in her demeanor—a real anchor for this large and talkative class.

Youth Initiative High School Weekly Student Report, September 12

Path Class: Introduction to YIHS
Teacher: Jacob Hundt

Student: PP

PP was an eager contributor to class discussions this week. I was impressed by his confidence, and by his attention to detail in his reading. His notes on the Mbuti were very good and he has a lively sense of humor.