

Middle Years Programme  
Kellogg School

Parent Information  
Socratic Seminar  
September 2005

Dear Parents:

Kellogg students in the IB Middle Years Programme are included in a monthly Socratic seminar. This discussion is based upon a selected reading and encourages your child to think critically and develop ideas while being able to provide rationale for those ideas through an oral discussion. This discussion is not a debate, but rather a dialogue. The premise of this discussion is to create an atmosphere where your child can be challenged to think about a reading in a new and different way. This is awkward for some students. They are very good at answering specific questions about what they read, yet become uncomfortable when they are invited to think about what they read in a new way.

Your child will receive the reading in advance of the discussion. There may be pre-discussion activities that need to be completed prior to the discussion. These activities can not be completed unless they have read the selected reading. The discussions are held during the reading class on the scheduled day. Any student who is not prepared will not be able to participate in the discussion. This is an exciting part of the MYP and I know that you will encourage your child to read and be prepared for these discussions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Kellogg School, 535-2590. Thank you for your continued support of the IB Middle Years Programme.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Houtsma

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I have read the information regarding the Socratic Seminar for the Middle Years Programme. I am aware this is an important component of my child's reading instruction.

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Parent signature

student name

DATE

Please return to Kellogg School by Sept. 16, 2005.