

Vow of Silence – Proposal

Purpose of the Vow

On Friday, November 20th, 2009, IB and ISP students at GDHS will be participating in the Vow of Silence campaign. Each participant will be giving up their ability to communicate for 24 hours as a way of raising money to uphold children's rights.

Why are we doing this?

- 121 million children around the world between the ages of six and eleven are denied the opportunity to attend school; two-thirds of these children are girls.
- 1 billion children are living in poverty – one out of every two children.
- 218 million children worldwide work as child labourers.

Funds raised by the IB students (pledges) will go towards the Free the Children projects to build schools, provide alternative sources of income and implement clean water and sanitation projects for poor children in developing countries. We are promoting the right that all children have to be free from abuse and exploitation, to receive an education and to have the chance to realize their full potential.

In taking the Vow of Silence, we agree to stay silent and refrain from any type of communication for 24 hours, unless extremely necessary.

Vow Timeline

Wednesday, November 11th

- IB Student League coordinates plans with the Social Justice League and Student Parliament.

Thursday, November 12th

- IB Students pick up pledge forms and explanation sheets (other school groups also have option for pledge form pick-up)
 - Cheques made payable to "Free the Children"
 - Can be sent to "Free the Children – Youth Programming Dept//Re: Vow of Silence campaign//233 Carlton Street//Toronto, ON//Canada M5A 2L2"
 - Pledge forms are included when sent with the cheques
- Email sent to local newspaper
- Posters sent to printer
- Meeting re: School plan
 - Period of Silence?
 - Teacher Awareness?

- Pledge form system?

Monday, November 16th

- Posters put up around school
- Pledge collection
- ISP Student Assembly – presentation about what the Vow looks like (pledge form distribution?)
- Announcement
- Emails to teachers re: School plan

Tuesday, November 17th

- Pledge form collection
- Announcement

Wednesday, November 18th

- IBSL meeting; signs are made, briefing for the day
- Media coordinators assigned and picture schedule established
- Day plan is reviewed
- Pledge form collection
- Announcement

Thursday

- Pledge form collection
- Announcement
- Students change facebook profile pictures and status to incorporate [iamsilent.com](http://www.iamsilent.com) campaign using <http://www.iamsilent.com/SpreadTheSilence/index.php>

Friday

- Announcement
- Pledge form collection
- DAY SCHEDULE:
 - IB Students meet in foyer before school to write “I am Silent” on hands
 - Signs passed out & additional explanation forms administered
 - Period 2 lunch → Individual pictures from 10:15 – 12:00
 - Period 3 lunch → 12:00, group picture

Modelling the Vow of Silence at GDHS

- IB Students are definitely going to be involved in the complete VOS day – no communication whatsoever, and pledge forms.
- We'll be presenting this idea to the ISPs on Monday. Should we:
 - o Give them pledge forms?
 - o Omit the fundraising component?
 - o Advocate full-day silence?
 - o Present a split-day model?
- I see this working if we allocate 1 or 2 periods of "silence" and work to achieve that. What 2 periods work best?