

Freedom at college hurts some

By Christie Chicoine
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA — Ah, the college years. But before the good times roll, a word of caution to college residents and commuters alike who simply want to let the freedom begin.

"Probably the No. 1 thing we bump into in adjustment from high school to freshman year in college is the level of freedom," said Christian Brother E. Gerald Fitzgerald, director of admissions at Philadelphia's La Salle University.

Particularly crucial, Brother Fitzgerald said, is "how (students) handle the newfound freedom. It's so completely different," he told *The Catholic Standard and Times*, Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper.

One college-bound student, Christine Sullivan, who will attend the Jesuit-run St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia this fall, said she is "excited about moving away from home" and "a little nervous" about no longer having the security of her parents.

"But I think I'll be able to handle it," she adds.

Then again, Sullivan's home is only four blocks away

and her mother, Kathleen, is a secretary in the university's admissions office.

But her mother has made a promise about staying too close. "I'm trying to keep a low profile in that regard," she said. She told her daughter, "I don't want to be in your way, but you know where I am."

Students who commute from home might find that the more things change, the more they stay the same. La Salle offers workshops through its counseling center for parents and commuter students "to make sure both understand what the other is going through," said Brother Fitzgerald.

The workshops focus on academic difficulties, time management and the maturity of 18-year-olds. "Sometimes the parents don't quite see (their children) differently. It's almost as if they're in 13th grade."

He said parents who were used to their children being home in the afternoon might worry when they don't come home until later in the evening.

How college students use their time is one of the biggest challenges they will face, according to Brother Fitzgerald.

Time management is particularly important, especially when there are extended breaks between classes. "That's not free time," he said. "That's time to use the library or faculty services."

There is always time for students to remember their roots. "They have to realize that whatever kinds of moral and ethical values they've created themselves or had instilled in them need to be their guidelines," said Sister Mercedes Maliszewski, a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who is the assistant director of admissions at Holy Family College in Philadelphia.

Campus orientation programs for freshmen may help alleviate some first-year fears, which Brother Fitzgerald said are normal.

Students should not be afraid to ask for help from faculty members, either in class or in their office, he added.

Students can also turn to the church. "I think what they have to continue to do is enhance their religious education experience through involvement in the campus ministry activities — both liturgical and community service," said Brother Fitzgerald.

Duquesne to begin rigorous new school

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Duquesne University and the Vincentian Sisters of Charity in Pittsburgh are establishing a new, academically rigorous high school academy featuring an international baccalaureate program.

The school, Vincentian Academy-Duquesne University, is believed to be the world's first university-affiliated international baccalaureate program.

Establishment of the new school was announced by Duquesne University President John E. Murray Jr. and Sister Charlene Reebel, the superior general of the Vincentian nuns.

The Vincentian nuns have operated a secondary school, Vincentian High School, since 1927. The congregation of the Holy Ghost founded Duquesne University four decades earlier.

The new Vincentian-Duquesne international baccalaureate program will begin with the 1995-96 academic year, with the first-year class. The second-year, third-year and fourth-year classes currently enrolled at the school will continue under the usual high school program through graduation for each class, according to the new academy's organizers.

Duquesne University officials report that fewer than 500

schools in the world offer studies for the international baccalaureate diploma and only 20 schools provide a "total international baccalaureate" program.

According to a handbook on the new academy, the international baccalaureate curriculum not only focuses on the traditional subjects of mathematics, science, history, English, foreign languages, the arts, and similar courses but also includes specialized classes in communications and other fields, involves "at school" work outside the classroom, and entails more demanding skills.

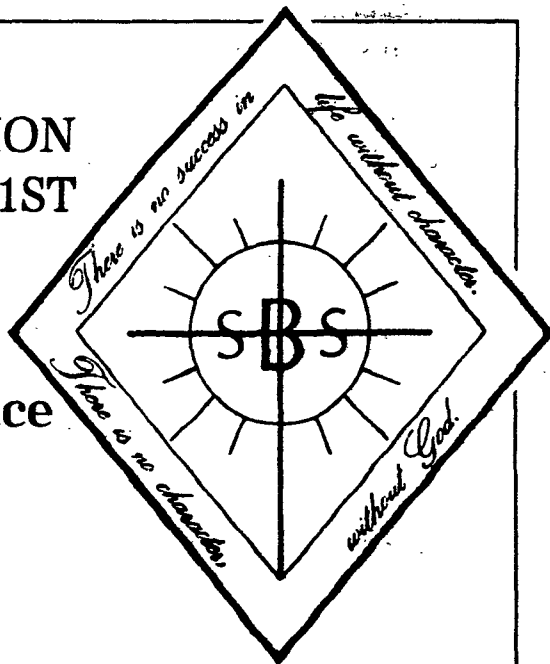
For example, the handbook explains, many U.S. high school students pursue a foreign language but after four years still can't speak the language. An international baccalaureate student, it says, "will not only read and write such a language but will be fluent" in it.

International baccalaureate students may also spend more time in school, following a pattern of Japanese and European secondary education, with a school year lasting approximately 210 days, instead of the typical U.S. high school year of 180 days.

However, a student who has successfully passed the international baccalaureate examinations and received the diploma often can enter college at the second-year level and qualify for scholarships, the handbook notes.

Each class at Vincentian Academy-Duquesne University will be limited to 90 students and will include Catholics and non-Catholics. Tuition at the school will be \$7,000 during the 1995-96 school year, with limited financial assistance available.

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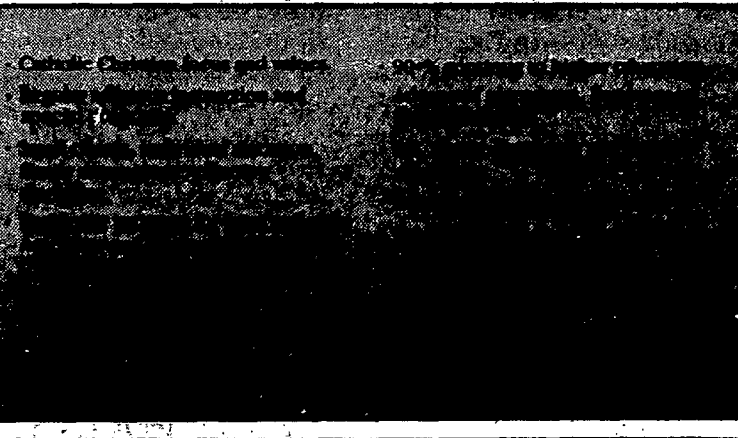
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