

Abby Allison

TOKEN OF TEACHING

Weekly Report 08/20/2017-08/27/2017

Although it is only the beginning of the year, ISM has already been an engaging course. So far, new ISM students have been given advice from the ISM students who were in the class the previous year, listened to a guest speaker, filled out a topic selection form and decided on a mission statement and guiding quote for the year.

The students who were in ISM last year had a lot to say about the course. The experienced students gave advice over many topics including presentations, stress management and in regards to mentors. All of the new students learned to be prepared for presentations. One thing that stuck out was Mr. Speice, our ISM instructor, would ring a bell every time one used a filler word during a presentation. It will be very challenging to make it through a whole speech without the bell ringing. The second year ISM students noted at some point one will be extremely overwhelmed and it is okay to cry because ISM is a family. They also stressed one will get out what one puts in. If one does not put effort into their field of study, one may not see the results. This philosophy relates to mentors as well. The second year ISM students state it is important to choose a mentor who will push you and not only tell you what you did right, but also wrong. In addition, do not rush into choosing a mentor and do not stress if you are the last person without a mentor.

On the second day of ISM, a guest speaker named Mrs. Julie Martin-Leslie inspired the class. Mrs. Martin-Leslie not only provided important information about how to be successful in finding your dream, but energized the audience through her passion and contagious positive attitude. Although one may not have guessed it, Mrs. Martin-Leslie had been through a lot due to her husband and his battle with cancer. She needed to help her husband, so was forced to quit a job she enjoyed and created her own business instead. Mrs. Martin-Leslie showed the class how to overcome tough times and how to prepare for the future. She felt it was very important to stress how to find a dream, not a parent's dream or a materialistic dream. She demonstrated how a dream is possible through one of her old students. He was not the typical high schooler. Her student was determined to build a rollercoaster in his backyard. The student

carried around a large and plastic briefcase full of calculations throughout his high school and although this was different, he ended up being extremely successful, doing what he loved and living in Europe.

In conclusion, the week in ISM was full of motivation and preparation for the upcoming year. One would hope to have a great year knowing the second year ISM students are here to help and having gained wisdom through Mrs. Julie Martin-Leslie's presentation.