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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WESTLAKE ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2011 RECEIVES
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA RESULTS,
EXCEEDING THE 2010 IB WORLD DIPLOMA AVERAGE PASS
RATE.**

Graduates' scores exceed goal set by the Academy's Trustees earlier than expected.

Westlake, Texas – July 15, 2011 – Westlake Academy administrators and students recently received the results from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IB) regarding the scores of their 2011 graduating seniors' IB Diploma exams. The Class of 2011, only the second graduating class at Westlake Academy, not only increased the school's pass rate by 29% but also exceeded the 2010 IB World average pass rate by 8%. “We are very proud of the hard work and the outstanding exam results of our students. Our hope is that we will continue to see these high pass rates and individual test scores rise with each graduating class. We want our Westlake Academy graduates to be very well prepared for their college career and further mature into globally aware, life-long learners. The International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum is certainly a means to that end.” said Tom Brymer, Westlake Academy Superintendent.

Recent articles reporting various research methods from the ACS International Schools (ACS) annual survey to studies done by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) questioning US, UK and European university admissions officers, report that the IB Diploma examinations come out on top in almost all categories of study when compared to the alternative examination systems. Another main strength that admission officers cited is that IB studies nurture the importance of students' critical thinking skills and their ability to develop strong individual

inquiry skills, universally ranked as the number one determinant of academic success at universities by the ACS. The Westlake Academy Trustees and school administrators agree with these reports and are committed to the IB curriculum, setting an objective that 80% of their graduates would obtain the IB Diploma by the year 2015. While school leaders believe that the longer a student participates in the IB Programme, the better prepared they will be for both the IB Diploma examinations and their success in college, they feel it is important to keep in mind when setting these goals that students who are admitted into the Academy do not undergo any entrance exams nor have to meet any minimum grade point average before admission into the open-enrollment public charter school.

“After we analyzed our graduates’ results and saw they were able to achieve an 86% pass rate this year and also exceed last year’s IB world pass rate of 78%, we were elated with our students’ success. We expected and hoped the results would be higher than our students last year, but reaching our 2015 goal this early is outstanding. The exam results also indicate the great job that our administrators and teachers are doing and highlight subject areas where there is room for improvements,” added Mr. Brymer.

In order to receive the IB Diploma, students must achieve a minimum score of 24 points with the maximum being 45 points. Westlake Academy students’ 2011 IB exam results show they earned an average mean score of 30, exceeding last year’s average World score of 29.6. “Any score over 30 is excellent and above 40 is simply exceptional.” said Stacy Stoyanoff, DP Coordinator at Westlake Academy. “This year we have three students that scored above a 40! This is tremendous news and I am so happy for all of our DP students.” Subject area results continue to display that the 2011 IB Diploma graduates exceeded the 2010 IB World average subject pass rates in **all** areas except HL Economics, SL Chemistry and SL Math Studies. Those subject areas with **substantial** (over 10%) increases above the IB World average by Academy students are as follows: HL Biology (18%), SL Environmental Systems (25%), SL Mathematics (13%) and HL Visual Arts (15%).

While Westlake Academy is a continuum IB school serving grades K-12, it does **not** offer AP courses. However, many Academy students take AP exams voluntarily as an option. Of

students in grades 10 through 12 that sat for AP exams this past year, the pass rate is 77% with a score of 3 or above. According to College Board's online AP reporting service, the Texas AP pass rate is 49% with a World rate of 60%. For the past two years, Westlake Academy students have consistently scored a higher AP pass rate when compared to both Texas and the World rates. Several students received additional honors for their 2011 AP success. Five students earned the distinction of AP Scholar, while three earned AP Scholar with Honor and one the highest rank of AP Scholar with Distinction.

These July days may seem a little "cooler" for the majority of the 2011 Westlake Academy graduates with the news of their IB exam results and the excitement of all students heading off to their selected colleges. All 32 students have been accepted into one or more four-year colleges, with an approximate total of \$4.2 million in scholarships and grants. Additionally, this graduated class contained one National Merit Finalist and 5 National Merit Commended Scholars.

"We cannot wait to hear how the first semester fairs for these students" added Brymer. "We invite our graduates back during their holiday break to not only receive their actual IB Diplomas but also to share their college experiences with our secondary students. It is such a worthwhile time to hear about the rewards of their labor and see their maturity as they pass along their confidence, knowledge and lessons learned to the students that will follow."

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Westlake Academy is a public charter school offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. Founded in 2003, with a mission to achieve academic excellence and to develop life-long learners who become well-balanced, responsible global citizens, Westlake is the first and only municipality in the state to receive a charter designation. Westlake Academy is the fifth school of only ten in the United States, and the only public school, to offer the full IB curriculum for grades K-12. The school graduated its first class in May 2010. For the 2009-10 school year, the Academy received another 'Exemplary' rating from TEA for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, the fourth time it has achieved this. Westlake Academy is located at 2600 JT Ottinger Rd., Westlake, TX 76262. Call 817-490-5757, visit www.westlakeacademy.org or email info@westlakeacademy.org for more information.