



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) at City High Middle School Frequently Asked Questions

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What is International Baccalaureate Organization?

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a non-profit educational organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. The IBO is an international organization, not associated with any particular country and free of any national, political or educational agendas. The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools.

The three programs for students aged 3 to 19 help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. There are more than 596,000 IB students at 2,218 schools in 125 countries.

The three programs are:

- PYP:** The Primary Years Program (Kindergarten to Grade 5).
- MYP:** The Middle Years Program (Grades 6 to 10).
- DP:** The Diploma Program (Grades 11 to 12).

What are IB World Schools?

Schools recognized by the International Baccalaureate Organization and offering the IB curriculum are known as IB World Schools. There are 1,301 IB World Schools in the United States offering one or more of the three IB programmes. 298 schools offer the Primary Years Programme, 445 schools offer the Middle Years Programme and 744 schools offer the Diploma Programme. The first school was authorized in 1971. The list of authorized schools is available on the IBO website www.ibo.org.

What is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme-IBDP?

The IBDP is a comprehensive two-year rigorous academic program. It is designed as a pre-university program for students aged 16 to 19. In addition to the courses offered, the IBDP is unique because it includes the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) program, the Extended Essay and the Theory of Knowledge course. These three components offer IBDP students experiences and skills they will not find in any other program.

How is IB different from other curricula? Can my child cope with IB?

The IB program is practical and application-based. It has a broader spectrum of subjects that lead to all-round development.

The purpose of the IB is to produce internationally minded global citizens. It can be well-integrated with local curriculum. The IB curriculum is more challenging than other curriculum. The challenge is in the quality of assignments, not in the amount of work assigned.

What are the subjects in DP?

DP students choose one subject from each of the following six 'Subject Groups':

- Group 1:** First Language (English)
- Group 2:** Second Language (Chinese, Spanish)
- Group 3:** Individuals and Societies (History Required) (Psychology- may be taken in place of Group 6)
- Group 4:** Sciences (Biology, Physics, Chemistry)
- Group 5:** Mathematics
- Group 6:** Arts (Music, Visual Arts)

In addition, all DP students must study a two-year course called Theory of Knowledge (TOK); work to produce an Extended Essay (EE); and engage in Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS).

What are TOK, EE and CAS?

Theory of Knowledge is a class students to reflect on the nature of knowledge and how we know what we know. It includes a 1,600 word essay written on a prescribed title (from a choice of ten) focused on knowledge and ways of knowing and a presentation on the class material.

The Extended Essay is an original independent research process, leading a DP student to produce a comprehensible written piece of 3,500-4,000 words in a chosen subject area.

Under Creative, Activity and Service (CAS), each DP student must complete at least 8-10 hours each month throughout their time in the programme. The hours gained through their experience must include engaging in some form of creativity, participating in sport or other physical activity, and doing social service.

What is the difference between higher level and standard level IB subjects?

There is more breadth and depth in higher level subjects. Generally, higher level subjects are more rigorous than standard level. Students must complete 3HL courses 3SL courses.

Is the IB recognized worldwide?

The rigor and high standards of the IBDP ensure that colleges and universities around the world recognize the IB Diploma as a superior academic program and a strong university - entry credential.

Universities in over 110 countries recognize the IB Diploma and it will allow entrance to the most competitive universities around the world. The university admission authorities recognize the academic rigor of the IBDP, and value the “extra” parts of the Diploma, such as TOK, CAS and the Extended Essay.

- Most universities in Europe require the full Diploma as a qualification for entry.
- It is considered to be worth ‘four and a half’ A Level.
- Higher Level Courses are broadly equal to British A-Level courses.
- Higher Level courses are considered equivalent to American Advanced Placement (AP) courses

Successful IB Diploma students may be offered credit (particularly for Higher Level courses and TOK) for first year university courses in Canadian and American Universities overseas.