



## **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) at City High Middle School**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **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 four 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. As of January 2023, there are over 7,700 programs offered in over 5,600 schools in 159 countries.

The four programs are:

- **PYP:** The Primary Years Programme (Kindergarten to Grade 5).
- **MYP:** The Middle Years Programme (Grades 6 to 10).
- **DP:** The Diploma Programme (Grades 11 to 12).
- **CP:** The Career-related Programme (Ages 16-19).

#### **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 1,905 IB World Schools in the United States offering one or more of the four IB programmes. 663 schools offer the Primary Years Programme, 735 schools offer the Middle Years Programme and 946 schools offer the Diploma Programme, and 159 schools offer the Career-related Programme. The first school was authorized in 1971. The list of authorized schools is available on the IBO website [www.ibo.org](http://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 core components such as 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 widely known to be the most rigorous curriculum out there. 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, French, Spanish)
- **Group 3:** Individuals and Societies (History of the Americas, Global Politics)
  - Psychology- may be taken in place of Group 6
- **Group 4:** Sciences (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS))
  - ESS is an interdisciplinary class that bridges both Group 3 and 4.
- **Group 5:** Mathematics
- **Group 6:** Arts (Music, Visual Arts, Film)

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 that encourages 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 that leads a DP student to produce a comprehensible written piece of 3,500-4,000 words in a chosen subject area.

For 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 (HL) and standard level (SL) IB subjects?

There is more breadth and depth in higher level subjects. Generally, higher level subjects are more rigorous than standard level and require students to be self-driven in the learning of the content. Many factors should be considered when selecting the rigor level—HL or SL—of each course. Such factors should include level of genuine interest or curiosity in the topic, college and career goals, university accreditation policies, and general student well-being and balance. Students must complete 3 HL courses 3 SL courses, and selections are made in the fall semester of their senior year.

### 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 around the world recognize the IB Diploma, and achieving the diploma will increase a student's acceptance chances to the most competitive universities around the world. The university admission authorities recognize the academic rigor of the IBDP, and they value the "extra" parts of the DP such as TOK, CAS and the Extended Essay.

Successful IB Diploma students may be offered credit (particularly for Higher Level courses and TOK) for first year university courses to colleges and universities throughout North America and overseas.