

The International Baccalaureate Program

Some commonly asked questions



Information from the IB Website www.ibo.org
(tailored to the Ironwood IB Program)



What is IB? The International Baccalaureate Program offers the advanced student a rigorous, internationally recognized degree program in their Junior and Senior years of high school. The IB curriculum is an integrated academic program which combines six major subject areas with community service, critical thinking and reflection. The goal is not only to produce an academically successful student but also a well-rounded person who is socially responsible and able to make good life choices. There are over 2,500 IB schools in 132 countries through-out the world All IB schools undergo an exhaustive authorization process to be accredited, and IB teachers undergo continuing professional development to ensure the highest quality education.

The IB *“aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect”* (IBO 2007)

What type of student is successful in the IB? Successful IB students are high achieving students who are serious about their education and are willing to take on a demanding course of study. IB students at Ironwood HS are fully involved in other school activities. They participate in sports, arts, drama, music and more. Learning to balance these important opportunities with IB is an important part of the student’s experience.

The IB Learner Profile lists the following attributes for the IB student: ***Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective.***

How do I apply for the Ironwood IB? First you will need to submit an application. If you go to the PUSD portal and click on “parents” you will find a link for the International Baccalaureate Program. Fill out the application and send it (with the appropriate references) to the IB Coordinator – Mr. Michael Cady. You will receive a reply regarding your admission to the program. AIM (*Accelerated – Integrated - Model*) classes, are taken the freshmen and sophomore years and are designed to prepare students for success in the IB program. The IB program officially begins the junior year and is completed at the end of the senior year. Typically students apply during the spring of their 8th grade year for admission as freshmen.

How do universities treat the IB? Many universities in the US and through-out the world grant credit to students who attain the IB Diploma and/or score well on Higher Level IB exams. Students should address these issues directly with any university they are interested in.

See a list of institutions that recognize IB coursework on the official IBO website.

<http://www.ibo.org/country/US/index.cfm>

Can the IB student participate in sports? YES - they can. ***The IHS IB fully supports students being involved in sports and other school activities.*** We will help them in every way we can but the demands of excelling in both IB and sports are considerable. If the students, teachers and coaches are

all willing to be flexible, the determined student can usually accomplish both goals. However, there may be situations where the student will have to make choices when schedules conflict and they want to be involved in multiple activities at the same time.

How successful are IB students when applying for university admissions? Recipients of the IB diploma enjoy a high rate of acceptance at leading universities. In addition, some universities offer scholarships to IB graduates.

What is the difference between IB (International Baccalaureate) & AP (Advanced Placement)? Both of these programs offer high school students a quality education with rigorous academic courses. The programs differ in that IB offers an *entire program*, while AP offers singular courses where the student may choose stand-alone classes which can also lead to university credit.

International Baccalaureate vs. Advanced Placement

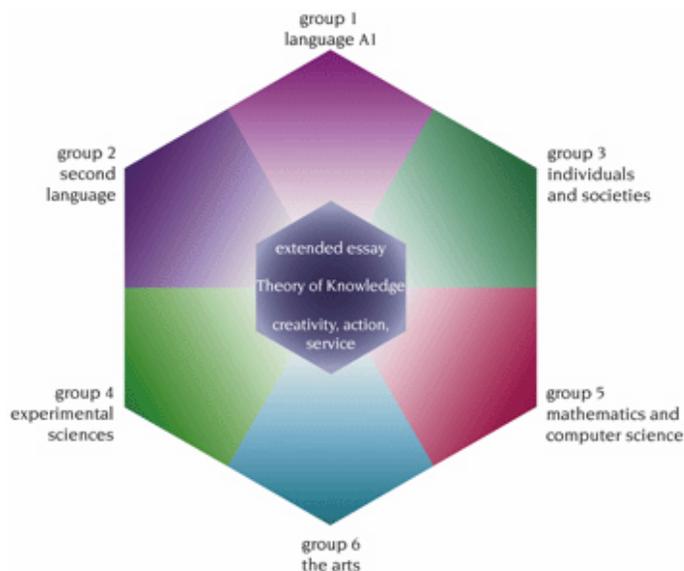
*Table taken from <http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/academics/ib/Pages/DifferencesbetweenIBandAP.aspx> and adapted to PUSD.

<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	<u>International Baccalaureate (IB)</u>
Courses: AP courses are offered in a wide range of subjects and students may take those that appeal to them. Courses are designed to be challenging.	Courses: IB courses are offered in a wide range of subjects. Students pursuing the Diploma must take all IB courses from each of six subject areas, including a Theory of Knowledge course. IB Certificate students may pick and choose IB courses. Courses are designed to be challenging.
Exams: At Ironwood, students take an AP class during a single semester. Students with special knowledge may test without taking an AP class. AP students may not take IB exams.	Exams: Students taking IB exams must have 150 hours (1 year) for the Standard Level exam, or 240 hours (2 years) for a Higher Level exam. IB students may take both AP and IB exams.
Teachers: Teachers help students prepare for year-end exams. All AP teachers must be endorsed by their high school principal. They may receive training ranging from one day to one week. Training sessions are available to teachers in each of 32 subject areas. Training is not required. Teachers may choose to be trained in locations in nearly every state.	Teachers: Teachers help students prepare for year-end exams. All IB teachers are required to be trained at 3-6 day workshops, nationally or internationally. They submit projects, taped oral exams, lab books, papers, etc., to world-wide examiners who score them to provide standardization of quality and rigor.
Assessments: AP tests are evaluated by carefully selected and trained college and university professors and experienced AP teachers. Exams are sent to test centers around the nation.	Assessments: IB tests, papers, labs, oral tapes, etc., are scored on an international scale by carefully selected and trained examiners in countries all over the world.
College Admissions and Credit: Participation in AP courses can be very helpful in gaining college admission. High scores on AP exams may garner college credit or advanced standing. Colleges around the U.S. recognize AP coursework and often allow college credit for successful AP exams.	College Admissions and Credit: Participation in the IB program can be very helpful in gaining college admission. High scores on IB exams may garner college credit or advanced standing. Colleges around the world recognize IB coursework/diplomas and often allow college credit for successful IB exams. Some colleges may skip the IB Diploma student a full year ahead (based on credits earned through testing).

Program Start-up: AP classes can be implemented as a school wishes, on an individual basis. Courses must be approved by Advanced Placement through the AP Course Audit Process.

Program Start-up: Since IB is a full program rather than a selection of classes, a broad range of courses must be available to all students and must, at all times, meet international requirements. Official IBO authorization and periodic program evaluation for standardization of quality and rigor are required of a school if it wishes to offer the program.

How do you attain the IB diploma? The IB Diploma Program (DP) requires a two-year course of study for students 16 to 19 years of age, and is designed to prepare students for university work. The IB is a rigorous but broad and balanced curriculum in which students study languages, a social science, an experimental science, mathematics, and, normally, an arts subject. IB student test in six subject areas and must receive an average 4 out of 7 on these exams. (*There are other specifics regarding these scores- such as Internal Assessments.*) Students must also complete an Extended Essay and perform CAS hours (*creativity, action and service*) in addition to a *Theory of Knowledge (TOK)* class. The Theory of Knowledge class is unique to IB and it challenges students to question the basis of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases of knowledge, and to develop the ability to analyze evidence that is expressed in rational argument.



What can guardian/parent(s) do to help their student? The IB program is rigorous but it should not be over-whelming. Part of the student's normal progress in the program is learning how to manage their time and activities. The most stressful times in IB tend to be at the beginning of the AIM – freshman year, when everything is new, and then again during the first part of the junior year when academic work increases. Often by the senior year students have learned to deal with the level of work and the stress level goes down. Having learned to manage these various requirements students often say that university work was much easier for them than it is for the non-IB students.

Parents can assist their student in many ways. It is recommended that parents stay aware of their student's academic progress through the use of the *In-Touch* program to monitor grades online. A lack of progress is always easier to address before it goes on very long. Parents are always encouraged to attend *Meet the Teacher* events so they can get to know their child's teachers, classroom expectations and grading policies. If questions arise regarding a student's progress, the first person to contact is the

classroom teacher. Most issues can be best resolved in this manner. The student's counselor and the IB Coordinator are also available to help.

A motivated student with a quiet place to study, and enough time to do so generally does well. Additionally, make sure your child has a scheduled study time and uses a weekly planner. This may be very different from earlier schooling years when there was very little homework or need to work on projects for an extended period of time. It is also important that your child is eating healthy, has proper health care and is getting as much rest as needed.

What resources are there for the overwhelmed student? Generally students are overwhelmed due to the mismanagement of time or from procrastinating, especially when several things are due around the same time. It is important for students to keep a planner for due dates on projects and for tests. Students are encouraged to begin studying for an exam or start a project well before it is due. These simple things can make a big difference. The first thing a student should do when he or she is struggling in a class is to discuss it with the teacher. Students can attend after school tutoring on-site, get outside tutoring on their own, or form study groups with classmates. Students are encouraged to communicate with their counselor as well.

How many hours of homework are there each night? This is hard to say as sometimes there is more homework and other times not as much. There are often important long term projects in the IB. It is very important that students not put them off until the night before they are due. Students are encouraged to study or to work on a project a little each day. Stress, in the IB program, may occur when students put off daily work until it appears over-whelming.

Are there costs associated with the IB program? Yes, there are fees for exams. As the time for registering for IB exams approaches students and parents will be contacted by the IB Coordinator.

What might a typical AIM / Pre- Ironwood IB schedule look like?

Freshman Year:

AIM English I H/AIM Global Humanities H
Algebra 1
Geometry or Advanced Geometry Honors
AIM Science I H or Biology
Boys or Girl's PE
Spanish I or French 1
Elective – choice of getting started with
6th area or other

Sophomore Year:

AIM English II H/AIM World History
Advanced Algebra H or
Algebra II & College Algebra
AIM Science II H or Chemistry
Spanish II and IIIH or French II and IIIH
Elective - 6th area or other

To better understand how Arizona Universities grant credit, see the links below:

<http://home.nau.edu/academics/creditbyexam/ib.asp> - NAU

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2009-10/policies/ibexam.htm> - U of A

<http://uctestsites.asu.edu/advising/orientationprep/docs/AP-IBcredit.pdf> - ASU

A Typical sequence of IB classes

All IB diploma candidates test in English, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Science, and Math, plus a sixth area chosen by the student. Choices for this sixth area include Music, Photography, Theater Arts, Visual Arts, Computer Science, Economics, and Physics. Photo and Art may be taken at either the Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL). The following shows the sequences in which classes must be taken.

<p>English: AIM English I H(freshman year) AIM English II H(sophomore year) <i>IB English III H (junior year)</i> <i>IB English IV H (senior year)</i></p>	<p>Social Studies: AIM Global Humanities H (freshman year) AIM World History/Geography H (sophomore yr) <i>IB American History H I (junior year)</i> <i>IB Century History H II (senior year)</i></p>
<p>Foreign Language: Spanish or French I Spanish or French II Spanish or French III H Spanish or French IV H <i>IB Spanish or French (level V H-junior or senior year)</i></p>	<p>Science (regular track) Biology Chemistry <i>IB Biology I H(junior year)</i> <i>IB Biology II H(senior year)</i></p>
<p>Math (regular track) Algebra I Geometry Algebra II College Algebra Discrete Math (optional) <i>IB Math Studies H (junior or senior year)</i> <i>Or IB Mathematics</i></p>	<p>Science (advanced track) AIM Science I AIM Science II H <i>IB Biology I H(junior year)</i> <i>IB Biology II H(senior year)</i> <i>IB Physics H (advanced students may take IB Physics in place of IB Biology, or as 6th IB area in addition to IB Biology)</i></p>
<p>Math (advanced track) Algebra I Advanced Geometry H Advanced Algebra H Discrete Math (optional)* <i>IB Math Studies H (junior or senior year)</i> Pre-calculus H (optional)* Calculus if desired</p>	<p>Music – 6th Area Performing ensemble (band or choir) each year Music Theory <i>IB Music H</i></p>
<p>Photography - 6th Area Photo I Photo II Photo III <i>IB Photo H (level IV=SL; level V=HL)</i></p>	<p>Theater Arts - 6th Area Theater I Theater II Theater III <i>IB Theater H (level IV=SL ;level V=HL)</i></p>
<p>Visual Arts - 6th Area Art I Art II Art III <i>IB Art H (level IV=SL; level V=HL)</i></p>	<p>Computer Science - 6th Area Computer Programming Windows Programming AP Computer Science I AP Computer Science II <i>IB Computer Science H</i></p>
<p>Economics - 6th Area No freshman or sophomore year prerequisites Gov./Econ (honors preferred) <i>IB Economics H</i></p>	<p>Physics - 6th Area No freshman or sophomore year prerequisites; complete math through at least College Algebra <i>IB Physics H</i></p>

For more information please contact:

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