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## What makes an International Education unique?

- ♦ Rigorous, comprehensive, and cross-curricular education based on a global perspective
- ♦ Student involvement in community service and compassion for others
- ♦ High expectations of students and development of full academic potential in all subject areas
- ♦ Independent research essay that serves to enable students to write college-level papers
- ♦ Theory of Knowledge elective course where students explore reasoning and knowledge through an interdisciplinary approach
- ♦ Focus on internationalism and in understanding other cultures as well as one's own
- ♦ Culminating exams that test students' ability to analyze, evaluate, and present insights in both written and oral form
- ♦ IB Diploma recognized worldwide as the highest achievement for a high school student
- ♦ Opportunities for college acceptance, scholarships, and credit in the finest universities in the world

## West Hall High School International Education Timeline

- ♦ **2005 - 2006:** West Hall High School conducts feasibility study to determine if the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is right for our school. Over 20 teachers and parents visit 6 different IB schools to gain a better understanding of IB.
- ♦ **Spring, 2006:** 100% of WHHS faculty vote to pursue authorization as an IB School
- ♦ **Summer, 2006:** Six teachers attend the first of many IB training workshops.
- ♦ **Fall, 2006:** WHHS submits our Intent to Apply Form to the International Baccalaureate Organization.
- ♦ **2006 - 2007:** More teachers attend IB training workshops and visit IB schools. Teachers write syllabi for the IB classes and parents begin the International Education Parent Association.
- ♦ **May, 2007:** IB Graduates visit WHHS to talk to students, parents, and teachers. WHHS submits the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Application.
- ♦ **Fall, 2007:** IB representatives visited WHHS and gave us an excellent evaluation.
- ♦ **Feb., 2008:** IB authorizes West Hall High School as an IB World School!
- ♦ **Aug., 2008:** WHHS offers first IB classes to juniors (the graduating class of 2010)!



## The International Baccalaureate Programme at West Hall High School An IB World School



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## What is the International Baccalaureate Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme is an international course of study for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. IB Diploma students earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma that is recognized worldwide as the benchmark of high achievement in a high school curriculum.

After a 2-year application process, West Hall High School became authorized to offer IB classes to juniors in the fall of 2008. The IB Curriculum is a complete program of academics and service that helps students to become lifelong learners, risk-takers, and caring individuals who are often admitted into the best universities in America and even in the world. These students often enter college with up to a year of college credit. It is certainly an exciting and visionary time for our school!

## What is the IB Curriculum?

To prepare for the IB Coursework, students can take Honors and AP classes in 9th and 10th grade. In 11th and 12th Grade, students begin the IB Curriculum and take 3 higher level courses and 3 standard level courses. Although they take a total of 6 IB classes, they still have an elective each semester for P.E., Band, Chorus, a Career Pathway course, etc. We are planning to offer additional choices for IB classes in the future.

### IB Academics

- ♦ English A1 (HL) or \*Spanish A1 (SL)
- ♦ Spanish B (SL) or \*English B (HL)
- ♦ Economics (HL)
- ♦ Environmental Systems (SL)
- ♦ Physics (SL)
- ♦ Math Methods (SL) or Math Studies (SL)

\*For Native Speakers of Spanish

### IB Elective Choices (students choose 1):

- ♦ Music (HL)
- ♦ Art (HL)
- ♦ Theatre (HL)
- ♦ ITGS (HL) (Information Technology in a Global Society)

### The Core of IB

**CAS:** IB Diploma students engage in at least 150 hours of Creativity, Action, and Service.

**Extended Essay:** Students research and write a culminating paper in an academic subject of their own choosing.

**TOK:** The Theory of Knowledge class is a required IB elective for students where they learn in an interdisciplinary environment about thinking and knowing.

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## Who can become an IB Diploma Student?

Students will apply to be in the International Baccalaureate Programme in the spring of their sophomore year. The Application includes teacher recommendations, a short essay, and a transcript of 9th and 10th grades.

Taking Honors and AP classes helps to prepare students for the IB curriculum, but there is no required GPA or required Honors/AP classes. What is most important is a student's desire to move beyond the college-prep curriculum to a more rigorous and interdisciplinary course of study. Successful students are motivated and demonstrate a commitment to and excitement about thinking and learning.

For more information visit the International Baccalaureate website at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) or contact IB Coordinator Laurie Ecke at: [Laurie.ecke@hallco.org](mailto:Laurie.ecke@hallco.org)

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