

# International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Bend Senior High School

## What is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme is a two-year rigorous, college preparation program for Grades 11 and 12 with a strong emphasis on higher-level thinking, personal growth, academic integrity, and international-mindedness. Students take three IB subjects at Higher Level (at least 240 hours) and three IB subjects at Standard Level (at least 150 hours) in six designated subject areas. In addition, students complete the core of the IB Diploma Programme that includes Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge (TOK) coursework, and an Extended Essay. BSH students are encouraged to take one or more IB courses or to pursue the full IB Diploma awarded by the IBO.

## Is the International Baccalaureate Programme widely recognized?

The IB Diploma Programme is offered in 2300 schools in countries all over the world. Bend High is one of 19 high schools in Oregon to be authorized to offer the IB Diploma Programme. Numerous colleges and universities recognize that IB Diploma students are well-prepared for college coursework and, as a result, may award college credit, scholarships, or, more rarely, even sophomore standing for certain scores on the IB Diploma. Do check specific university websites to review their policies. A good starting place is <http://www.ibo.org/country/US/index.cfm>

## What IB courses does Bend High offer?

Bend High is authorized to offer the following coursework. Offerings may change from year to year depending on forecasting and scheduling. (HL=Higher Level; SL=Standard Level)

IB English HL	IB Chemistry SL	IB Math Studies SL
IB French SL/HL	IB Chemistry HL	IB Math SL (Pre-Calculus; Calculus)
IB Spanish SL /HL	IB Environmental Sys & Soc. SL	IB Math HL (Calculus and beyond)
IB World Religions SL	IB Music SL/HL	
IB 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Issues SL	IB Biology HL	
IB History of Americas HL	IB Physics SL	
IB Psychology SL	Theory of Knowledge 1	
IB Psychology HL	Theory of Knowledge 2	

Students may have space in their schedule for additional courses depending on their interests. In most cases, students taking Music SL/HL also are involved in a performance group.

## What should students do to prepare for the IB Diploma Programme?

The IB emphasizes strong reading and writing skills. Freshmen should plan to take Honors courses where available. Ideally, students should complete two years of high school level French or Spanish by the end of freshman year, although some students may only complete one year by then and still complete the IB Diploma successfully. Students should complete *at least* Algebra 1 by the end of freshman year. Completion of Geometry or Adv. Algebra 2 freshman year opens up additional math options for IB Diploma students. Students can follow the regular BHS science sequence, or science-oriented students may complete Honors Biology/Physics in Grade 9 in order to access our Higher Level IB science courses. Students planning to take IB Music should have prior preparation in music, and most are in music classes in grades 9 and 10. Finally, students should forecast for IB-Prep English and History in grade 10.

## **How do students enter the IB Diploma Programme?**

Students planning to pursue an IB Diploma complete a short application, usually in the middle of grade 10. The application includes brief teacher recommendations and questions about the student's approach to learning. Students meet with the IB Diploma Coordinator in spring of grade 10 to plan a two-year sequence of IB Diploma courses including 3 Higher Level and 3 Standard Level subjects. It is possible for students to declare their interest in pursuing an IB Diploma any time prior to Grade 11, but we **highly recommend** that students plan early, prepare well, and take rigorous coursework. All BSH counselors can help students plan successfully for grades 9-12.

## **If I'm not pursuing an IB Diploma, should I pursue an IB Certificate?**

Students are encouraged to pursue an IB certificate in any IB course by completing all the required internal and external assessments. Students who perform well on the assessments then submit their IB scores to colleges. Many colleges offer credit for students who have high IB scores. Many students at Bend High take one or more IB courses for the compelling curriculum, personal challenge, college preparation, and possible college credit, and many others aim for IB Diploma.

## **How are students assessed?**

Students complete required Internal and External Assessments that are scored using IB criteria. BHS instructors score the Internal Assessments. Some IAs are sent to be scored a second time by IB moderators. The IB exams in May are scored by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Scores are released online each July for submission to colleges and universities.

## **How are IB scores calculated?**

The IB uses a scoring system of 1-7, with 7 being the highest mark. A score of 4 is considered passing. Scores on internal and external assessments are combined to produce an overall IB score in the subject. IB Diploma students also receive scores on their Extended Essay and on their TOK assessments that are required for completion of the IB Diploma.

## **Is there a cost to the IB Diploma or IB Certificate?**

The International Baccalaureate Organization is a non-profit entity. IB exams taken in May currently **cost \$113 per exam (similar to AP) with a registration fee of \$164** (one-time for Diploma students). In the last several years, families that qualify for free/reduced lunch have had some exam fees covered through a grant through the state. Bend High does not profit from the exam fees. The exam fees cover the cost of all course internal and external assessments handled by IB. Diploma students' TOK and Extended Essay assessments are included within the exam fees without additional costs. IB exams are required only if a student is pursuing an IB diploma or certificate.

## **Can students in grade 10 take IB courses?**

It may be **possible for students in grade 10 to take an IB course if they have the prerequisite coursework and skills. In some cases students in grade 10 planning to pursue an IB Diploma may test in extra IB subjects in addition to their six for IB Diploma.** However, only IB courses taken in Grade 11 and 12 will count toward IB Diploma requirements. This is an IB policy worldwide.

## **Where can I get more information?** For information about IB worldwide: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

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