



January 2019

Upcoming Dates

February

*Sophomore IB Diploma
Candidates finalize schedules
with counselors in math class.*

Late February

*Sophomore IB Diploma
Candidates get paperwork.
(Completed paperwork
guarantees a student free IB
testing.)*

Mid-March

IB schedules finalized.

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HHD Parent IB News

A Note from the Coordinator: It's Scheduling Season!

It's IB scheduling season! I always wait with bated breath to see how many students decide to pursue the full IB Diploma. Inevitably, I receive multiple parent calls inquiring about which classes are required for an IB Diploma. Invested parents want to tackle scheduling. My advice to all parents? Don't try to create your child's IB schedule!

There are many IB rules and dozens of different course pathways available for completing an IB Diploma. Many IB Diploma Candidates are in band, journalism or art. Many have six hours in their day rather than seven. The options available for each student are vast.

It is best to have your child schedule a meeting with their counselor where multiple possibilities will be presented for consideration. Students are then urged to take the options home and discuss these with a parent. One of our strengths in the IB Program is our ability to accommodate varied student interests. Beginning students' IB journey with a personal conference gives them the agency they will need for success in the program.

Our dream is to eventually develop an online IB scheduling tool. But for now, we have a team of counselors ready to help students navigate the IB scheduling process.



Counselor Jill English meets with sophomore Kayla Seitz to discuss IB scheduling options.

IB by the Numbers

101
Self-identified
potential IB Diploma
candidates for class of
2021

34
Hours spent by
counselors with the
potential IB Diploma
Candidates in
scheduling meetings.

\$0
Cost of IB test for
Diploma Candidates

\$94
Cost of each test for
non-Diploma
Candidates

38
2020 HHD Diploma
Candidates

11
2019 HHD Diploma
Candidates

17
2018 HHD Diploma
Recipients

Parent Perspective: Paring Down the Non-Negotiables

Over the few months we've been doing these newsletters, the most frequent question I've been asked is "What do I have to do to get my child into the IB program?" How awesome that there's so much interest in IB!

The good news is that you don't have to do anything to get your child into the IB program. There's no application process. Students won't be accepted into or rejected from the program on the basis of grades or test scores. It's more a matter of fit: is the IB program the right choice for your student and your family?

IB is a rigorous course of study, so there are requirements to complete the diploma program. Students must take and test in a certain number of SL (standard level) and HL (higher level) classes. To complete the full diploma, students must also take Theory of Knowledge (affectionately known as TOK) the second half of their junior year and the first semester of their senior year. TOK anchors the IB trifecta: the extended essay, the CAS project, and Theory of Knowledge.

Depending on the student's interest, the schedule might have more than one science or be more heavily weighted towards the humanities. Students interested in art or music can do that as well. With the exception of TOK, there aren't many other "in stone" class requirements. Students must be willing to take language in their junior and senior years (some exceptions apply for seniors) and must be open to a challenging interdisciplinary course of study.

In December, Sarah and the counselors met with all sophomores in their English classes to introduce the program. Former diploma grads gave a real life perspective on the program. Any interested student was then invited to sign up for a conference with a counselor. The counselors work with each student to accommodate his or her interests. As Sarah describes the process, "I ask every student, 'What is your non-negotiable?' We can usually accommodate one non-negotiable and often two, but at a point, kids have to make a choice, IB or not."

For example, my sophomore son is signing up for IB. When I first broached the topic of IB with him, he replied, "I'll do IB if I can keep doing Band and take AP Bio. If I can't take AP Bio, I'm not doing it." Then he added, "I wouldn't mind keeping German." Three non-negotiables were too many—either German or Band had to go (his schedule allows for a language exception senior year). But actually, that was going to happen anyway with his schedule—at some point, students have to choose. That's a life lesson IB begins to instill early.

Have a question or issue you would like to see addressed in a future issue? Contact Ansley Dauenhauer at: ansley.dauenhauer@gmail.com.