

Guajome Park Academy - an International Baccalaureate School

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Coordinator: Molly Ravenscroft



The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a recognized leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens.

Guajome Park Academy is an approved International Baccalaureate (IB) school able to prepare students for the IB Diploma. IB is an internationally recognized college-preparatory program which offers a broad curriculum complemented by an opportunity to study a subject in depth.

The goals of the IB program are to help students learn how to learn, how to evaluate information critically, how to analyze, and how to reach thoughtful conclusions. The two-year curriculum includes a strong emphasis on the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship.

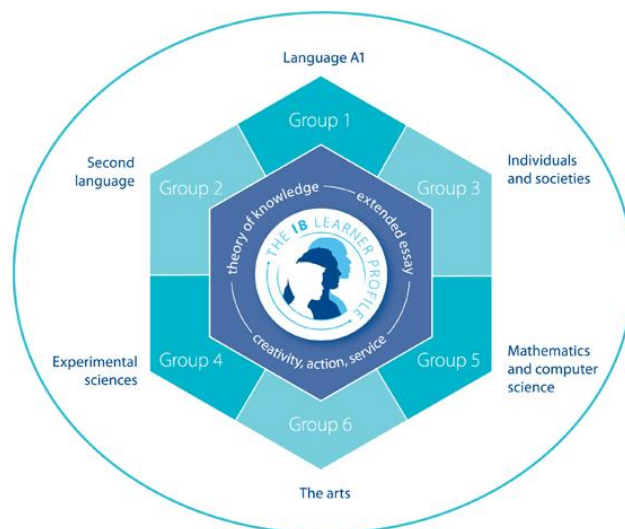
Diploma candidates are required to study six subjects: Language A1; Language B; Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences; Mathematics, and Arts/Electives. At least three and not more than four courses are taken at the higher level (HL); the other courses are taken at the standard level (SL). HL courses represent at least 240 teaching hours and SL courses cover at least 150 teaching hours.

Achievement is assessed using international standards. IB test scores have no effect on the final grade in the course, only on the awarding of the separate IB diploma, certificate or possible advanced standing in college coursework.

Students who are planning on attending college are encouraged to participate in the IB program.

IB Curriculum Model

International curriculum planners seek to ensure that the International Baccalaureate's educational aims are embodied in the structure and content of the program itself. The diploma is displayed in the shape of a hexagon with six academic areas or subject groups surrounding a core of diploma requirements. Subjects are studied concurrently.



- Group 1: Language A1
- Group 2: Second Language
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies
- Group 4: Experimental Sciences
- Group 5: Mathematics & Computer Science
- Group 6: the Arts

Additional IB Diploma Requirements

Extended Essay: Students independently research a topic of individual interest and write an essay demonstrating their knowledge of the topic. The essay is limited to 4,000 words. The purpose of the extended essay is to acquaint students with the research, writing,

and organizational skills expected at the college-level.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK): TOK is an interdisciplinary course that is essential to the IB Programme. In this two-year course, students explore the nature of knowledge primarily by critically examining posed questions.

Creativity, action, service (CAS): CAS promotes the importance of awareness and involvement in the broader community through the student's creativity, action, and service. Student participation also encourages personal growth.

International Baccalaureate Curriculum

Extended Essay
Theory of Knowledge
Creativity, action, service (CAS)

Group 1: Language
IB English HL

Group 2: Second Language
IB German SL/HL
IB Spanish SL/HL

Group 3: Individuals and Societies
IB History of the Americas HL
IB Business SL/HL

Group 4: Experimental Sciences
IB Biology SL/HL

Group 5: Mathematics
IB Math Studies SL

Group 6: the Arts
IB Theatre Arts SL

Definitions and Regulations

- Diplomas and Certificate
Students will earn a full diploma by completing the course requirements and meeting the score requirements on exams in the six subject groups as well as by completing the TOK course, Extended Essay, and CAS requirements.

Students may earn certificates by completing all the class requirements and passing the exam in one or more classes. Failure to complete the full diploma automatically makes the course a certificate course for the student.

- Standard Level and Higher Level
Standard Level (SL) courses represent at least 150 hours of instruction and are completed in one year.

Higher Level (HL) courses represent at least 240 hours of instruction and are completed over two years.

- Advanced Placement and IB
Advanced Placement (AP) is a nationwide program administered by the Educational Testing Service and College Board. This program allows a student the potential of receiving credit for a college-level course pursued in high school. Colleges and universities have individual policies to convert the scores to college credit. AP classes offer in-depth study in a single subject area. The exams are scored by the Educational Testing Service in New Jersey.

The IB diploma program is an international program administered by The International Baccalaureate Organization located in Switzerland. The exams include internal teacher assessments as well as external assessments that are graded by educators throughout the world.

Exams tend to test broad general understanding of concepts and themes and emphasize essay writing. The IB diploma and IB individual certificate exams scores are recognized according to the individual college or university policy.

- Testing Costs

There is no charge for taking an AP or IB course. However, there is a cost for each exam. The IB exams are comparable to AP. Please contact the Coordinator for more information on testing costs.

IB Coordinator:
Molly Ravenscroft
IB Coordinator
760-631-8500 x3028
ravenscroftmo@guajome.net

Planning Your Schedule

All students interested in attending a four-year college or university should plan to participate in the IB program. These courses prepare students for the reading, writing, analysis, and research skills needed to be successful in college work.

- 9th & 10th Grade Students

The best preparation for 9th and 10th grade students is to choose courses that have an Honors/Advanced Placement designation.

Students should also refer to the IB Course Sequence in the Guajome Park Academy Course Catalog for more information.

Interested students should apply to the IB program during the Spring Semester of their 10th grade year, and meet with the IB Coordinator and/or Counselor to create an

individualized course sequence for 11th and 12th grade.

- 11th Grade Students

Prior to their 11th grade year, IB students should meet with the IB Coordinator and/or Counselor to create an individualized course sequence designed according to the student's educational goals and plans for the future.

The IB Diploma Program allows a student to select courses that reflect his/her interests and strengths. Students need to select three higher level classes (one must be English) and three standard level classes. The HL courses would reflect the student's interests whereas the SL courses allow the student to meet the requirements for the diploma. Therefore, a student interested in sciences and mathematics would choose HL courses in those areas and the student whose strengths and interests are in humanities would choose HL courses in those areas. Students select electives that reflect their focus.

During the 11th grade year, Diploma students must take the Theory of Knowledge (Year 1) course and begin on CAS hours.

Extended Essays should be completed by the Fall Semester of senior year.

- 12th Grade Students

During the 12th grade, students must complete the diploma requirements. Students must sign up for the second year of their three chosen Higher Level courses. Students must sign up for a second year of any Standard Level course in which they did not test as an 11th grader. Theory of Knowledge and CAS hours must be completed during the 12th grade year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will students get help with the Extended Essay?

Yes. IB teachers will help each student select a topic and a supervisor to work with to advise them on the content of the paper. Supervisors will help students develop research questions and a research plan. They will also work with their student(s) to help keep them on schedule to complete the paper with all required parts by the deadline.

Is the Extended Essay difficult?

Most students should find that writing the essay is not difficult after having completed the research. The research should not be difficult because it will be in an area of personal interest. Students also have a full year to work on the project and their supervisor, IB teachers, and coordinator as resources.

May students take IB courses even if they are not certificate or diploma candidates?

Yes. Any student serious about maximizing chances for success at college and are highly motivated should participate. Students must meet certain prerequisites prior to enrolling in IB courses. Please contact the IB Coordinator or Counselor for more information.

Who typically undertakes the IB diploma?

Most students are highly motivated, have strong academic preparation and have goals that include attending top tier universities and colleges.

Which universities recognize the IB Diploma Program?

The IB Diploma Program is recognized by universities worldwide. For more information about specific universities, please go to: <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/directory/>.

For more information, please contact:

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