



Parent Information Meeting Robinson Secondary School

For Parents of Rising Eleventh Graders

January 2020



How will an IB class be different from a regular class?

- ▶ You will be challenged to think more abstractly and analytically. The reading and writing are more sophisticated.
- ▶ You must be committed to 30 minutes of homework per night per class, and able to handle long-term assignments.
- ▶ You will need to complete an internal assessment (which could be written or oral, depending on the course and which may involve research).
- ▶ You will need to sit for the exam at the end of the course.



What are my options for coursework within IB?

- ▶ **IB Diploma**
- ▶ **IB certificates – individual IB courses in subjects about which you have a passion and an interest**



Full IB Diploma Requirements

▶ One exam level course in each of the six areas:

❑ English

❑ World Language

❑ Social Studies

❑ Science

❑ Math

❑ and the Electives.

❑ IB Theory of Knowledge – junior year

❑ Extended Essay

❑ CAS (Creativity, Action and Service)

**Three courses at the
Higher Level (HL)
and three courses at the
Standard Level (SL)**



IB Diploma Requirements

To be completed in grades 11 and 12

Extended Essay (EE)-MOSTLY JUNIOR YEAR

- ▶ 3,000 – 4,000 word essay, on a topic of student interest
- ▶ Provides excellent preparation for independent study at university level

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)-JUNIOR YEAR WITH RAISE MEETINGS DURING SENIOR YEAR

- ▶ Critical reflection of how we know and what we know
- ▶ Develops awareness of cultural perspectives and biases
- ▶ Allows for connections to be established between disciplines

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)-SUMMER 2020-MAY 2022

- ▶ A framework for experiential learning, involving students in new and active roles
- ▶ Develops awareness and a sense of responsibility towards the community



Why pursue the full diploma?

- Preparation package for college (the IB has always been designed to get students *through* college courses, not necessarily *out* of them)
- IB emphasizes reading, writing, and speaking skills; students learn to ask and answer their own questions
- College admission advantages
- Lifelong learners, critical and compassionate thinkers, global citizens
- Possible college course credit or advanced standing for impressive IB exam scores
- Scholarship opportunities
- Most rigorous high school program



Why choose certificates over the diploma?

- ▶ Challenging yourself in some subject areas and getting good grades in those courses is better than doing the full diploma and earning weaker grades.
- ▶ Some students want to take Academy courses and the diploma is hard to do when you are out of the building for multiple periods.
- ▶ Some students who have a strong interest in, and commitments to, extra- curriculars find that they do not have enough time to meet the demands of both the full diploma and their activities.



English options:

IB English Literature: For the student who likes to talk and write about books, plays, poetry and short stories

IB English Language and Literature: For the student who enjoys class debates and discussions and interpreting different kinds of texts (not just books, etc.)



IB English options:

	Lang and Lit HL	Lang and Lit SL	Literature HL	Literature SL
Formal Essay (Senior year)	1200-1500 word essay about one work studied	No essay required	1200-1500 word essay about one work studied	No essay required
Individual Oral (IA) (Junior year)	One 15-minute oral exam connecting text to global context	One 15-minute oral exam connecting text to global context	One 15-minute oral exam connecting text to global context	One 15-minute oral exam connecting text to global context
Number of works studied over two years	6 works	4 works	13 works	9 works



IB World Languages

- ▶ **At both the Higher and Standard Levels, students are asked to do the following:**
 - **Communicate clearly and effectively in a range of situations, responding to texts, and to each other, engaging in discussion with the teacher through writing and speaking**
 - **The Higher Level language option requires students to read and respond to two works of literature in the target language. (5 years of a language is required for this option)**



IB History Options:

Choices as a junior:

IB History of the Americas HL I or US History , AP US History, US History HN

Choices as a senior:

IB Topics in 20th Century World History HL II: a continuation of the study of history beginning in junior year with IB History of the Americas. Instruction focuses on the how and why of significant historical events, and includes an emphasis on peace-making in history.

IB Geography SL: A stand alone course that satisfies the state requirements for graduation in the history sequence. Course focuses on issues of spatial analysis-urbanization, population development and environmental qualities.



IB Science Sequence:

- ▶ Virginia requires 3 different lab sciences and 4 units of science for graduation with an advanced studies diploma.
- ▶ IB requires an SL or HL science class.
- ▶ If a student pursues the full IB diploma, Virginia will accept the IB requirements (and thus 3 different lab sciences are not required).



IB Science Options:

- ▶ **Biology Higher Level (2 year course)**
- ▶ **Biology Standard Level (1 year course)**
- ▶ **Chemistry Higher Level (pre-requisite: IB Chem 1) and Chemistry Standard Level (pre-requisite: Chem 1 or IB Chem 1)**
- ▶ **Environmental Systems Standard Level (is a transdisciplinary course and count as either a science or history for IB): course that explores the influence/impact society has on the environment**



More Science Options:

- ▶ **Physics Higher Level (requires IB Physics 1 in grade 11)**
- ▶ **Physics Standard Level (requires Physics 1 or IB Physics 1)**
- ▶ **Design Technology Standard Level (counts as a science for IB, but as a CTE credit for Fairfax County): course for those interested in architecture or engineering**
- ▶ **Computer Science (counts as a science for IB, but as a Math for Fairfax County): course for those interested in coding and computer networks**



IB Math Options: (both 2 year courses)

Math Applications and Interpretation I

a study of *math in our world* and how to solve practical problems using math

Emphasis on probability, statistics, functions, trigonometry, and differential calculus.

Targeted towards students who will go on to study subjects such as *social sciences, natural sciences, business, psychology, and statistics*

Math Analysis and Approaches I

a study of *mathematical arguments*, problem solving and real/abstract applications.

Emphasis on advanced algebra and functions, trigonometry, probability, statistics, differential and integral calculus

Targeted towards students who will go on to study subjects such as *math, engineering, physical sciences or economics*



IB Electives:

- Social & Cultural Anthropology SL (one year)
- Social & Cultural Anthropology HL (two years)
- World Religions SL
- Psychology SL (one year)
- Psychology HL (two years)
- Business SL (one year)**
- Business HL (two years)

- Economics SL **
- Economics HL (two years)
- Philosophy SL
- Computer Science SL

Both SL and HL in the following courses are two year courses:

- Film SL or HL
- Visual Arts SL or HL
- Theatre Arts SL or HL

*****satisfies state requirement for economics and personal finance***



If your son/daughter decides to pursue the full diploma, what is the next step?

- ✓ **They should consider course options with you, making sure they are setting themselves up for 3 HLs and 3 SLs.**
- ✓ **They must come to the IB Office and meet with Mrs. Vu or Ms. Cho to go over the choices. We will discuss balance, best fits, what they want to do next and consult their grades to determine course selection together.**
- ✓ **Then, they will individually meet with their counselors beginning February 20 to finalize choices.**



What do they do if they don't want to pursue the full diploma?

- ▶ Encourage your students to take one or several IB courses in subjects that they like and in which they want a greater challenge
- ▶ Encourage your students to consider one of the fabulous IB electives – an opportunity to study a subject that is new to them (see handout)



Considerations in Planning for High School Courses

Academic
Challenge

Academic Success

Extra-
curriculars

Create a healthy balance!



Save the Date:

2020 IBMA College Fair

- ▶ Saturday, March 28th , 2020, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
- ▶ Here at Robinson Secondary!!!
- ▶ About 150 colleges from around the world who are coming to meet you!
- ▶ If you would like more information (including a list of schools which attended last year's fair), go to <http://www.ibmidadatlantic.org/Fair.html>