Palmer High School
Access Policy

Participation in the IB Diploma Program at Palmer High School is open for all students who are academically ready for the classes and who are high school juniors or seniors (ages 16-19). Students who learn with the support of 504 plans or IEPs are welcome and encouraged to take IB classes.

This document includes:

- International Baccalaureate and Palmer High School Mission and Vision Statements
- Access Policy and Vision
- Prerequisites
- Connections to other IB Policies

Mission and Vision Statements

IB Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Palmer High School Vision

To create a culture of caring and a culture where we believe in every student and their ability to learn.

Palmer High School Mission

To prepare life-long learners, community assets, and citizens of integrity.

Access Policy and Vision

Participation in the IB Diploma Program at Palmer High School is open for all students who are academically ready for the classes and who are high school juniors or seniors (ages 16-19). Students who learn with the support of 504 plans or IEPs are welcome and encouraged to take IB classes.

There are no applications to participate in the IB program at Palmer High School.

Palmer High School's goal for the last five years has been to see all Palmer High students take at least one IB class. Since the last review cycle the percentage of juniors taking at least one IB course has increased from 45% to 80%.

This gain can be attributed to several new Palmer High School Access Policies:

1. All students who have completed Geometry by the end of their sophomore year will be enrolled in an IB Mathematics course.
    a. Students who have completed Geometry will enter IB Mathematics Approaches and Interpretations SL year 1.
    b. Students who have completed Algebra 2 will have the option of taking IB Mathematics A&I SL year 1 or IB Mathematics A&I HL year 1.
2. All juniors will enroll in one of two U.S./IB History options:
    a. IB History of the Americas year 1
    b. Regular U.S. History with the option to complete additional assessments (for example, the IA for IB History) and retroactively get credit for IB History year 1.
3. Encouragement of juniors to take one of two Language A: Literature options. Palmer High has always had a Language A: Literature HL course; in the fall of 2021, we added two sections of Language A: Language & Literature SL to increase opportunities for students to participate in the IB program.

Prerequisites

The prerequisites for IB courses at Palmer High School are as follows:

Group 1: Language A	
Language A: Literature	English 1 and English 2
Language A: Language and Literature	English 1 and English 2
Group 2: Language Acquisition	
Language B: French	French 1 and French 2
Language B: Japanese	Japanese 1 and Japanese 2
Language B: Spanish	Spanish 1 and Spanish 2
Group 3: Individuals and Societies	
History of the Americas	Civics, World History
Philosophy	No prerequisites
Group 4: Sciences	
Biology	Biology, Physical Science
Chemistry	Algebra 1, Geometry, Regular Chemistry
Physics	Biology, A or B in Geometry (or teacher approval)
Environmental Systems and Societies	Biology
Group 5: Mathematics	
Approaches and Interpretations SL	Algebra 1, Geometry
Approaches and Interpretations HL	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2
Group 6:	
Visual Arts	3D Survey, 2D Survey, 3D Studio, 2D Studio or teacher recommendation
Music	9th and 10th grade Band or Choir

Connections to other IB Policies

Access and Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning, and it is through assessment that students' readiness for participation in the Diploma Program is determined. As long as students meet the language requirement and the prerequisite requirements, they are entitled to access to the IB Diploma Program.

Access and Language

To ensure that all students at Palmer High School have access to the IB Diploma Program, support and resources are available to support students who are either proficient or lacking proficiency with the English language. Students in 9th and 10th grade classes in all subject areas receive instruction to ensure their readiness to read, write, and speak about academic subjects in IB courses. Students who need assistance with English proficiency are identified as soon as they enroll as students at Palmer High, and are given the support, resources, and opportunity to increase fluency before enrolling in IB courses.

Access and Inclusion

Palmer High School encourages students to participate in all courses for which they have met the prerequisites and for which they have the skills and support to be successful. PHS depends on the sharing of information from families and students to ensure that inclusive access arrangements can be made both in the classroom and in testing environments.

Access and Academic Integrity

Palmer High School relies on valid, accurate, and fair assessments of students' abilities in the courses they take in preparation for participation in the IB Diploma Program.