IB PROGRAM ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry Into The IB Program

We are committed to maximising student potential and academic achievement at AIS West and offer the IB Program as our most rigorous, dynamic, and demanding academic diploma option. This program is widely recognized and often preferred by Universities and Colleges throughout the world. AIS West has been delivering the IB program successfully for many years and a number of our graduates have been admitted into prestigious Universities as a result of participating in this program.

The combination of data points listed below will help guide students, parents, and the AIS West High School Administration Team as to whether the IBDP will be an advisable undertaking for *(you)* your student. We are introducing placement tests to assist in offering objective data while considering Diploma program options. *It is important to note that these same variables are also employed by some of the highest ranking High Schools globally.*

Eligibility Criteria for the IB Diploma Program:

- **Minimum GPA:** Students must maintain a GPA of **3.2 or higher** to be eligible for the IB program.
- **Mathematics Placement Test:** All applicants are required to sit for a Math placement test. This test helps place each student in the **course that best aligns with their potential and capabilities**, ensuring they are positioned for success.
- **Grade 10 English Requirement:** Students must have achieved at least a **B grade in Grade 10 English** to qualify for the IB program.
- **Personal Essay Submission:** A **300-400 word essay** outlining why the student wants to join the IB program and the personal qualities that will support their success in the program is required.
- **Interview (if necessary):** Students and parents may be invited for an interview to discuss the student's suitability for the program.

Student Qualities for the IB Program:

To thrive in the IB program, students are expected to demonstrate the following characteristics:

- **Integrity and respect** for themselves and others.
- **Strong motivation** and eagerness to learn.
- **Ambition** to make positive contributions to both personal and global growth.
- **Commitment** to being involved in academic and extracurricular activities.
- **Leadership potential** and the desire to be a positive role model for peers.

Placement Tests and Course Selection:

Our goal is to place students in courses that match their abilities from the beginning. The IB Program offers a range of courses suitable for different learner preferences. After reviewing the results of placement tests, students will select their IB courses.

Choosing between **Higher Level (HL)** and **Standard Level (SL)** courses is a significant decision. Students should consider both their academic strengths and their intended university path. A thoughtful choice is crucial due to the IB Program's high demands.

Alternative Pathway:

- While we encourage students to challenge themselves, we recognize that the IB program may not be the best fit for everyone.

- As an alternative, AIS West offers the **American Diploma Program (ADP)**, which also provides a strong foundation for post-high school education.
  (For more information on the AD Program, please consult our website or speak with a High School Administrator.)

Sustaining Enrollment within the IB Program:

- **Ongoing Performance Reviews:** Students' academic and behavioral progress will be assessed at the end of each term.
- **Improvement Plans:** Those who do not meet the expected standards will be placed on an **Improvement Plan** and closely monitored through **Academic/Behavioral Probation**.
- **Program Change:** Students who remain in breach of the signed agreement or those whose progress suggests that they will not achieve the IB Diploma in Grade 12, they may be transitioned to the **American Diploma Program** by the end of Grade 11.

IB Fees

If students meet the entry criteria and are admitted to the IB Diploma Program, please note that there will be **additional fees** associated with this program. The IB Programme involves exam fees and charges payable to the IBO. Therefore, in addition to the regular school fees, IB students are required to make additional fees. For more information regarding IB program fees, please contact the Admissions Office.