Rockwall High School
Home of the Yellowjackets

The IB Programme is a rigorous course of study designed to meet the needs of highly motivated high school students. Today the IB Program is of even greater significance, given our existence in a progressively diverse society where processing knowledge is on the rise. It is essential, therefore, that academic training provide students with the skills and opportunities that will enable them to succeed in the competitive global economy paired with an appreciation and understanding of cultural diversity.

The IB Learner Profile
The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Thinkers
- Principled
- Caring
- Balanced
- Knowledgeable
- Communicators
- Open-minded
- Risk-takers
- Reflective

What is the Diploma Programme?
The Diploma Programme (DP) is a curriculum framework designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) for 11th & 12th grade students.

Benefits for Students:
IB Students are given a unique education. They will:

- Be encouraged to think independently and drive their own learning
- Take part in programmes of education that can lead them to some of the highest ranking universities around the world
- Become more culturally aware, through the development of a second language
- Be able to engage with people in an increasingly globalized, rapidly changing world

IB students graduating with the IB diploma are able to study at universities all around the world, often with advanced credit. Students report that their involvement with the IB has given them the tools needed to succeed at college. In particular, students comment on their sense of preparedness, self-confidence, research skills, and their ability to manage their time. Even more important, they have developed a sense of the world around them and their responsibility to it.



Diploma Programme students study six subjects (three at standard level and three at higher level) over two years and complete three additional requirements: the theory of knowledge (TOK), the extended essay and CAS—creativity, activity and service experiences outside of the classroom. In addition to these requirements, students must earn a minimum of 24 points out of a possible 45 points on the final assessments which are externally marked and moderated by the IB, in order to receive an IB diploma.

Theory of knowledge (TOK)
TOK is an interdisciplinary course designed to help students question and understand how they know what they know. Students study how individuals from various disciplines view the world in order to develop their own ways of thinking.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)
CAS is an experiential learning component of the DP. Students complete a wide variety of extracurricular, community service and athletic options to fulfill this requirement.

Extended Essay
The extended essay introduces students to the demands and rewards of independent work. Emphasis is placed on doing personal research and communicating ideas effectively in order to write a 4,000-word essay in an area of personal interest.

IB Course Certificate Options

The following International Baccalaureate courses may be taken by students *not pursuing the full IB Diploma*. In these IB courses, students will take the same internal and external assessments as the IB Diploma students and can earn college credit for passing prescribed IB assessments (3-12 hours depending on scores). The IB course options for Rockwall ISD are:

- **IB Literature/English** Higher Level (a 2 credit course, taken over 2 years)
- **IB Spanish** Standard Level (2 years; Hon. 3 is equivalent to Year 1)
- **IB French** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB History** higher level (2 years)
- **IB Philosophy** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB Environmental Systems and Societies** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB Physics** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB Biology** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB Math Applications & Interpretation** Higher Level (2 years)
- **IB Math Analysis & Approaches** Higher Level (2 years)
- **IB Film** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB Visual Arts** Higher Level (a 2 credit course, taken over 2 years)
- **IB Visual Arts** Standard Level (1 year)
- **IB Music** Standard Level (a 2 credit course, taken over 2 years)

Do DP students have time for anything beyond academics?

Absolutely. Most successful Diploma Programme students lead very full lives. They are often members of athletic teams and involved in a wide range of activities. Time management and organization are key skills the IB develops in students.

How does the IB DP differ from other university-preparatory programs such as Advanced Placement?

The IB DP is a two-year comprehensive curriculum with a culminating set of externally graded final exams. IB and Advanced Placement (AP) are both university preparatory, academically rigorous programs. There are important differences, however, in the content and exams. The DP is a cohesive and comprehensive program that implores the student to seek connections and explore the interrelationships across disciplines. The most important distinguishing factors are the core of the Diploma Programme (CAS, TOK and Extended Essay) and college credit being earned through a *series of assessments* throughout the duration of each course.

College Credit

College credit is granted when a student passes the IB examinations. Individual colleges and universities, not International Baccalaureate Programme, grant course credit and placement.

Public Texas universities are required by law (in Senate Bill 111) to award 24 credit hours for any student who earns an IB diploma with scores of 4 or higher.

Credits are accepted internationally. Requires a minimum score of 4 (Out of 1-7) or higher. See individual colleges/universities for their policies.

Diploma Programme

For more information, contact your RHS counselor or the RHS IB Coordinator

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You can also learn more at:

www.ibo.org

