HILTON HEAD ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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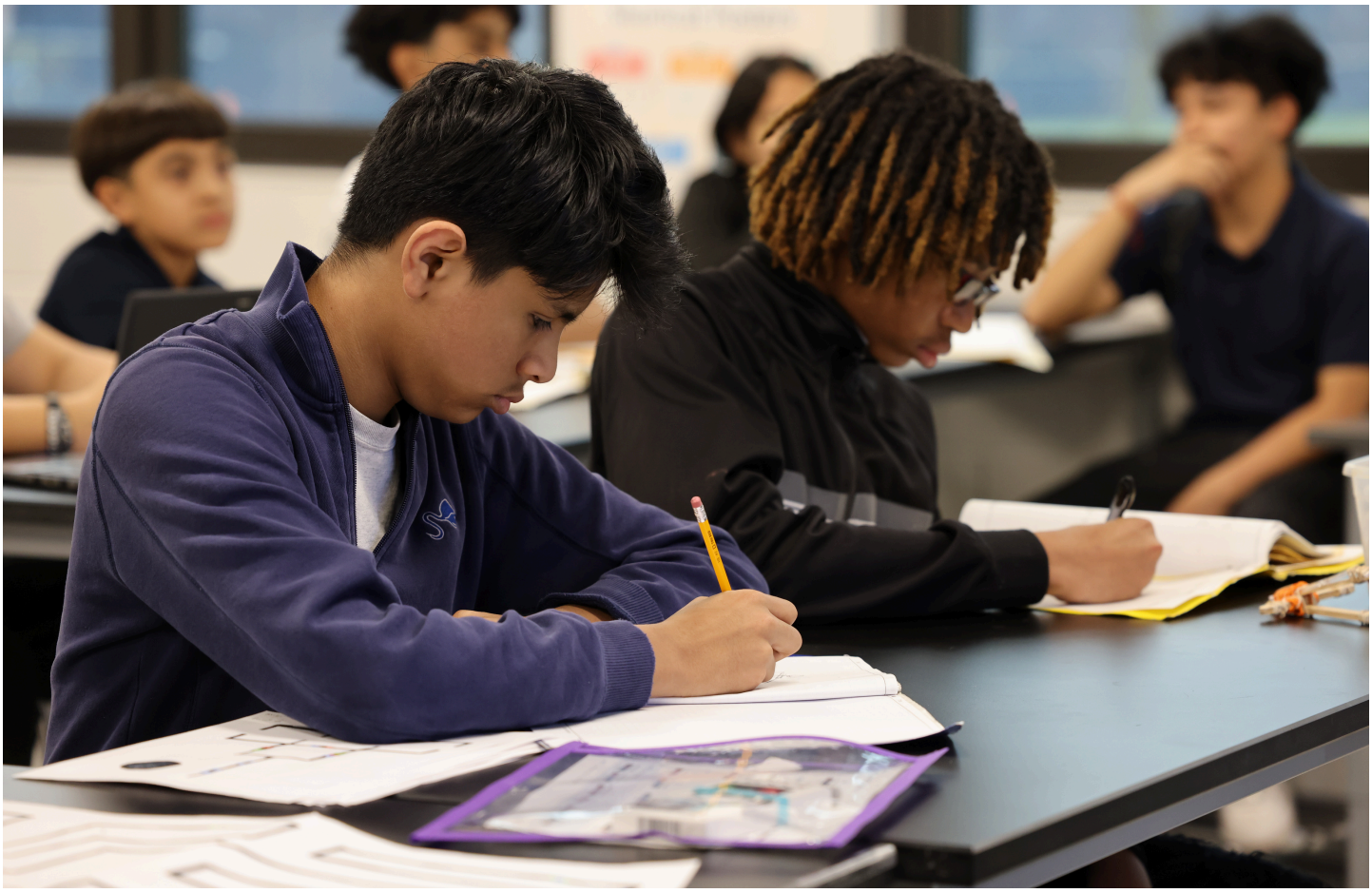
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Hilton Head Island High School is to prepare each student to become a productive, responsible citizen in a complex, global, technological age that requires lifelong learning.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

As principled IB scholars, our students conduct themselves with honesty and integrity while being respectful of the dignity and rights of everyone. Students are active participants in their education and take ownership of their learning both inside and outside the classroom. They understand that responsibility comes with the knowledge they gain as they work toward becoming productive, engaged citizens who can solve problems, continue to learn, and contribute to a global society.



IB DIPLOMA LEARNER ATTRIBUTES

- INQUIRER
- KNOWLEDGEABLE
- THINKER
- COMMUNICATOR
- PRINCIPLED
- OPEN-MINDED
- CARING
- RISK-TAKER
- BALANCED
- REFLECTIVE

IB MISSION STATEMENT

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

LETTER FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Greetings from Hilton Head Island High School.

Since we opened our doors in 1983, HHIHS has been a school that provides our students with a rich and rewarding educational experience. We are proud to be an **International Baccalaureate (IB) World school for over 30 years**, fostering a **culture of inquiry, critical thinking, and intercultural understanding**. Our commitment to IB philosophy has shaped countless students into globally minded individuals, ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow. Before becoming principal at HHIHS, I taught IB Diploma classes for over a decade. I saw firsthand the power of the rigorous course work of the IB Diploma Programme. In my view, there is **no better program** that prepares students for the challenges of college and universities.

So Why Choose Our IB School?

- **Holistic Education**: We emphasize not just academic excellence, but also personal and social growth.
- **Global Perspective**: Our curriculum encourages students to appreciate diverse cultures and viewpoints.
- **Rigorous Academic Standards**: The IB program challenges students to think independently and critically.
- **Community Engagement**: We believe in the importance of service and active participation in the community.

We welcome you to join us the Seahawk family and to take advantage of our IB curriculum as our staff inspires our students and prepares them for a brighter future. Collectively, we can continue to nurture learners who are not only **knowledgeable** but also **compassionate global citizens**.

Thanks and Go Seahawks!

Steve Schidrich
Principal
Hilton Head Island High School
Steven.schidrich@beaufort.k12.sc.us

FROM YOUR IB COORDINATOR

Hilton Head Island High School is proud to offer the prestigious **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP)** to juniors and seniors who desire to challenge themselves with **the most rigorous course of study a HHIHS Seahawk can choose.** The HHIHS IBDP stands on a solid foundation of decades of academic excellence and post-secondary success. We welcome you as you begin your IBDP journey with us.

This **guide is designed to facilitate your understanding of the IB Diploma Program at HHIHS**. We've included sections on what the IBDP is, how students earn an IB Diploma in addition to the South Carolina high school diploma, possible IB course offerings, and sample IBDP schedules. We hope the information helps you appreciate the outstanding opportunity the IBDP offers to our students.

The IBDP is challenging, as it should be for our motivated students. The program in its entirety is designed to offer a variety of opportunities for students to grow both academically and personally. **A student's IBDP course schedule is created to push them while we support them. That's why students who participate in our IBDP leave prepared with both the intellectual and soft skills needed for university success.** Additionally, they often receive college credit, depending upon the IB course scores they earn and the institution they attend.

Post-high school success is a key reason I am so passionate about making sure students understand the excellent option they have at HHIHS with the IB Diploma Program. **My experience coordinating the IBDP for over a dozen years has provided my unique perspective about its profound benefits. Every year we have IBDP students accepted to study at a wide variety of universities, which include state schools and their honors colleges as well as highly competitive universities and even Ivy Leagues**. In recent years our IBDP alumni have been fully prepared for and graduated from Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Duke, NYU, the US Naval Academy, Georgetown, Notre Dame, the University of Virginia, and many more impressive institutions. We are proud of the far reaching legacy of our IBDP as these students go out and make positive change in the world. The impact of the IBDP goes well beyond high school graduation.

Please review the guide and contact me with questions. **The most important point I hope you take away from the content here is the value of an IB Diploma education**. It is unlike other options offered to advanced and motivated students, and its strengths are in those differences.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Beth White
Hilton Head Island High School
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Coordinator
Mary.White@beaufort.k12.sc.us

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME PHILOSOPHY

WHAT IS IB DP?

The International Baccalaureate Organization's Diploma Programme (DP) was created in 1968. It is a demanding pre-university course of study for juniors and seniors that uses a multiple-assessment approach and is recognized by elite universities in the United States and around the world as an excellent preparatory curriculum. The IB Diploma Programme is designed for highly motivated eleventh and twelfth grade students and is currently found in over 4500 schools in more than 145 nations worldwide. Over the last several years, the IB Diploma Programme has become the program of choice for high schools in the United States seeking to offer a world class college preparatory curriculum.

WHY SHOULD I DO IB DP?

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum provides a cohesive and comprehensive liberal arts and sciences program of study for highly motivated students of different educational backgrounds, abilities, and interests. It is not just a set of examinations but also a robust academic program, emphasizing academic achievement, critical thinking, research skills, and community service. The DP aims to provide a balanced program which stimulates thought and creativity and enhances the international perspective of students. Those who satisfy the demands of the program demonstrate a strong commitment to learning, both in terms of mastery of content and the development of skills. The purpose of the DP curriculum is to

- Educate young people to act intelligently and responsibility in a complex society.
- Ensure knowledge of traditional academic disciplines and of the individual's own heritage, wile fostering inquisitiveness and openness to new ideas.
- Equip students with a genuine understanding of themselves and others, heightening the capacity for tolerance and engendering respect for different points of view within the IB Programme.

An IB Diploma Programme education centers on learners, delivers well researched instruction, and explores diverse, global content.

UNIQUE NATURE OF IB DP

Many college preparatory programs are available, raising the question, "What makes the DP different from other college prep choices?" The answer is in its underlying philosophy, which sees knowledge as fluid and continuously changing. It prioritizes active interaction with information instead of passive absorption. The DP emphasizes not only the accumulation of facts but also the cultivation of critical thinking abilities. Furthermore, it employs a multi-faceted assessment strategy for awarding credit, which aligns more closely with how colleges and universities assign course grades, in contrast to other advanced programs like AP.

IB Learner Profile

The learner profile of the International Baccalaureate (IB) was developed from the IB mission statement. This profile acts as the cornerstone and initial framework for the entire IB program. It showcases the values that IB students strive to exemplify, while also reflecting the goals of IB educators and administrators in their professional development.

Global Awareness

IB programs aim to develop individuals who possess a global perspective and recognize our collective humanity and duty towards the planet. This outlook promotes the vision of a more harmonious and improved world. By fostering global awareness, individuals can broaden their perspectives, moving beyond self-centered views to cultivate a greater appreciation for others.

DISTINGUISHED COURSEWORK

DIPLOMA PATHWAY

Hilton Head Island High School is dedicated to ensuring that the IB Diploma Programme is available to every student, allowing them to opt for the complete IB Diploma or select individual DP courses. It is essential for each student to meet with their counselor during the course registration process to review their chosen pathway. Students who are full candidates in the IB Diploma Programme will participate in a challenging two-year curriculum.

Students who are drawn to the challenge and rigor of the DP courses, but may not wish to pursue all subjects, can enroll in one or more DP courses that align with their interests instead of completing the full diploma. Successfully finishing a course earns a certificate in that specific area. All students participating in a DP course must complete all required IB assessments, including exams in April and May.

REQUIREMENTS

The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year academic program that measures student achievement through a variety of assessments in each IB course. The requirements include taking three IB Higher Level courses (part 1 in junior year; part 2 in senior year) and three IB Standard Level courses (most taught in one year). Students must complete all IB assessments in all IB courses. They also must complete the programme core: Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge, and Creativity, Activity, and Service.

CORE

Along with the six subject areas, the Diploma Programme includes three CORE requirements that are fundamental to its philosophy and encourage candidates to utilize their knowledge and comprehension. The three core requirements are:

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
This requirement is a course taken during the spring of the candidate's junior year and the fall of their senior year. The course challenges students to investigate sources of knowledge (ways of knowing) and how they relate to the larger world (areas of knowledge). It is in effect a course on thought and a student's relationship to it. TOK focuses on critical thinking. DP students explore what they know and how they know it while considering alternative perspectives.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)
Creativity, activity, service (CAS), the extra-curricular component of the IB DP, involves students in various activities alongside their academic studies. CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning. Through IB CAS, students are challenged to understand the impact of their engagement personally, locally, and globally.

Extended Essay (Advanced Research)
Students complete an independent, self directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000 word paper on a topic of their choosing from an IB course they have taken. A faculty member supervises every student engaged in writing the extended essay. The supervisor's role is to encourage, support, advise, and guide the student as he/she goes through the writing process. This academic experience prepares a student to be able to conduct independent research, a skill highly valued by colleges and universities.

EARNING THE DIPLOMA

IBDP students must study six IB subjects plus the three core subjects—Extended Essay (EE), Theory of Knowledge (TOK), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS). They must accumulate no fewer than **24 points from assessment in these subjects** in addition to meeting the grade stipulations listed here:

- CAS requirements have been met.
- There is no "N" (not complete) awarded for TOK, the EE, or for a contributing subject.
- There is no grade E (failure) awarded for TOK and/or the EE.
- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (SL or HL).
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (SL or HL).
- The student has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects. (For students who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count.)
- The student has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects. (Students who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL.)
- The student has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Group 1 : Language and Literature	Group 2: Language Acquisition	Group 3: Individuals and Societies
English A Language and Literature HL-1 English A Language and Literature HL-2	Spanish B HL-1 Spanish B HL-2 Spanish B SL French B SL Chinese B SL	Business and Management HL-1 Business and Management HL-2 Business and Management SL Environmental Systems and Societies SL

Group 4: Sciences	Group 5: Mathematics	Group 6: The Arts
Biology HL-1 Biology HL-2 Biology SL Chemistry HL-1 Chemistry HL-2 Physics HL-1 Physics HL-2 Environmental Systems and Societies SL	Math Applications and Interpretation (AI) SL-1 Math Applications and Interpretations (AI) SL-2 Math Analysis and Approaches (AA) SL paired with AP Calculus AB	Visual Arts HL-1 Visual Arts HL-2 Dance SL Film SL

HL- Higher level SL -Standard Level

**Class offerings are subject to change due to student requests*

SAMPLE COURSE OF STUDY

Grades 9/10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English World Language Social Studies Math Science Elective(s) Students are encouraged to take honors and AP courses in grades 9 and 10.	IB English A Language and Literature HL-1	IB English A Language and Literature HL-2
	IB Spanish, French, or Chinese B SL	IB Business and Management SL
	IB US History HL-1	IB History of the Americas HL-2
	IB Math AI SL-1	IB Math AI SL-2
	IB Biology HL-1	IB Biology HL-2
	Theory of Knowledge-1 and Extended Essay	Theory of Knowledge-2 and CAS
	IB DP Study Hall or Elective	IB DP Study Hall or Elective
	IB DP Study Hall or Elective	IB DP Study Hall or Elective
	Complete Junior Year CAS experiences	Finish all CAS experiences and present CAS portfolio

Since there are many course offerings across the subject groups, there are many pathways for students to pursue their IB Diploma. Above is just one example of one of those pathways.

COLLEGE ADVANTAGE

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

The IB Diploma Programme equips students for higher education, and an increasing number of universities are acknowledging the significance of an IB Diploma. These institutions appreciate the characteristics exhibited by IB Diploma Programme students, such as curiosity, enthusiasm, dedication, diligence, and a global perspective. Studies indicate that students who engage in IB coursework are more adequately prepared for success in college compared to those who do not partake in this demanding academic program.

Students who successfully complete the IB Diploma Programme receive a high school diploma along with the internationally recognized IB Diploma. Because of the outstanding efforts they put into their IB journey, IB courses can earn college credit. The amount of credit available to students varies based on the institutions to which they apply and the scores they achieve in their respective subjects.

INSIGHTS FROM IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM ALUMNI

"I think that the rigor level in IB helped prepare me for the college rigor level. Without challenging myself and taking IB classes, I would feel extremely overwhelmed and lost in the work load and rigor of my classes currently. The IB program also got me into my dream school and in the Honors program. I was also able to receive many college credits from the IB program here at UF."
Avery Halloran
IBDP Class of 2025
University of Florida

The IB diploma program got me very ready for college. The workload mirrored that of my classes, so I was accustomed to this right off the bat. That helped because then I only needed to manage my study skills. I did build a lot from IB as well, but studying for college I found to be slightly different. IB also impacted the way I see the world. I have learned about so many new cultures, customs, and ways of living here in Atlanta, and I appreciate them all so much. Furthermore, meeting others who have done the IB program (like my freshman year roommate, who I still currently live with!) is an awesome little connection and makes for a great conversation.
Hope Dobbelaere
IBDP Class of 2022
Georgia Institute of Technology

I would highly recommend the program to other high achieving students if they think that they will be capable of completing the courses with success. The concepts that I learned in IB classes are, at the very least, on par with concepts introduced to students in general education and entry level college courses. Also, plenty of schools, like Clemson, are very generous with transfer credits. For students like me and those I was in high school with, completing the program undeniably put us on a fast track through higher education.
Kristina Heskett
IBDP Class of 2023
The Pennsylvania State University

It taught me how to time manage, organize, and think ahead to predict issues that may arise. Yes, I would recommend this program, the challenge you get with IBDP is unmatched like anything else in high school.
Rebeka Parent
IBDP Class of 2015
USMC Officer
Wofford College,
Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law,
Campbell University,
Naval Justice School 2024

The IB Diploma Program prepared me for college-level coursework in a variety of ways. My essay writing skills improved significantly, such that expository writing in college was a breeze. In addition, specific rigorous courses like SL Math AA enabled me to skip a few math courses at Harvard, so I could start in Multivariable Calculus. Lastly, the IB Diploma trained my executive functioning skills, so I came out of it more organized and ready for college."
Anthony Bynum
IBDP Class of 2024
Harvard

"Prepared my academic writing and critical thinking skills. I would 100% recommend."
Phillip Evans
IBDP Class of 2017
Harvard BA in Physics

I would recommend the IBDP as I feel that it prepared me for college and made my college classes a lot easier. It prepared me for being able to complete research and significantly improved my writing skills. I also was able to bring in some credits from high school when I started college.
Callie Smith IBDP Class of 2017
Clemson University

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the other requirements for an IB Diploma besides take DP courses?
The DP Programme is built around three fundamental components: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), and the Extended Essay (EE). To obtain an IB Diploma, students must successfully fulfill the requirements associated with each of these three elements.

What is the Theory of Knowledge?
Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a course available to Diploma Candidates in their junior and senior years. This interdisciplinary course encourages learners to examine and comprehend the nature of their understanding. Students explore different perspectives from various fields to cultivate their own thought processes. By promoting critical reflection and analysis of knowledge and experiences across disciplines, TOK aims to connect and integrate academic subjects, ultimately assisting students in making sense of both their education and the broader world. Diploma Candidates begin TOK in the spring of their junior year and finish it in the fall of their senior year.

What is Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS)?
CAS is an experiential learning component of the IB program. To obtain an IB Diploma, students must engage in CAS during their junior and senior years. This requirement can be met through a diverse range of activities, which encompass various extracurricular, community service, creative, and healthy lifestyle opportunities.

What is the Extended Essay?
The Extended Essay familiarizes students with the challenges and benefits of self-directed research. It focuses on conducting personal inquiries and conveying ideas clearly to produce a 4,000-word essay on a topic that interests the student. To obtain an IB Diploma, every student must successfully complete an extended essay during their junior and senior years. Each student works with a faculty supervisor, and the Coordinator interacts with students frequently during Theory of Knowledge (TOK) sessions to assist them in fulfilling this requirement.

How do students get evaluated in the Diploma Program?
Students in DP courses continue to receive grades from their teachers, take tests, complete homework, and work on projects just like any other students. Additionally, those in DP courses participate in all required IB assessments. Collaborating with teachers, the IBO ensures that students have plenty of chances to showcase their knowledge and skills. The IBO gathers information about students from their teachers, their coursework, and the IB exams administered in April and May to calculate a final score on a scale of 1 to 7. To obtain a full diploma, candidates must accumulate at least 24 points and meet some additional point stipulations.

What are the advantages of taking DP courses?
The main benefits consist of exceptional readiness for university studies, an intellectually stimulating learning atmosphere, acknowledgment of DP coursework by college admissions teams, the opportunity to earn college credits or advanced standing, and the advantage of obtaining a comprehensive, world-class liberal arts education.

What do students do if they find a DP class too challenging?
A variety of support services is available to assist students in building confidence and acquiring the necessary skills to manage their tasks and responsibilities. These services include meetings with teachers, individual counseling and guidance, peer tutoring, and different levels of academic assistance. While Diploma Programme (DP) classes are more demanding than standard courses, colleges acknowledge DP coursework and value the rigor and challenges it presents. Successfully completing a DP course is considered a noteworthy achievement and can potentially lead to college credit. With the right support, students should weigh the benefits of remaining in a DP class.

What is the benefit of taking individual DP courses?
The IB Organization recommends that students pursue a complete diploma; however, not every student will undertake the entire DP course load to earn an IB Diploma. Some students may opt for specific courses that align with their personal interests or strengths. Those who successfully finish a DP course will receive a certificate from IB.

How widely accepted is the IB Diploma?
The IB Diploma is a globally recognized benchmark of excellence, acknowledged by universities and institutions across the United States and more than eighty other countries. The IB website provides a list of colleges and universities that offer credit, scholarships, and/or advanced placement for IB diplomas and certificates.

Will students who take DP courses have to complete all IB assessments?
Yes, students enrolled in a DP course complete assessments during the course and at the conclusion of the course; otherwise, they will not receive DP credit. Furthermore, students will be responsible for assessment fees if they do not complete all IB assessments for the course.

Are there fees associated with DP courses/coursework?
The IB Diploma Programme Coordinator will register all students for their IB course assessments each November. The IB assessment fees are paid for by the school district. Students registered for IB courses who do not complete all IB assessments will have to pay back the assessment fees, which can range but are normally around $125.

CHANGEMAKERS

HILTON HEAD ISLAND SCHOOLS

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT