

# ACADEMIC CHOICES ENTERING 3<sup>ème</sup> & 2<sup>nde</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE: IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM Q&A of the March 1, 2025 Presentation

With: Philippe Vanhille, Director of the Secondary School; Sandra Percy, Deputy Director of the Secondary School & IB Coordinator; Karine Gaultier, Guidance & University Counselor.

Details are also available on the slides of the presentation.

## Q1. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR US TO CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

- When do we have to make a decision?
- How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?
- What if I want to change my choices?
- When do we have to make a decision?
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## Q2. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS OFFERED AT ROCHAMBEAU?

- What are the different programs offered at Rochambeau?
- What is the French Program?
- What is the IB? Why do the IB at Rochambeau?
- What is the IB Diploma Program?
- What are the different programs offered at Rochambeau?
- What is the French Program?
- What is the IB? Why do the IB at Rochambeau?
- What is the IB Middle Years Program?
- Can one choose the French Program in 3<sup>ème</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade or 2<sup>nde</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade and enroll in the IB DP in 1<sup>ère</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade? Can one do the MYP in 3<sup>ème</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade or 2<sup>nde</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade and choose the French Baccalauréat in 1<sup>ère</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade?

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## Q1. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR US TO CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

- ❑ **When do we have to make a decision?**
- ❑ **How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?**
- ❑ **What if I want to change my choices?**

- ❑ **When do we have to make a decision?**

The IB MYP can be an option for you if your child is currently in **4ème/8th grade or 3ème/9th grade** as the program is offered in 3ème/9th grade and 2nde/10th grade.

### **If your child *is* currently enrolled at Rochambeau:**

- You do not have to make a choice at the time of re-enrollment.
- You will receive by email a “Fiche dialogue” (Google form) before the conseils de classe of the second trimester (March). On this form, you will be able to select either the French Program or the IB MYP. This will not be a definitive choice.
- Before the conseils de classe of the third and last trimester (May-June), you will receive a recap of your second trimester choices that you will have to confirm or modify.

### **If your child *is not* enrolled at Rochambeau:**

- You will be asked to express an interest in either the French Program or the IB MYP. Since the two programs do not entail the same level of fluency in English and French, we want to best advise you as soon as you start the application process.

- ❑ **How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?**

You can

- visit our [school website](#) and the [IBO website](#) to find more information about the IB DP
- Attend an online information session with Mme Gaultier and Mrs. Percy
- Email your questions and/or schedule a meeting with either [Mme Gaultier](#), [Mrs. Percy](#), or [M. Vanhille](#).

- ❑ **What if I want to change my choices?**

You can change your choices between the first and second “*Fiche dialogue*”. After the start of the new school year, students can also change their choice of program and/or courses before the end of the first month of class.

## Q2. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS OFFERED AT ROCHAMBEAU?

- ❑ What are the different programs offered at Rochambeau?
  - ❑ What is the French Program?
  - ❑ What is the IB? Why do the IB at Rochambeau?
  - ❑ What is the IB Diploma Program?
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- ❑ What are the different programs offered at Rochambeau?

The **IB Program** and the **French Program** are two different programs accredited, supervised, and assessed by two different organizations (respectively the **IBO** and the **French Ministry of Education**).

- **At Rochambeau, the FRENCH PROGRAM goes from Kindergarten to *Terminale* and the French *Baccalauréat*.**
  - It includes the *SIA (Section Internationale Américaine)* and the *BFI (Baccalauréat Français International)* a bilingual and bicultural version of the classic French curriculum with added hours in English and History/Geography (taught bilingually) from *6ème* to *Terminale*.
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- ❖ **Starting in Sept. 2023, our IB PROGRAM will go from 3ème to Terminale (9th-12th grade).**
  - ❖ It currently starts in 11th grade (equiv. *1ère*) as we offer the IB Diploma Program or **DP**. The DP is a two-year program (equiv. *1ère* & *Terminale*) that prepares students for the exams of the IB Diploma.
  - ❖ In Sept. 2023, we expanded the IB Program to the IB **MYP** that is offered in 9th and 10th grades (equiv. *3ème* & *2nde*).

Both the French Program and the IB DP are rigorous, comprehensive, multilingual, broad, and balanced courses of study. They differ, however, in the learning styles and academic experience, language experience, and diplomas they offer:

French <i>Baccalauréat</i>		International Baccalaureate	
French: ~70% English: ~30%	Language of Instruction	DP: English 60-90% French 10-40%	MYP: English 45% French 45%
Guided Argumentative Focus on analysis & memorization	Teaching and Learning Styles	Independent & Collaborative Conceptual & In global context Focus on investigation & metacognition	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core academic curriculum offering a wide range of subjects and 3 "spécialités".</li> <li><i>French, Philosophy, SIA courses, and Bac spécialités are Honors courses.</i></li> </ul>	Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DP: 3 core subjects + 6 courses selected by students with two levels (standard and higher).</li> <li><i>IB DP higher level courses are Honors courses.</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams at the end of 1ère &amp; Terminale</li> <li>Continued assessment</li> <li>Final examinations</li> </ul>	Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams at the end of Terminale on 2 years of content</li> <li>60-70% of external assessment</li> <li>30-40% of internal assessment (all moderated externally by the IB - no continued assessment).</li> </ul>	
[Fulfilling community service time (not a requirement of the French Bac)]	Other Requirements	--CAS (Creativity/Activity/Service) --A 4,000-word, research-based Extended Essay (EE).	

**What is the French Program?**

See details in the Q&A about the French Program.

**What is the IB? Why do the IB at Rochambeau?**

The IB is not a program of the French Ministry nor an American program. Founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland, the **International Baccalaureate Organization** is an independent, not-for-profit foundation. At its inception, the organization brought together educators from around the world with the aim to create an international program of education with no bias towards any particular national system, and **that would develop truly internationally-minded young people through inquiry; conceptual, multilingual, and intercultural studies; collaboration, service, and action.**

At the core of the IB philosophy are the 10 attributes of the learner profile, a set of learning outcomes the program aims to develop in all IB students: inquirers; knowledgeable; thinkers; communicators; principled; open-minded; caring; risk-takers; balanced; reflective.

The IB offers four high-quality and challenging educational programs for a worldwide community of schools and students aged 3 to 19: the Primary Years Program (PYP); the Middle Years Program (MYP); the Diploma Program (DP), and the Career-related Program (CP).

Rochambeau is an authorized school for the DP. In September 2023, it will start offering two years of the MYP in 3ème/9th grade and 2nde/10th grade while it pursues the IBO authorization for this program.

Rochambeau has been an IB World School since September 2021 when it started offering the IB Diploma Program (DP) in 1ère/11th grade and Terminale/12th grade.

Rochambeau has expanded its IB Program with the MYP (Middle Years Program) in 3ème/9th grade and 2nde/10th grade. The idea is to fully realize our identity as a French and international school in the US. With the IB Program and the French Program, our students now have a choice and the opportunity to find at Rochambeau the program that suits them best.

Our IB MYP sets itself apart from programs offered at other schools in the area with its truly bilingual nature as subjects will be taught in English and in French (see Question 5 below). Our MYP students will also be able to continue studying their other language (either Arabic, German, or Spanish).

By becoming an IB school, Rochambeau has joined a network of 5,600 IB world schools located in 160 countries.

While Rochambeau offers an IB Program as another choice for our students, it remains accredited by the French Ministry of Education for its French Program, which remains unchanged. Tuition fees are the same regardless of the program families and students choose.

#### **What is the IB Middle Years Program?**

As an IB program, the IB MYP is **NOT** a program of the French Ministry of Education.

- Although it is a 5-year IB program for students aged 11 to 16, it can be offered for a number of years determined by the school.
- Rochambeau will offer **TWO YEARS** of the MYP, the Years 4 and 5 (**equiv. 3ème/9th grade & 2nde/10th grade**).
- Like all IB programs, the MYP emphasizes **SERVICE** and **INDEPENDENT WORK** and includes a student personal project and service requirements.

See [Question 4](#) below for details about the program organization and curriculum.

- Can one choose the French Program in 3ème/9th grade or 2nde/10th grade and enroll in the IB DP in 1ère/11th grade? Can one do the MYP in 3ème/9th grade or 2nde/10th grade and choose the French *Baccalauréat* in 1ère/11th grade?**

Rochambeau's goal with having two programs families can choose from - the French Program & the IB Program - is to help you and your children find the curriculum, learning style, and languages that best suit your child.

**It will then be possible to change programs, as long as this is done before 1ère/11th grade** (both the French *Baccalauréat* and the IB DP being prepared over one coherent cycle of two years in 1ère/11th grade & Terminale/12th grade).

Although we want to make the change possible, **going from the IB MYP to the French Program or the reverse will represent a transition** like going from one educational or school system to another.

### Q3. AT THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT DIPLOMA(S) WILL MY CHILD BE AWARDED?

- What diplomas are awarded at Rochambeau?
- What is the High School Diploma?
- What about university recognition?

#### What diplomas are awarded at Rochambeau?

At Rochambeau, students are awarded a diploma depending on their choice of **either the IB DP OR the French *Baccalauréat* program** and whether they meet all the diploma's qualification requirements:

❖ Upon completion of the 1ère/11th Grade and Terminale/12th Grade **IB DP** and success on the final exams, students can be awarded the **DIPLOMA OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE** (see [Question 7](#) below for details about exam assessment in the IB DP).

- Upon completion of the **FRENCH PROGRAM** 1ère and Terminale and success on the exams, students can be awarded the **BACCALAURÉAT FRANÇAIS (BF)** or the **BACCALAURÉAT FRANÇAIS INTERNATIONAL (BFI)**. The BFI is awarded to students who have chosen to enroll in the BFI section at the end of 2nde (more information in the Q&A about the French Baccalauréat).

## ❑ **What is the High School Diploma? Do IB DP courses qualify for the High School Diploma?**

The **US/Maryland High School Diploma** (HSD) marks the end of high school studies in the United States.

The HSD is an advantage offered at Rochambeau: students can obtain 2 diplomas when they graduate at the end of Terminale/12th Grade: **HSD + BF/BFI** or **HSD + IB**.

Whatever program students choose at Rochambeau, **they qualify for the US/Maryland High School Diploma**. Courses in all programs meet the requirements and allow students to get the credits they need.

The HSD is earned through the accumulation of credits corresponding to the subjects offered in our school curriculum since 4ème/8th Grade.

In other words, all students who have attended Rochambeau since 4ème/8th Grade will get their HSD at the end of 1ère/11th Grade (considering that they will always be at Rochambeau

If you join Rochambeau after 4ème, you might miss some credits but it is still possible to obtain the HSD diploma. We will direct you to Mme Bessaha, our Registrar, who will tell you what credits your child needs and how to make up for them: [bessahad@rochambeau.org](mailto:bessahad@rochambeau.org)

## ❑ **What about university recognition?**

The IB Diploma, the French Baccalauréat, and the US High School Diploma **open the doors of universities worldwide**. You can apply to any college/school/university with all three diplomas.

However, it is important to note that equivalencies are not always automatic and that prerequisites (admission requirements) may vary from one university or program to another depending on the diploma presented. It is important to check with your university counselors.

More than recognition of a particular diploma, universities take into account the academic results and the extracurricular skills and experiences developed by each student and presented in their applications. Therefore, **being successful in your program** is a prerequisite for success. Students must choose a program based on their profile and how well they match the demands of this program.

## ❑ Do MYP courses qualify for the High School Diploma?

Whatever program students choose at Rochambeau, **they qualify for the US/Maryland High School Diploma**. Courses in all programs meet the requirements and allow students to get the credits they need.

If you join Rochambeau after 4ème, you might miss some credits. We will direct you to Mme Bessaha, our Registrar, who will tell you what credits your child needs and how she/he/they can make up for them.

## Q4. WHAT IS THE IB MYP CURRICULUM?

*This section is exclusively about the IB MYP. For information about the French Program, see the dedicated Q&A.*

- ❑ **What subjects are offered? Are all subjects mandatory? Are there electives?**
- ❑ **What will an MYP schedule look like?**
- ❑ **How much work will the IB MYP represent for a student? Compared to the 3ème and 2nde in the French Program?**

## ❑ **What subjects are offered? Are all subjects mandatory? Are there electives?**

The MYP curriculum aims to be holistic, internationally-minded, interdisciplinary, and multilingual.

- To be so, the curriculum is organized into **8 subject groups**: Language & Literature; Language Acquisition; Individuals & Societies; Science; Mathematics; Arts; Physical & Health Education; Design.
- All subjects are mandatory and students do not have to choose from a menu of subjects (except for the science group in 2nde/10th grade; see below Q6.).
- Unlike in the IB DP, there are no SL (Standard Level) or HL (Higher Level) courses.
- Unlike in the French Program, there are no electives (no US Math, Latin or Theater or Cinema in 2nde):
  - US Math is not necessary in the MYP as the Math curriculum includes these elements (see below Q6.).
  - Film and Theater are also included in the MYP Art curriculum.
  - Latin, however, is not offered in the MYP.

You can find the details of the course offering for each group in the presentation. For more information about the content of each course, visit [this page](#).

### ❏ What will an MYP schedule look like?

**In both 3ème/9th grade and 2nde/10th grade of the MYP, the total number of class hours will be 33 hours with 31 hours of subject classes and 2 hours of Vie de classe/Advisory.**

The detailed structure for each grade is available in the presentation.

### CONTENT

In terms of content, the IB prescribes an approach, but not content in MYP subjects, and the IB encourages schools to make their MYP curriculum relevant to their environment and community. This means that our curriculum will combine new concepts and content with content from the French Program and High School Diploma requirements.

**6 IB global contexts** help frame a curriculum that promotes multilingualism, intercultural understanding, and global engagement: ● Identities and Relationships ● Orientation in Space and Time ● Globalization and Sustainability ● Personal and Cultural Expression ● Scientific and Technical Innovation ● Fairness and Development.

These global contexts will be studied within the subjects, but also across them as the IB MYP requires connections between subjects and interdisciplinarity.

### OTHER CORE COMPONENTS

Like all IB programs, the MYP emphasizes service and independent work and includes a student personal project and service requirements:

- The **Interdisciplinary Unit**: At least one collaboratively planned interdisciplinary unit that involves at least two subject groups each year.
- The **Personal Project**: A culminating experience in which students apply their approaches to learning skills to complete an extended, self-directed piece of work.
- **Service as Action**: Students' participation in local and global communities through community service projects.

### ❏ How much work will the IB MYP represent for a student? Compared to the 3ème and 2nde in the French Program?

**In both 3ème/9th Grade and 2nde/10th Grade of the MYP, the total number of class hours will be 33 hours with 31 hours of subject classes and 2 hours of Vie de classe/Advisory. In**

**addition, students will need to meet service requirements and work on their Personal Project in 2nde/10th Grade for a total minimum of 75 hours/year.**

In comparison, in 3ème of the French Program, students' schedules total between approx. 33 and 40 hours and between 31 and 37 hours in 2nde. Numbers vary depending on whether a student is enrolled in the SIA (*Section Internationale Américaine*) and if they choose to do 1 or 2 electives.

## Q5. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF LANGUAGES IN THE MYP?

- ❑ **How are languages taught in the MYP?**
- ❑ **How do students choose languages? Are there admission criteria in languages? What is the expected level of mastery of English? French?**

- ❑ **How are languages taught in the MYP?**

All IB language courses aim to develop students' skills in listening, writing, speaking, and reading.

The IB MYP offers two types of language courses to suit a student's language profile:

- **Language & Literature courses ("Language A"):** focus on critical, creative, personal approaches to studying and analyzing literary and non-literary texts (in a student's best or second best language).
- **Language Acquisition courses ("Language B"):** aim to develop comfort, autonomy, and knowledge of the culture (in a student's second best or another language).

At Rochambeau, each student will study **3 languages:**

- **Either 2 languages A (English and French) and 1 Language B (a Language 3: either Arabic, German, or Spanish).**
- **Or 1 language A (English) and 2 languages B (French and a Language 3 - either Arabic, German, or Spanish).**

Language learning also happens through other subjects as some subjects - the majority - are taught in English and others in French:

- ❖ 54-60% of instruction is done in English
- ❖ 30-36% in French
- ❖ 10% in the Language 3

See the details in the presentation.

- ❑ **How do students choose languages? Are there admission criteria in languages? What is the expected level of mastery of English? French?**

**The MYP is open to all students.**

**If your child is already enrolled at Rochambeau:**

- ❖ English: your child's English teacher will be consulted. The IB MYP is taught primarily in English, and applicants need to be proficient in English to join the program.
- ❖ French: we will help you decide between French A and French B depending on your child's language profile (years living with the French language; years studying in a French program; French spoken at home or not; plans for future studies, etc.).
- ❖ Language 3: students will continue the language they have in 4ème (either Arabic, German, or Spanish).

**If your child is *not* enrolled at Rochambeau:**

- ❖ English: The IB MYP is taught primarily in English, and applicants need to be proficient in English to join the program. We will ask you to provide transcripts and a letter from your child's English teacher (as an indication, students should have an English level of at least B2 or equivalent, which translates into a letter grade equivalent to a B for US students in a Standard/Honors English level class). We can also organize an assessment by one of our IB English teachers.
- ❖ French: we will recommend a placement for your child in either French A or French B depending on their language profile (years living with the French language; years studying in a French program; French spoken at home or not; plans for future studies, etc.) and an assessment by one of our IB French teachers.
- ❖ Language 3: students will continue the language they already study if it is either Arabic, German, or Spanish. If your child does not have another language, she/he/they will be able to start one of the three Rochambeau offers.

## Q6. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MATH & SCIENCE IN THE MYP?

- ❑ **What is MYP Math?: Math offering and level of Math**
- ❑ **How many & which sciences can a student take?**

- ❑ **What is MYP Math?: Math offering and level of Math**

MYP Math is a 4-hour/week class in both 3ème/9th grade and 2nde/10th grade.

It encompasses elements (such as number and algebra; geometry and trigonometry; statistics and probability) corresponding to Math courses such as Geometry; Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus. The curriculum is organized in 4 branches of mathematical study:

- Numerical and abstract reasoning
- Thinking with models
- Spatial reasoning
- Reasoning with data

MYP Math is a solid foundation for later Math studies in the IB DP.

### **How many & which sciences can a student take?**

Science is a group MYP students study for 4 hours every week.

In 3ème/9th grade MYP, students will study the same common foundation in science with:

- 2 hours/week of Earth and Life Science, in French
- 2 hours/week of Physics/Chemistry in English.

In 2nde/10th grade, they will choose two sciences from:

- Biology, 2 hours/week, in French
- Chemistry, 2 hours/week, in English
- Physics, 2 hours/week, in English.

Please note that in the IB DP, science courses are organized as follows:

- ❖ Students **must** take one science course: either Biology in French or Physics in English (either at the standard level or at the higher level).
- ❖ They **can** take a second science as their 6th IB DP subject (if they do not choose an art or a Spanish course). The science we offer is Chemistry (SL or HL).

See the diagram in the presentation.

## Q7. HOW IS LEARNING ASSESSED IN THE MYP?

### **What does assessment look like in the MYP?**

❑ **Is there an exam at the end of the MYP (like the Brevet in the French Program)?**

❑ **What does assessment look like in the MYP?**

Assessment in the IB MYP is criteria (or skills)-based. All the criteria and levels of achievement are defined and laid out by the IB Organization.

There are 4 criteria in each subject group and each grade level of the MYP. Each of the eight MYP subject areas has different assessment criteria. These criteria have been designed to assess the specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for success in each subject area. Each criterion is weighted equally and indicates a level of achievement from 0 to 8. Students' progress on each criterion is assessed all year long through different tasks, assignments, and tests, and reported at the end of each grading period.

- Examples of criteria: in Math, the 4 criteria are: Knowing and Understanding; Investigating patterns; Communicating; Applying Math in real-world contexts.

At the end of each grading period, these grades are used to determine the overall level of achievement in each subject, which is reported on a 1-to-7 scale. Each 1-7 grade corresponds to an MYP descriptor that indicates a level of achievement. This overall assessment also measures and values student engagement.

- Example of descriptors:

7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Produces high-quality, frequently innovative work.</li><li>● Communicates comprehensive, nuanced understanding of concepts and contexts.</li><li>● Consistently demonstrates sophisticated critical and creative thinking.</li><li>● Frequently transfers knowledge and skills with independence and expertise in a variety of complex classroom and real-world situations.</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Produces high-quality, occasionally innovative work.</li><li>● Communicates extensive understanding of concepts and contexts.</li><li>● Demonstrates critical and creative thinking, frequently with sophistication.</li><li>● Uses knowledge and skills in familiar and unfamiliar classroom and real-world situations, often with independence.</li></ul>

❑ **Is there an exam at the end of the MYP (like the Brevet in the French Program)?**

**At the end of the MYP, there is NO exam, but 2nde MYP students must complete a Personal Project, which is submitted to the IBO.**

## Q8. HOW DOES THE MYP PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE IB DP?

Although it is possible to enroll in the IB DP at the end of 2nde/10th grade straight from the French Program or any other educational/school system, the IB MYP in 3ème and 2nde provides a solid foundation and good preparation for the IB DP.

There is continuity between the IB MYP and the IB DP in terms of skills and curriculum, but also in the areas of community service and research (the MYP Personal Project is, for instance, a very good preparation for the DP Extended Essay).

See this [research](#) and [more](#).

## CONCLUSION

- What is the timeline for the implementation of the IB MYP at Rochambeau?**
- What should I consider when choosing a program?**
- Is the IB DP for my child?**

- What is the timeline for the implementation of the IB MYP at Rochambeau?**

Our school has entered its candidacy phase in the summer of 2023 and has started offering the program in September 2023. Unlike with the IB DP, schools start offering the MYP before being authorized (= accredited) by the IB Organization as the teaching of the program is one aspect of the authorization process.

In 2024-2025, a team from the IB Organization will visit the school as the last step of the authorization process. Rochambeau should then be fully authorized before the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

- What should I consider when choosing a program?**
  - ❖ **INQUIRE** about courses offered in each track (content, programs, expectations, grading, exams...)
  - ❖ **DISCUSS** with your teachers, your guidance counselors, juniors, and seniors
  - ❖ **REFLECT** on your plans for the future, but also your profile and your academic results.

## Is the MYP for my child?

The MYP might be for you if your child:

- Is fluent in English and prefers to study in this language.
- Enjoys project-based learning.
- Is organized and enjoys independent work
- Collaborates and likes to work in a team.
- Is curious about world issues.
- Is a critical thinker who asks “how” and “why” questions rather than “what”.

There is no wrong choice in terms of program quality, program recognition, or university acceptance. Both the French Program and the IB Program are rigorous programs of education that lead, at the end of grade 12, to excellent and recognized diplomas.

We are here to help you determine which program will best suit your child and where they will succeed the best.