THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF SAN FRANCISCO

IB *Overview*

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a global leader in international education whose mission is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect.

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IB Overview

What is the IB?

International educational organization
Vision for education
Excellent research-based curriculum
Top-notch teacher training
Independent assessment of student learning
Internationally recognized diploma

What Kind of Learning?

How do you teach critical thinking?

- Exploring evidence: doing and experiencing
- Curiosity: learning to ask great questions
- Seeking multiple perspectives: Global mindset and intercultural thinking
- Going deep & finding connections: studying subjects with intensity

Deep Knowledge Questions

- Are there situations where "knowing how" is more important than "knowing that"?
- What knowledge might be lost if the whole world shared one common language?
- Why do facts sometimes not change our minds?
- Does what is seen to constitute "good evidence" vary from culture to culture?

How do you test critical thinking?

- Expressing ideas: writing + public speaking
- Problem-solving: tests designed to stretch thinking (not check for memorization)
- Reflection: emphasizing process + product
- Stepping into the role: thinking like... (not learning about)

What Kind of Teaching?

For teachers who love to teach and love to learn, the IB program offers excellent professional development, a network of teachers from around the world, and research-backed pedagogy.

Grade 9 and 10 Foundations

ENGLISH & HUMANITIES – deep critical reading + writing skills
- ▶ Personal project + inquiry-based research

SCIENCE – strong foundations:
- ▶ Physics, Chemistry + Biology = 1 year each
- ▶ Design Tech + Computer Science = semester each + elective

MATH – integrated pathways, where everyone gets to calculus

LANGUAGES – French, Spanish, Chinese, Italian & Arabic
- ▶ Opportunity to take two languages

ARTS – Music, Theater, Stagecraft, Film, + Visual Art

Grade 11 and 12 Choices

GROUP 1
English
English Literature
English Language & Literature

GROUP 2
Language
French
Spanish
Chinese (Mandarin)
Arabic
Italian

GROUP 3
Humanities
Psychology
Economics
World History
Geography

GROUP 4
Sciences
Physics
Chemistry
Biology
Computer science
Environmental Systems and Societies

GROUP 5
Math
Math Analysis
Math Applications

GROUP 6
Arts & Electives
Film
Music
Theatre
Visual Arts
Design Technology

Core Experiences

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE
Critical Thinking Class

PERSONAL PROJECT & EXTENDED ESSAY
In-Depth Research Projects

CREATIVITY ACTIVITY AND SERVICE
Unique Extracurricular Profile

As IB learners we strive to be...

Inquirers, Knowledgable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective.

Office of Admissions
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internationalsf.org/admissions