Frequently Asked Questions about the Cambridge Program

1. ***What is the difference between IGCSE, AS, and A Level courses and exams?***
   Courses in Juanita High School's Cambridge Program are offered at two levels: Cambridge Pre-AICE and Cambridge AICE. Students enrolled in courses at Cambridge Pre-AICE level are learning content in courses and taking examinations aligned to the International General Certification of Secondary Education (IGCSE) standards. These courses lay the foundation for courses in the Cambridge AICE Level of study. While students may earn content level IGCSE certificates, students will not earn an IGCSE diploma as the Juanita High School focus is the AICE diploma. Students will complete coursework aligned to IGCSE standards and sit for examinations in English Language, History, and Combined Sciences.

   Students enrolled in Cambridge AICE level courses are working to complete coursework and sit for examinations aligned to the AS- and/or A-level standards. AICE Level or A-level standards cover approximately two years of college-level curriculum in a subject. The Advanced Subsidiary Level or AS-level standards cover the first year of the two-year Advanced (A) Level curriculum. In the Juanita High School Cambridge Program, students will complete AS- and/or A-Level classes and sit for examinations in Biology or Chemistry, English Language, Global Perspectives and Research, Physics, History, Literature in English, and Mathematics.

2. ***What is AICE?***
   The Advanced International Certificate of Education (**AICE**) is an International Diploma awarded by the University of Cambridge in England, through Cambridge Assessment International Education, to students who earn the necessary credits. Students can earn the AICE diploma by taking Juanita High School classes aligned to Cambridge Assessment International Education's advanced academic syllabi and sitting for the assessments. The Cambridge Program at Juanita High School, a registered Cambridge International center, offers courses needed to earn the AICE diploma in grades 9 – 12. In some subjects, students will take courses during grades 9 and 10 aligned to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (**IGCSE or Pre-AICE**) in order to prepare for classes aligned to the AICE International Diploma. Classes aligned to the IGCSE are suitable for honors or regular high school students. The Pre-AICE and AICE programs together are referred to in some areas of the United States as "The Cambridge Program."

3. ***What are the benefits of AICE?***
   Students who earn an AICE diploma, in any country, have demonstrated their knowledge of the rigorous Cambridge International's standards. All students, regardless of country of origin, are demonstrating their knowledge of the same standards by taking the same tests.

   The standards utilized by courses within the AICE framework provide the rigorous academic experience required for admittance to competitive universities and the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in this environment. A study conducted by the Director of Admissions found that AICE program graduates attending the University of Florida had an average end-of-freshman year GPA of 3.46 whereas students coming from other

acceleration mechanisms such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) had an average GPA of 3.12 and 3.10 respectively.

Cambridge International qualifications (examination scores) are recognized and accepted by over 700 universities in the United States, including all Ivy League universities, MIT, and Stanford.

4. ***What do I have to do to earn an AICE Diploma?***
Students must earn seven credits within a twenty-five-month period. Credits are earned by passing examinations administered at the end of each course. At least one examination must come from each of the four subject groups: *Mathematics & Sciences*, *Languages*, *Arts & Humanities, and Global Perspectives*. An AS Level exam counts for *one* credit towards the AICE Diploma; the A Level exam counts for *two* credits.

5. ***Do students need to earn the full AICE Diploma in order to earn college credits?***
No. Students receive a General Certificate of Education (GCE) for passing AS- and A- Level subject examinations. Colleges and universities award credit on a subject-by-subject basis according to the grades earned on individual examinations.

6. ***How do AICE examination grades compare with the US grading scale?***
Passing grades available on A-Level exams range from A* to E with A* being the highest. Students who do not demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills on these examinations earn a grade of U (not passing/not meeting standard). The highest grade possible on AS-Level examinations is an A. A grade of A* may not be earned on these examinations.

A Department of Education AICE program study found that a CIE grade of E most closely correlated with an Advanced Placement exam grade of 3 and a United States grade of C.

7. ***How will Cambridge classes be recorded on student transcripts?***
Students enrolled in Cambridge classes will earn grades on the United States grading system. Student grades will reflect their progress in meeting the Cambridge International standards. Cambridge courses are designated with a code of K on transcripts. The Cambridge assessment grade is not included with the transcript grade.

8. ***How will enrolling in Cambridge classes affect my GPA?***
Cambridge courses are designed for students who desire an academic challenge beyond what is found in a comprehensive high school. A student's grade is determined by how well he/she meets the international standards for each course.

9. ***Do colleges and universities give credits for the AICE examinations students pass?***
   Yes. Cambridge International publishes a list of universities that have stated policies on recognizing AICE examination scores. To access this list of colleges and universities, visit: http://recognition.cambridgeinternational.org/SearchRecognitions.aspx and enter your search criteria.

   Admissions officers of respected universities throughout the United States offer their perspectives on the AICE diploma as well as the CIE standards in this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVi2NPhrkQU

   Juanita Cambridge graduates and current University of Washington students are featured in "Why University of Washington is interested in Cambridge students" video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6byy2a9NII

   Cambridge proven to be good preparation for studies in US

10. ***How many years of a World Language do Cambridge students need to take?***
    Cambridge students need to successfully complete two years of one World Language, though three years are recommended at many universities. Cambridge students have the choice of enrolling in French, Japanese, or Spanish. A student may continue past three years of language study or choose another elective instead.

11. ***What costs are associated with the Cambridge Program?***
    Students are required to take the Cambridge examinations associated with their courses. The approximate fees for the examinations in each level for May/June 2027 are as follows:
    IGCSE/Pre-AICE - $82.75
    AS Level - $124.80 (Global Perspectives is $218.85)
    A Level - $201.85
    Mailing Costs - $35
    Other costs throughout the program will vary, but will likely include lab, workbook, and field trip fees.

12. ***Do Cambridge students have time in their days to include extra-curricular activities?***
    Our Cambridge students are actively involved at Juanita High School. Many students participate in sports, band, orchestra, choir, and drama. Some of the clubs that students join are Honor Society, DECA, Technology-Student Association, HOSA-Future Health Professionals, Key Club, Model United Nations, Interact Club, ASB, literary magazine, and the school newspaper. Students have learned the art of time management by balancing their academic requirements with their activity schedule.

13. ***What are the high school graduation requirements?***

Students in the Class of 2031 must earn the following credits to graduate:

English – 4 credits	Social Studies – 3 credits
Science – 3 credits	Mathematics – 3 credits
Fine Arts – 2 credits	Physical Education – 1.5 credits
Health - .5 credits	Occupational Education – 1 credit
World Language – 2 credits	Electives – 4 credits

14. ***With the implementation of 6 period days, I am concerned that I won't be able to take any electives that I am interested in. What are my options?***

Ultimately there will be less flexibility for all students with the 6-period day schedule. However, there will be zero period and 7th period options for students, which will hopefully allow for some additional flexibility. If you have any questions about your schedule, please consult your school counselor.

15. ***I would like to participate in sports, but I don't live in the Juanita attendance area. May I participate for my "home" school?***

No. As a Cambridge student, you are attending Juanita High School full-time. Per WIAA rules, you are only eligible to participate for Juanita High School.

16. ***Where do the Cambridge students take their classes at Juanita High School?***

Cambridge students are members of Juanita High School and are not housed in a separate area on the campus. Students will go to their instructors' classrooms. Only Cambridge students are in Cambridge courses.

17. ***What summer assignments do the students need to complete?***

During the summer of 2027, the students will need to complete an assignment in each core Cambridge course. There is a book to read in English, a one-page paper to write for History, introductory activity for first unit in Biology, and a review of algebraic concepts for Mathematics. Information will be emailed to students in the spring.

18. ***Does the school district provide transportation for Cambridge students who do not live in the Juanita attendance area?***

No. Transportation to Juanita High School is the responsibility of the family. Many families make carpool arrangements at the May meeting.

19. ***My student does not live in the Juanita High School attendance area. If he/she does not want to continue with the Cambridge courses, can he/she stay enrolled at Juanita High School?***

No. A student would need to enroll at their "home" high school if they choose to leave the Cambridge Program.

20. ***We will need to move out of the Lake Washington School District. Can my student continue with his/her Cambridge studies at Juanita High School?***
No. Only students who live within the Lake Washington School District boundaries can attend the Cambridge Program at Juanita High School.

21. ***What colleges and universities have accepted Juanita High School Cambridge graduates?***
Starting with our inaugural Class of 2014, our students have been accepted to the following institutions: Aberystwyth University, Academy of Art University, Adelphi University, American University, Arizona State University, Asuza Pacific University, Babson College, Bard College, Barnard College, Baylor University, Bellevue College, Belmont University, Beloit College, Bentley University, Berklee College of Music, Biola University, Bocconi University, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, Brigham Young University, Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, The California College of Arts, California Institute of Technology, California Lutheran University, California Northstate University, California Polytechnic State University (Pomona, San Luis Obispo), Calvin College, Campbell University, Carleton College, Carnegie Mellon University, Carroll College, Case Western Reserve University, Central Washington University, Chapman University, City College of New York, City University of New York (Brooklyn, Lehman), Clark University, Clarkson University, Cleveland Institute of Music, Colby College, College of William and Mary, The College of Wooster, Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Columbia College, Columbia University, Concordia University, Connecticut College, The Culinary Institute of America, Davidson College, Dartmouth College, DePaul University, DePauw University, Digipen Institute of Technology, Drew University, Drexel University, Duke University, Durham University, Eastern Washington University, Eastman School of Music, Eckerd College, Elon University, Emerson College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emerson College, Emory University, Evergreen State College, Fashion Institute of Technology, Fordham University, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Gettysburg College, Gonzaga University, Grand Canyon University , Grinnell College, Harvard University, Harvey Mudd College, Haverford College, Hawaii Pacific University, Highpoint University, Hofstra University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hult International Business School, Humboldt State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Indiana University, Iowa State University, Ithaca College, Johns Hopkins University, Kalamazoo College, Kenyon College, Knox College, Lafayette College, Lawrence University, Lehigh University, Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University – Chicago, Marquette University, Luther College, Macalater College, Maryland Institute College of Art, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Menlo College, Methodist University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Michigan Technological University, Michigan State University, Middlebury College, Montana State University, Moore College of Art and Design, Mount Holyoke College, New York University, North Carolina State University, Northeastern University, Northwestern University, Northern Arizona University, Occidental College, The Ohio State University, Oregon State University, Oxford Brookes University, Pace University, Pacific Lutheran University, Pacific University, Parsons The New School for Design, Pennsylvania State University, Pepperdine University, Pitzer College, Point Loma Nazarene University, Pomona College, Portland State University, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Purdue University, Queen's College – London, Reed College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Renton Technical College, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhodes College, Rice University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rocky Mountain College, Roger Williams University, Rollins College, Roosevelt University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, St. Louis University-Madrid, St. Martin's University, St. Norbert College, San Diego State University, Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, School of Art Institute of Chicago,

St. John's University – New York, St. Lawrence University, St. Olaf College, Savannah College of Arts and Design, Stanford University, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, Sewanee: The University of the South, Sienna College, Smith College, Southern Oregon University, State University of New York- Stony Brook, Syracuse University, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, Texas State University, Thomas Jefferson University, Trinity University, Tufts University, United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, University of Aberdeen, University of Alabama, University of Albany, University of Alberta, University of Arizona, University of Auckland, University of British Columbia, University of Buffalo, University of Calgary, University of California (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz), University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Essex, University of Evansville, University of Exeter, University of Florida, University of Glasgow, University of Hawaii, University of Idaho, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, University of Maine, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina, University of North Dakota, University of Northern Colorado, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, University of Ottawa, University of Pittsburgh, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of the Pacific, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of Richmond, University of Rochester, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, University of Southern California, University of Texas (Austin, Dallas), University of Toronto, University of Utah, University of Vermont, University of Victoria, University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of Waterloo, University of Wisconsin, University of York, Utah State University, Vanderbilt University, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Wake Forest University, Washington College, Washington State University, Washington University in St. Louis, Watson Institute, Wellesley College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wesleyan University, Western Washington University, Westminster College, Whitman College, Whitworth University, Willamette University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Xavier University, and Yale University.

22. ***Where can I find more information regarding the Cambridge AICE Program?***
    The Cambridge Assessment International Education website has extensive information regarding syllabi, sample examinations, and university recognition.
    The website is: www.cambridgeinternational.org Select "Why Choose Us" and then "Information for Parents and Students."

    Featured Juanita Cambridge graduates:
    https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/usa/us-student-voices/
    https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/alumni/us/maggie-jiang/

23. ***If I still have questions after reading through these documents, who can I contact?***
    Please feel free to contact Jessica West (jwest@lwsd.org) Associate Principal

Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International School