



**THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM (IB)**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study for highly motivated students in the 11th and 12th grades. The IB Diploma commands international recognition and is acknowledged course credit at many colleges and universities. Schenectady is a lead IB school for the surrounding area.

**IB PROGRAM COURSE OFFERINGS**

**ADDITIONAL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

**THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)**

The purpose of Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is to stimulate reflection on the knowledge and the experience of students both in and outside the classroom. TOK examines various areas of knowledge, truth, logic, value judgments, and the role of language and thought in knowledge. The course challenges students to question the basis of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases, and to develop a personal mode of thought derived from analysis of evidence and expressed in rational arguments. A group oral presentation and an essay written on prescribed topics form TOK's IB assessment.

**CONNECTIONS - IB**

(1 CREDIT)

Open to grade 10.  
Prerequisite: None

Recommended for tenth graders who aspire to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Program. This is an exciting interdisciplinary course that will provide students with the skills to think critically about ideas relating to the Sciences and Humanities. It will encourage students to view knowledge issues through a variety of lenses while also building an appreciation for examining the world from multiple perspectives. The focus of the classroom will include both individual and group hands on projects along with specific instruction in study skills, writing, debate, reasoning, and researching. Students in this program will also investigate the interrelationship of art, music, and literature, in gaining knowledge of their world.

**EXTENDED ESSAY**

The Extended Essay is a 4,000 word independent research paper due near the end of the second year of the program. Written in one of the subjects of the IB curriculum under the direct supervision of a qualified teacher at the school, the essay offers students an opportunity to investigate a topic of special interest and acquaints them with the

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRE-IB CURRICULUM FOR GRADE 9 & 10**

**ENGLISH**

English 9 Honors  
English 10 Honors

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Global History 9 Honors  
Global History 10 Honors

**MATH**

Trigonometry Accelerated/Pre-IB

**SCIENCE (2)**

Honors Biology  
Honors Chemistry  
Honors Physics

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

Pre-IB Accelerated French, Spanish, Chinese or Arabic 9  
Pre-IB Accelerated French, Spanish, Chinese or Arabic 10

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Arts Requirement  
Art/ Music

**ELECTIVE**

Connections

kind of independent research and writing skills expected at university. The essay is externally assessed according to specific criteria.

**CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (CAS)**

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) is at the heart of the Diploma Programme. It involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies throughout the Diploma Programme. The three strands of CAS, which are interwoven with particular activities, are characterized as follows:

**Creativity:** experiences that involve creative thinking.

**Action:** physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle.

**Service:** an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. Students need to provide reflection, document their activities and provide evidence that they have achieved eight key learning outcomes over their junior and senior years. The CAS Extended Project is long-term, collaborative, and singular in focus.



## TWO-YEAR SCHEDULE

HIGHER LEVEL COURSES	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Group 1 Language A-1	English (Year 1)	English (Year 2)
Group 3 Individuals and Society	History of the Americas IB (HL/Year 1)	20th Century Topics IB (HL/Year 2)
Group 4 Experimental Sciences OR		
Group 6 Visual Arts	Biology (Year 1) Design Tech (Year 1) Visual Arts (Year 1) IB Music (Year 1)	Biology (Year 2) Design Tech (Year 2) Visual Arts (Year 2) IB Music (Year 2)
STANDARD LEVEL COURSES		
Group 2 Language A-2	French 11 IB (SL) Spanish 11 IB (SL)	French 12 IB (SL) Spanish 12 IB (SL)
Group 3 Individuals and Society	Economics (SL) Psychology (SL)	Economics (SL) Psychology (SL)
Group 5 Mathematics	Math Methods (SL) Math Studies (SL)	Math Methods (SL) Math Studies (SL)
Group 6 Visual Arts	IB Music (SL) IB Visual Art (SL)	IB Music (SL) IB Visual Art (SL)

If you have not chosen courses from every group choose listed above, choose one Standard Level course from the groups listed below:

- Group 3: Individuals and Society (not if you have already chosen a Higher Level course from this group)
- Group 4: Experimental Sciences (not if you have already chosen a Higher Level course from this group)
- Group 6: Arts (not if you have already chosen a Higher Level course from this group)

## THE IB CURRICULUM GRADES 11 AND 12

Students may choose to be involved in the IB program but not be full Diploma Candidates. Students may take individual courses to earn IB certificates in all courses except Theory of Knowledge. Certificate students are not required to participate in the Extended Essay or the CAS components.

### HIGHER LEVEL COURSES

All IB courses are designed for the university bound student and follow a prescribed syllabus upon which the examinations are based. Courses offered at the higher level must be taught for a minimum of 240 hours (1 hour = 60 minutes) over the two year diploma program. With a greater number of required hours, higher level (HL) courses allow students to pursue a subject in more depth than at the standard level.

### STANDARD LEVEL COURSES

All IB courses are designed for the university bound student and follow a prescribed syllabus upon which the examinations are based. Courses offered at the standard level must be taught for a minimum of 150 hours (1 hour = 60 minutes). Like higher level courses, standard level (SL) courses are designed to be taught over two years. However, some schools have success meeting the requirements of SL courses in one year.

### TO EARN AN IB DIPLOMA YOU NEED TO TAKE:

- 3 Higher Level courses - Higher Level courses over a 2-year period
- 3 Standard Level courses (all Foreign Language courses are 2 years for standard level)
- 1 Theory of Knowledge course

### YOU MUST ALSO TAKE AT LEAST 1 COURSE FROM EACH GROUP.

- Group 1: Language-A1: English
- Group 2: Language-A2: Foreign Language (French or Spanish)
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies: History of Americas, Economics (HL and SL), Psychology
- Group 4: Experimental Sciences: Biology, Design Technology, Chemistry, and Physics
- Group 5: Mathematics: Mathematical Studies and Mathematical Methods
- Group 6: Arts and Electives: Music, Visual Arts