



## THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE A GLOBAL STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

- **ABOUT THE IB**

The International Baccalaureate is a high school diploma program with worldwide recognition, one that is enthusiastically accepted by colleges from Oxford to Harvard to Berkeley.

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate Organization works with over 3000 schools in 139 countries to develop and offer challenging academic programs to over 725,000 students. The IB encourages students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. The IB program first came to the United States in 1974 after success in recognizing European scholars. Since 2007, IB schools have made up more than one third of the top 100 of *Newsweek's* annual list of "America's Best High Schools". In Sonoma County, Montgomery was the first school to be affiliated with the International Baccalaureate Organization.

IB developed from both practical and educational concerns in the international school setting. It has an established advanced curriculum with basic standards and international examinations. Literature and fine arts studies, for instance, include worldwide authors in addition to traditional British and American works. History courses provide students with a dual perspective: in-depth chronological studies as well as broad comparisons of many countries' responses to the forces of the 20th century. Math and science courses imbed key cognitive and subject level standards required by universities worldwide.

IB students exceed state and national educational standards. IB Diploma standards are well aligned with the knowledge and skills required for university success. Students learn how to work at the university level in everything from critical examination to content knowledge to independent research and writing. Its integrated curriculum offers a broader base than individual Advanced Placement classes.

- **IB ADVANTAGES**

- A rigorous academic preparation in the humanities, mathematics, and sciences for serious students
- A desirable factor in admissions to the most selective and prestigious colleges and universities worldwide.
- Advanced placement and course credit at many colleges
- Special recognition at many colleges for successful diploma candidates (1-2 years of credit. For example, students completing the IB diploma with a score of 30 or above will receive 30 quarter, or 20 semester, units total toward their UC undergraduate degree.)
- An emphasis on global points of view to solve human problems
- A philosophy of lifetime learning skills in addition to the acquisition of knowledge
- A sense of accomplishment for both students and staff in meeting the challenge of an international standard of excellence

## • IB REQUIREMENTS

The IB curriculum is divided into Higher level courses (2 years of study) and Standard level courses (1- 2 years of study) taken during grades 11 and 12. Montgomery pre- IB courses include honors and academic core courses taken during grades 9 and 10 which prepare students for the program.

To receive the full IB Diploma, students must pass examinations in 3 Higher and 3 Standard level subjects. Montgomery students may choose their own program of subjects from this list:

1. English (Higher)
2. History (Higher)
3. Foreign Language (Higher, Standard-level B and ab initio)  
Spanish, French, Latin, Mandarin
4. Science  
Biology (Higher) Chemistry (Standard) Physics (Standard)
5. Mathematics (Higher and Standard)
6. Visual Arts or Theater Arts (Higher and Standard)
7. Film (Higher and Standard)
8. Music: Solo or Group Performance (Standard)
9. Social and Cultural Anthropology (Standard)

Additional requirements for the full diploma:

- A. An extended essay of approximately 3,500 words in an IB subject chosen by the student.
- B. A course entitled "Theory of Knowledge," which explores the nature of values and the essence of truth in various disciplines.
- C. 150 hours of CAS (creativity, action and service) activities.

International Baccalaureate options:

1. Full Diploma -Student meets all the above requirements (awarded from IB Geneva)
2. Certificates -for each Higher and Standard exam passed (awarded from IB Geneva)

## • COLLEGE RECOGNITION

The International Baccalaureate is universally recognized for excellence. While each college has its own recognition and admission policy, the following is a partial list of American schools that grant credit and/or advanced standing for IB diplomas and certificates. Students who attend two-year colleges, including Santa Rosa Junior College, use credits earned through IB exams to meet transfer requirements to four-year colleges. More information on IB college recognition policies is available at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

Boston University	Brandeis University	Brigham Young University
Brown University	Bryn Mawr College	Claremont McKenna College
Columbia College	Cornell University	College of William and Mary
Dartmouth College	Duke University	Harvard-Radcliffe College
Howard University	Johns Hopkins University	Lewis and Clark College
New York University	Northwestern University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Oberlin College	Pepperdine University	Princeton University
Santa Clara University	Smith College	Stanford University
Swarthmore College	Vassar College	Wheaton College
Wesleyan University	Yale College	University of San Francisco

State Universities of California, Arizona, New York, Oregon, Washington

Universities of California, Arizona, Chicago, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Southern California, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

- **SAMPLE IB SCHEDULE**

A four-year planner for the full diploma might look like this:

**NINTH GRADE:**

English  
Physical Science  
Mathematics  
Foreign Language  
Physical Education  
Fine Arts/Elective

**TENTH GRADE:**

English  
Biology or Chemistry  
Mathematics  
Foreign Language  
World History  
Physical Education/Elective

**ELEVENTH GRADE:**

IB English 1  
IB History of the Americas  
IB Biology 1 or IB Chemistry  
IB Mathematics  
IB Foreign Language  
IB Elective

**TWELFTH GRADE:**

IB English 2  
IB Global Studies  
IB Biology 2, IB Art 2 or IB Film 2 or other IB Elective  
IB Mathematics  
IB Foreign Language or elective  
IB Theory of Knowledge

Students who take Math, Foreign Language or Elective exams in their junior year have fewer requirements in their senior year. In addition, many IB students take zero period, JC or summer school courses to fulfill basic graduation requirements. This allows greater flexibility and the opportunity to take some outstanding elective classes at Montgomery.

- **WHY ENTER THE IB**

Montgomery High School's IB program offers the challenge of an advanced pre-college curriculum. An IB classroom is for motivated students with a love of learning that moves beyond "traditional" classroom dynamics. Students are recognized by international standards, and are compared to students taking the same curriculum in France, Japan, Argentina or any of the other 115 countries which have participating schools.

The International Baccalaureate involves students in an interdisciplinary education with "global" perspective. Not only do participants emerge with a thorough understanding of English-speaking countries, but they also understand more about how all cultures interrelate. Many IB students take advantage of exchange programs and travel opportunities. Past programs have included trips to Japan, Korea, Mexico, France and England.

Finally, International Baccalaureate students are rewarded for being well-rounded and civically responsible. Its community service requirement is just another aspect of global awareness.

**FAQS – Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the difference between IB and AP courses, and which is best for my student?**

International Baccalaureate courses have a global focus with established international standards, as opposed to the American approach of AP courses. The IB Program is offered in 137 countries and it is recognized both in the United States and around the world. IB is a comprehensive program which emphasizes inquiry skills, international awareness and community service. It culminates with the award of an IB Diploma at graduation. Much of the course work is interdisciplinary; for example, teachers in IB English, History and Spanish give connected assignments in Latin American history and literature. AP courses are established independently and do not have separate diploma recognition at graduation. Both programs require students to take a comprehensive test at the end of each course that allows students to receive college credit if they achieve an acceptable score.

## FAQS – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I take a few IB courses and not be enrolled in the IB Diploma Program?**

Yes, students can take individual IB courses in their area of interest, similar to AP courses. Students opting to take one or more IB courses will not be eligible for an IB diploma at graduation but they can earn individual IB certificates.

### **Do I have to be a high academic achiever to participate in the IB program?**

IB is aimed towards motivated, diligent students who are intellectually curious. It is not designed to be a program only for straight "A" students. Students are encouraged to enroll in IB based on a combination of academic achievement, teacher recommendation, and commitment to the IB program. Participants take a series of preparatory courses in their freshman and sophomore years, with the IB courses offered in the junior and senior years.

### **Do I have to give up other activities and interests to be an IB Diploma student?**

No. IB students are very involved in extra-curricular activities. IB students play varsity and club sports, serve in leadership roles in organizations and campus clubs, participate in music and drama and do community service. An important goal of IB is to assist students to balance their time so they can succeed academically and be involved in their community.

## • THE IB AT MONTGOMERY

Montgomery has been an authorized IB Diploma Program School since 1995. Montgomery students consistently score above the world average on their IB exams. We have a high success rate (over 98%) for diploma candidates. Over 330 students currently participate in IB in grades 11 and 12. Montgomery has a strong honors ("pre-IB") program for students in grades 9 and 10.

Our IB students and faculty have been recognized through awards and scholarships in the U.S. and internationally. Montgomery was one of 13 schools worldwide that piloted the new IB Film course. Montgomery IB students have won several international film prizes, in addition to state and national awards for academics, performing arts and leadership. Montgomery teachers also serve as examiners, teacher trainers and curriculum leaders for the International Baccalaureate Organization.

## • ABOUT MONTGOMERY

It is the mission of Montgomery High School to prepare students for the 21st century. The IB program is just one way that Montgomery students are prepared to compete in the world of work or higher education.

Montgomery offers a wide choice of other classes and pathways. A few popular electives are drama, yearbook and journalism, band and vocal programs. The unique make-up of student government encourages participation at many levels, and students of all interests can choose from a myriad of sports, clubs, and intramural activities.

With its emphasis on the "whole" student, Montgomery is viewed throughout Northern California as a high school of excellence and is recognized nationally as a National Blue Ribbon Distinguished School. Its wide range of courses and activities is truly forming tomorrow's international citizens.

For additional information on the IB: International Baccalaureate Organization. [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)  
California Association of World IB Schools. [www.c-ibo.org](http://www.c-ibo.org)

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