

Interlake High School International Baccalaureate Program
Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to “do Full IB”?

Students who enroll in IB classes in six subjects for the duration of their first and second IB years, may consider pursuing a *diploma* from IB.

What is Full Diploma coursework?

Students must take six IB classes, one from each of the six “groups” or core areas (see the IB hexagon on page 2). Many IB classes are considered two-year courses and span year 1 and year 2.

Are all the course exams the same?

Many course exams are offered at different levels. Exams and courses are either standard level (SL) or higher level (HL). For a diploma, three courses must be taken at the HL. No more than four HL exams may be taken, and HL exam are only in year two. In foreign language there is a third level, ab initio, for students just beginning to study a world language in year 1. There are three levels for math; studies, standard level and higher level.

What’s the difference between exams and assessments?

Exams are a form of assessment, but all courses have assessed work that varies in its format and scoring (experiment, paper, and demonstration of skills), and who assesses it. Internally assessed (IA) work is scored by the teacher of the course with scores sent directly to the IB Organization. In some cases, only a sample of the scores will be requested by IBO for external evaluators to review. When this happens, the external evaluators may recalibrate or readjust the scores given by the teacher to better match the IB expectations. Some work is submitted directly to the IBO and is assessed in another country, or externally assessed (EA). In some cases, the teacher or advisor is required to submit a predicted grade (PG) that is used to help the external assessor in determining a score.

When do the exams take place?

The exams take place during the first three weeks in May. The exams are conducted at Interlake in the morning and afternoon and students are expected to attend their classes during the non-testing period. The exact start times, locations, and directions will be available prior to testing.

What are those three other requirements for an IB Diploma candidate?

CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service)

Service learning is a required and unique component of the IB. Diploma students must complete **150 total hours** of CAS, beginning in year 1 and ending on April 1st of year 2. Failing to meet the CAS conditions is a failing condition for the IB diploma.

Creativity: arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking.

Activity: physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work elsewhere in the diploma program.

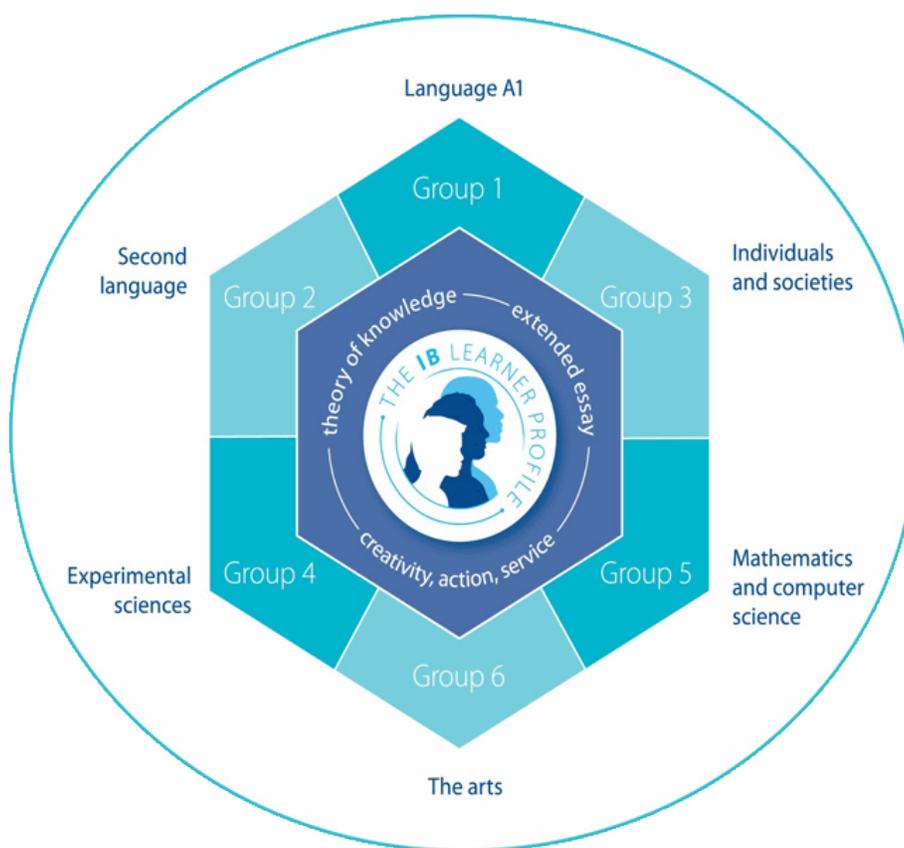
Service: an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student.

A word about community service hours for a Bellevue School District diploma: Students need 40 hours over the four years of high school - service hours for CAS may be included, but service hours during 9th grade (or 10th for traditional students) may not be included for CAS. The 150 hours must occur during the two-year IB program.

TOK (Theory of Knowledge) - This two-semester course investigates the question; how do we know what we claim to know? The teacher leads students in an examination of how different domains of study establish what is accepted as knowledge. For example, how does knowledge and methodology in mathematics differ from knowledge in history or in the sciences? What different ways of knowing contribute to our shared and personal knowledge? The course has some reading homework and some practice essay writing. There is no formal IB exam for ToK. However, there is an externally scored ToK essay based on IB published prompts and score guides, and there is an internally scored small group presentation, due in January of year 2. Many students feel their experience in the ToK classroom is one of the more formative of their lives.

EE (Extended Essay) -This 4,000-word research paper is completed in consultation **with a staff member** who agrees in advance to supervise the student’s choice of topic and research question, as well as their search for sources. The topic must come from one of the student’s IB courses. The EE is begun in earnest during the second semester of year 1 and is due September of year two.

The IB Hexagon



Please refer to the BSD online course catalogue or the Interlake document of IB offered assessment subjects.

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