



SONORA HIGH SCHOOL

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Fullerton Joint Union High School District

# Handbook for 2017 International Baccalaureate



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## **OFFICIAL IBO MISSION STATEMENT**

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## IB LEARNER PROFILE

At the heart of the IB Program is the Learner Profile – an outline of learning behaviors aimed to inspire and focus students, teachers and the global IB community in order to unite them in a common purpose. The Learner Profile is the IBO Mission Statement in action.



The aim of International Baccalaureate is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

### **INQUIRERS**

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

### **KNOWLEDGEABLE**

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

### **THINKERS**

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

### **COMMUNICATORS**

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

### **PRINCIPLED**

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

### **OPEN-MINDED**

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

### **CARING**

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

### **RISK TAKERS**

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

### **BALANCED**

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives (intellectual, physical, and emotional) to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

### **REFLECTIVE**

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

## TERMS USED IN THIS HANDBOOK

The following terms will be used throughout this handbook:

**CP = College Preparatory:** Sonora High School non-Honors, college-bound classes.

**Honors:** A more rigorous course designed to provide additional foundation for college-bound students. Curriculum is often taught at a more accelerated pace than CP courses. Curriculum is determined by FJUHS.

**AP = Advanced Placement:** Curriculum that is approved by a College Board Audit. AP courses can be more rigorous than Honors. Upon completion of AP course, students are encouraged to take the AP exam to demonstrate subject mastery. Students who take the exam might earn college credit based on the exam score and university policy. For example, some universities will give credit for an AP exam score of 3 while others give credit for a score of 4 or 5.

**IB = International Baccalaureate:** Curriculum that is approved by the official IB Organization (IBO). The curriculum is categorized into two levels: Standard Level and Higher Level.

**IB-SL = IB Standard Level:** Single IB courses that are 1 year in length. These courses take up 150 teaching hours (classroom seat hours). IBO allows students to take SL courses during their Junior and Senior years of high school.

**IB-HL = IB Higher Level:** IB courses that are 2 years in length (integrated over 2 years). These courses take up 240 teaching hours (classroom seat hours). Students must enroll in the 1st year of the course (HL1) in order to enroll in the 2nd year of the course (HL2). Both years must be taken in order to have “completed” the course. Some HL1 courses are integrated into AP courses such as US History (AP), which also serves as History of Americas (IB-HL1).

**IB Exams =** IB Exams are taken upon completion of an IB course in order to earn an IB Diploma or IB Course Certificates. Exam outcomes do not affect the class letter grade or GPA.

Students desiring to earn an IB Diploma are required to pass six IB Exams by the end of Senior year. The IB Exams will include 3 Standard Level courses and 3 Higher Level courses, covering the six IB Group Areas (English, World Language, Social Science, Experimental Science, Math, and Elective). IB Diploma students are allowed to take up to 2 Standard Level exams Junior year, while the remaining exams must be taken Senior year including all Higher Level exams.



## WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE?

International Baccalaureate is Sonora High School's most comprehensive and academically challenging option for our college-bound students.

International Baccalaureate (IB) is an international curriculum created by professional and innovative educators from different cultures around the world. As such, it reflects the best practices of a range of different educational frameworks. The IB curriculum is broad and balanced, conceptual and connected. It's geared toward creating well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens who are internationally-minded and able to think beyond their immediate environment.

The IB curriculum is a more holistic, long-term vision of education that promotes ethical responsibility, healthy relationships, and the skills and attitudes needed for personal success. It encourages students to view learning as a lifestyle. Students are taught to think for themselves and drive their own learning process. IB students will increase their understanding of language, cultures, and globally significant ideas and issues.

The IB program was first founded in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1968. It sprang from a desire to create an international curriculum that enabled its graduates to fulfill the requirements of multiple national educational systems, and to develop internationally-minded people who recognize their common humanity to help create a better and more peaceful world.

The IB program is governed by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). The IBO office in Switzerland serves as the global hub for support functions such as legal, intellectual property, tax, and governance. A non-profit organization, the IBO is a recognized leader in the field of international education.

Any school desiring to offer IB programs must first complete the IBO's authorization process. Once authorized, the school is known as an IB World School. Sonora High School has been an IB World School since 1986!

There are currently over 120 IB World Schools in California and over 4,000 world-wide, educating almost one million students. The IB program has support and recognition from colleges, universities, and governments around the globe.

For further information about the IBO, please visit its official website at [www.IBO.org](http://www.IBO.org).

## WHAT IS THE IB CURRICULUM?

Sonora's IB Program has three components: pre-IB courses, IB Diploma Program, and IB Course Certificates. The pre-IB courses are available to Freshmen and Sophomore students. The IB Diploma Program and IB Course Certificates are available to Junior and Senior students.

### Pre-IB Courses

Freshmen and Sophomore students may apply to enroll in pre-IB courses, which are Honors and AP courses. Enrolling in pre-IB courses will better prepare students for the rigor of the IB Diploma Program that begins Junior year. However, taking pre-IB courses is not a required prerequisite to the IB Diploma Program. Sonora offers the following Honors and AP courses to Freshmen and Sophomores:

- Honors Geometry
- Honors Algebra II
- Honors Pre-Calculus
- Honors English
- Honors Biology
- Honors Chemistry
- AP Human Geography
- AP European History

### IB Diploma Program

The IB Diploma Program is the formal 2-year IB curriculum, which starts Junior year. The 2-year curriculum includes taking three IB Standard Level Subject Classes (IB-SL), three IB Higher Level Subject Classes (IB-HL), and three IB Core Requirements during Junior and Senior years. Sonora's IB Coordinator will work with each student individually to help them create their own customized schedule that will meet IB Diploma Program exam requirements, using the following IB curriculum options:

Subject Classes	Junior Year	Senior Year
<b>English</b>	English III (IB-HL1).....	English IV (IB-HL2)
<b>World Language</b>	Level 3 (CP)..... Level 4 (IB-SL/IB-HL1)..... Level 5 (IB-HL2).....	Level 4 (IB-SL) Level 5 (IB-HL2) or No World Language No World Language
<b>Social Science</b>	*US History (CP)..... US History (AP/IB-HL1)..... Psychology (AP/IB-SL/IB-HL1)...	History of Americas (IB-HL2) History of Americas (IB-HL2) <b>Psychology (IB-HL/IB-HL2)</b>
<b>Experimental Science</b>	<b>Biology (AP/IB-HL1).....</b> Physics (CP)..... <b>Physics I (AP) .....</b> <b>Environ. Systems (IB-SL)...</b>	<b>Biology (IB-HL2)</b> <b>Environ. Systems (IB-SL)</b> <b>Physics II (AP/IB-SL)</b> <b>Physics I (AP) or Elective</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	Algebra II (CP)..... Algebra II (H)..... Pre-Calculus (H)..... Calculus AB (AP/IB-SL)..... Statistics (AP/IB-SL)..... Math Studies (IB-SL).....	Math Studies (IB-SL) or Pre-Calculus (H) Math Studies (IB-SL) or Pre-Calculus (H) Math Studies (IB-SL) or Calculus AB (AP/IB-SL) or No Math Math Studies (IB-SL) or Statistics (AP/IB-SL) or No Math Calculus AB (AP/IB-SL) or No Math No Math
<b>Arts &amp; Electives</b>	Film (IB-SL/IB-HL1)..... Visual Arts (IB-SL/IB-HL1)..... <b>Psychology (IB-SL).....</b>	Film (IB-HL2) or Visual Arts (IB-SL) or Psychology (IB-SL) Visual Arts (IB-HL2) or Film (IB-SL) or Psychology (IB-SL) <b>Psychology (IB-HL) or Visual Arts (IB-SL) or Film (IB-SL)</b>
<b>IB Core Requirements</b>	TOK Class..... Extended Essay..... CAS Project.....	TOK Class Extended Essay CAS Project
<b>Summer School</b>	<b>Economics (taken summer entering Sophomore or Junior year)</b>	

*\*Students who chose to enroll in US History (CP) will need to get approval before enrolling in History of Americas (IB-HL2).*

## Sample Schedule

Below is a SAMPLE of a 4-year course plan. This is just one of many possible plans. This student is taking pre-IB courses as a Freshman and Sophomore, and the IB Diploma Program courses as a Junior and Senior. Taking pre-IB courses as a Freshman and Sophomore is not a prerequisite for entering the IB Diploma Program but is highly recommended.

Subject Classes	PRE-IB COURSES		IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM	
	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
English Language	English I <i>Honors</i>	English II <i>Honors</i>	English III <i>(IB-HL1)</i>	English IV <i>(IB-HL2)</i>
World Language	Spanish <i>Level 1</i>	Spanish <i>Level 2</i>	Spanish <i>Level 3</i>	Spanish <i>Level 4</i>
Social Science	Human Geography <i>AP</i>	European History <i>AP</i>	U.S. History <i>(AP/IB-HL1)</i>	History of Americas <i>(IB-HL2)</i>
Experimental Science	Biology I <i>Honors</i>	Chemistry <i>Honors</i>	Biology <i>(AP/IB-HL1)</i>	Biology <i>(IB-HL2)</i>
Mathematics	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus <i>Honors</i>	Math Studies <i>(IB-SL)</i>
Arts & Electives	PE, Athletics, Dance, JROTC, or Marching Band		Physics <i>CP</i>	Environ. Systems <i>(IB-SL)</i>
Summer School	Computers	Health	Economics	
IB Core Requirements	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
TOK Class			Taken <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</i>	Taken <i>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</i>
Extended Essay			Begins junior year, works at own pace	
CAS Project			Begins junior year, works at own pace.	

The IB Core Requirements listed in the table above are:

**TOK Class = Theory of Knowledge Class:** Students reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know. It's an examination of the ways of thinking in different disciplines. TOK is an interdisciplinary requirement to stimulate critical reflection on knowledge and experience gained inside or outside the classroom.

**Extended Essay:** This essay is an independent, self-directed piece of research where the student investigates a topic of special interest in one of the subjects of the IB Curriculum, finishing with a 4,000 word essay. This experience acquaints students with independent research and writing skills expected at universities.

**CAS Project = Creativity, Activity, Service Project:** Students complete a project of their choice for a total of 150 hours spread across Junior and Senior year. This can include engaging in school, community, arts, and athletic activities. This encourages students to become responsible, active members of their community.



IB Core Requirements are different from typical curricula because they:

- Encourage students to think critically and challenge what they are told
- Are independent of governments and national systems, and are therefore able to incorporate best practices from a range of international frameworks and curricula
- Encourage students to be internationally-minded and to think beyond their immediate environment

To earn an IB Diploma, students must do the following by the end of Senior year:

- Pass six IB Exams (3 Standard Level and 3 Higher Level), one in each of the six IB Group Areas (English, World Language, Social Science, Experimental Science, Math, Elective) and complete all IB course requirements.
- Pass the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) class
- Complete the 4,000 word extended essay
- Complete the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) project

### **IB Course Certificates**

Students who complete individual IB course requirements (but not the full IB Diploma Program) can earn individual IB Course Certificates. Certificates are available in the following IB courses by passing the IB Exam for that course:

#### ***Standard Level (SL) IB Exams:***

World Language  
Visual Arts  
Film  
Psychology  
Math Studies  
**Environmental Systems & Societies**

#### ***Higher Level (HL) IB Exams:***

World Language  
Visual Arts  
Film  
**Psychology**  
Biology  
Theory of Knowledge  
English  
History of Americas

## **HOW WILL MY STUDENT BENEFIT FROM IB?**

The IB program is the most comprehensive and rigorous college preparation available at Sonora High School. Many universities and colleges recognize the rigor of IB courses and, therefore, IB students routinely gain admission to some of the most respected universities in the world.

### **IB & College**

Over 1700 colleges and universities throughout the United States and the world grant credit for students who earn IB Diplomas and IB Course Certificates. Specific scholarships may also be offered.

For example, the University of California has a “30 for 30” policy. Students who earn 30 points or more (out of a possible 45) on their IB Diplomas can be awarded up to 30 course equivalents upon entry to any of the seven University of California campuses. Since 1987, the average diploma score at Sonora High School has been 30 points.

Students who earn a score of 5 or greater on IB Course Certificate exams can also be awarded unit recognition based on their exam scores. Students are allowed to earn multiple certificates.

Students should view a prospective university's IB policy to determine the specific benefits available, and can also visit the IBO website at [www.IBO.org](http://www.IBO.org).

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR IB?**

Sonora High School is proud to provide access to the IB Program to the maximum number of students. Any student interested in the IB Program may go through the application process.

## **WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?**

### **9th Graders**

Incoming Freshmen must submit a completed *IB Application Packet* to the IB Coordinator by the annual January deadline. Required documents include the application, teacher recommendation form, personal statement, standardized test scores, and report card. In addition, private school students and inter-district students are required to take an entrance exam.

Application Packets are available in the school office and on our website:

**[www.SonoraHS.org](http://www.SonoraHS.org) → Academics → International Baccalaureate → Resources**

### **10th & 11th Graders**

Sophomore and Junior students may enter the program based on teacher recommendations and evaluation by the IB Coordinator.

### **Continuing Eligibility**

In order to continue in the IB Program, students must be recommended by their teachers to pursue subsequent course levels. Academic progress will be carefully monitored and supported by the IB Coordinator and Sonora's Guidance Office.