IB Diploma Programme in AACPS

FAQ’s : Teaching & Learning

Which grade levels offer the IB Diploma Programme (IB DP)? The IB DP is offered in grades 11 and 12.

Do all students at an IB World School participate in the DP? All students have the opportunity to apply for the IB DP magnet program in either 8th or 10th grade. Additionally, each IB high school offers a variety of IB Diploma courses that students, who naturally feed into an IB high school, can apply to take in grades 11 and 12.

How does the IB DP curriculum differ from AACS or Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum? AP courses tend to focus intensively on a particular subject, while IB courses take a more holistic approach. Students typically take from 1-4 AP courses, while the DP is a program of study that goes beyond traditional classroom academics. A student’s AP Exam score is based solely on an end of course exam while IB Exam scores are determined through internal assessments and a multi part end of course exam.

What are the language requirements for students to enter the IB Diploma Programme? Students entering the DP in grade 11 must have completed at least level 3 (or its equivalent) in one of the school’s IB languages. Please visit the school’s websites to see which languages are offered at each of the IB high schools.

What are the core components of the IB Diploma Programme? All students study Language & Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals & Societies, Experimental Sciences, and Mathematics. Students also choose to study the arts or an additional academic elective. All students also complete an independent research paper, a critical thinking course, and service/action in the community.

How are students assessed in the IB Diploma Programme (IB DP)? DP assessment procedures measure the extent to which students have mastered advanced academic skills such as analyzing and presenting information, evaluating and constructing arguments, and solving problems creatively. In addition to academic skills, DP assessment encourages an international outlook and intercultural skills, wherever appropriate. Student results are determined by performance against set international standards.

How will the IB Diploma Programme benefit my student when applying to college? The IB Programme benefits students for college in many ways. The first is that it requires them to do the inquiry and critical thinking instead of teachers telling them what to think. Students are also required to manage assessments and assignments over many months — time management is a great skill for college. Additionally, we know that students who complete the IB Diploma Programme are more likely to complete college in 4 years. It is considered to be the most rigorous program available to students in AACPS and colleges view it accordingly.

With a rigorous academic schedule, do students participate in sports and extra-curricular activities? Most of the students in the IB Diploma Programme participate in multiple after school activities — including athletics, clubs, and service to the community.

Are there costs associated with the IB DP? There are both registration and exam fees in the IB DP. Currently, AACPS covers 50% of the cost and additional financial assistance is available.

Benefits to the Community

Student-centered approach develops a positive attitude toward learning + Empowers students to contribute to the community + Students develop skills for future success in a complex world + Fosters international mindedness in students + Teachers receive ongoing Professional Development and a network of support + Promotes local and global awareness + Addresses holistically students’ intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being