



## *International Baccalaureate Programme*

### About the program:

In the spring of 1985 Mission Viejo High School became the first Orange County school to be accepted in the prestigious International Baccalaureate Programme; and in 1987 the first IB Full Diploma was awarded. This program, based in Geneva, Switzerland, with North American Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, allows students to earn an internationally recognized diploma. It is our most rigorous course of study, and all indications from universities in the United States now suggest the IB program sets the bar for academic excellence.

Students participating in the program must complete an intense course of study which includes: a unique course called “Theory of Knowledge”, completion of a 4,000 word thesis on a subject of each student’s special interest, and completion of community, activity and service activities. In addition, students will take six internationally graded subject exams.



### Why enter the IB?

- IB presents students with a challenging and stimulating program.
- IB emphasizes the philosophy of applied knowledge rather than mere book learning.
- IB involves students in interdisciplinary education with a “global perspective”.
- IB rewards students for being well-rounded and civically responsible.
- IB prepares students for the rigour of college and university coursework, as well as helping them learn valuable time management skills.
- IB enhances students chances for admittance to the universities of their choice, as well as earns advanced placement credit (including up to 30 units in the U.C. system.)

### Who is eligible for IB?

Although academic excellence is certainly an essential criteria, success in the program also depends to a great degree on motivation and character. Students applying for the program should possess the desire and dedication required to complete a rigorous program marked by conceptual thinking, creative expression, and writing across the curriculum.

### Requirements:

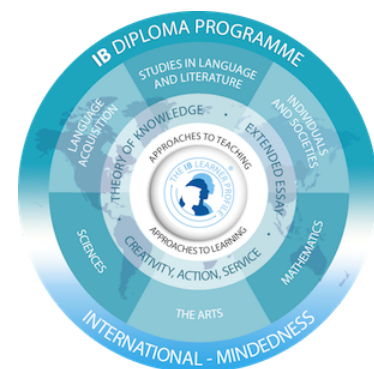
The IB curriculum is divided into Higher level courses (2 years of study) and Standard level courses (1 year of study), taken during grades 11 and 12. Honors classes taken during grades 9 and 10 will effectively prepare students for the IB courses. In order to achieve the Full IB Diploma, students must pass exams in 3 Higher and 3 Standard level subjects. Students choose their own program of Higher and Standard level subjects from the following list:

1. English: (Higher only)
2. Foreign Language: French or Spanish (Higher or Standard)
3. History: (Higher only)
4. Science: Biology or Physics (Higher or Standard); Environmental Systems and Societies (Standard)
5. Mathematics: Math Applications & Interpretations (Standard)
6. Option: an additional Science, Music, Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, or Psychology (Standard)

Additional Requirements for the Full Diploma:

**Theory of Knowledge (TOK):** Exploring how we know what we know, or ways of knowing.

- **The Extended Essay:** 3,500- 4,000 word research paper.
- **CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service):**
  - Exploring & extending ideas
  - Physical exertion and healthy lifestyle
  - Collaborative engagement with the community
- *\*The DP aims to go beyond the acquisition of knowledge and skills to include the education of the whole person. (IB Director General-Peterson 2003)*



\*For more information contact **Sandra Hanneman - International Baccalaureate Coordinator**

(949) 837-7722 / [sandra.hanneman@svusd.org](mailto:sandra.hanneman@svusd.org)



## MVHS Class of 2020!

- 28 Full Diplomas earned
- 31 was the average points earned on the diploma
- Colleges & universities students are attending:

*UCLA, UC Davis, UCSB, UCI, UCSD, UC Riverside, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly SLO, San Diego State, Brigham Young University, University of Toronto, NYU*



### **IB 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 & respect.*

