

Bonita Vista High School
**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

What is the International Diploma Program?

A demanding, pre-university study that leads to a combination of internally and externally assessed examinations.

Why was the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program adopted at Bonita Vista High?

The staff at Bonita Vista, not wanting to become complacent with its very successful Advanced Placement Program, challenged themselves to learn about other respected programs which would give students another choice. The IB Program continued to resurface as a program that is not only rigorous and well respected nationally, but one that had gained international recognition as a complete, well rounded liberal arts education.

Who is the program designed for?

It is designed for highly motivated students who seek the challenge of a well rounded, liberal arts, and international curriculum.

What is the selection criterion for admission into the Bonita Vista High International Baccalaureate Diploma Program?

None. Bonita Vista High believes in open access and academic rigor for any student. Our philosophy is for inclusion; however, the following are factors to consider: 1) academic performance (based on student's permanent record), 2) performance on a standardized tests (based on national norms), 3) recommendations from math, science, social studies and English teachers and 4) parental consent and support.

How many years does it take to earn the IB Diploma?

The program is a comprehensive two-year international curriculum started in the eleventh-grade. Students prepare and gain the edge for the program by entering Accelerated and Honors courses in the ninth and tenth grade.

When do students apply to the IB Program?

Students in the pre-IB program will continue into the IB program if they demonstrate success in the pre-IB program.

What is the IB curriculum's focus?

Humanities and science. Diploma candidates must select one subject from each of the six IB groups: Language A1, Second Language, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Science, Mathematics, Arts and Electives. At least three but not more than four are taken at the Higher Level (HL), while the others are Standard Level (SL).

Why are some courses taken at the Higher Level (HL) and others at the Standard Level (SL)?

This allows students to explore some subjects in depth and others more broadly; a deliberate compromise between the early specialization of some national systems and the breadth found in others. The science-oriented student is challenged to learn a foreign language and the natural linguist becomes familiar with laboratory procedures.

Which IB exams can a Bonita Vista IB student take?

HL: English A1, History of Americas, French B, Spanish B Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Mathematics (Calculus), and Theater. **SL:** Spanish B, French B, History of Americas, Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems & Society, and Math.

What are the benefits of earning an IB Diploma?

The Diploma Program equips students with the skills and attitudes necessary for success in higher education and employment. The IB Organization's goal is to provide students with the values and opportunities that will enable them to develop sound judgment make wise choices, and respect others in the global community. Just like Advanced Placement, each university sets its own criteria for awarding college credit and/or scholarships. Students and parents can view each university's IB policy for awarding credit by calling up the IBO web page, www.ibo.org.

How is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program SIMILAR to the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Program?

Both are excellent preparation for higher education. Both offer rigorous curricula. Success in either program is an excellent indicator for success in college. Both give students the opportunity to place out of college courses. Specially trained teachers teach both. Both require several hours of homework or off campus preparation each day.

How is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program DIFFERENT from the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Program?

AP students can choose one or more AP exams/courses to take. IB Diploma Candidates students must take one course (which leads to an external exam) from each of the six IB subject groups. IB students must also write an extended essay of some 4,000 words, take a one year Theory of Knowledge course during spring semester of junior year and fall semester of senior year, and complete 150 Creative, Action, and Service (CAS) hours during the 11th and 12th grade years. AP assesses students with exams in May. IB also assesses students with exams in May, but IB also requires that students be assessed internally through the form of written papers, one-on-one oral examinations, portfolios, dossiers, projects, etc.

Can a student test in IB without earning full diploma?

Yes, BV offers HL exams for certificates which award the student **college credit** upon passing, **exactly like AP**.

Does the International Baccalaureate Diploma replace the state of California or SUHSD graduation requirements?

No, but most of the IB courses will fulfill many of the California and SUHSD graduation requirements. It is very important for IB students to work closely with their school counselors to ensure that all graduation requirements are met. The IB coordinator will work closely with the IB students to ensure that all IB Diploma internal and external requirements are met.

How much does it cost to be in the IB Diploma Program?

Students must pay for their IB exams; however, fee reductions are available. On average a student will pay about \$650.00 for all six exams & registration fees, Extended Essay Fee, and Theory of Knowledge fee over two years.

What percentage of Bonita Vista High IB students earn the IB Diploma?

73% of diploma candidates (seniors) have earned the IB Diploma over the past 21 years. This is similar to the world average. 257 Bonita Vista students have earned the IB Diploma over the past 21 years (1990-2009).