



Course Descriptions

RHS INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

In 2013, Ramsay High School was authorized to affiliate with the International Baccalaureate Organization. This organization directs an international curriculum recognized by educators, colleges, and employers around the world as a standard of excellence. Since its inception 40 years ago, the IB program has become a symbol of academic integrity and intellectual promise. The student who completes the program demonstrates a strong commitment to learning, both in the mastery of subject content and the development of skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world.

The IB Curriculum is taught in the 11th and 12th grades. Before entering the 11th grade, students are strongly recommended to have taken two years of Spanish or French and to have successfully completed Algebra II. Students sit for international examinations in all subjects at the completion of their study. If test scores are satisfactory and all IB requirements are met, students earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Some basic facts about the IB program at Ramsay High School are summarized below:

- Criteria - Students must earn passing grades in all MYP/Advanced or equivalent classes and maintain at least a "C+" average overall to enter the IB program. Once beginning the IB Program, students must pass all classes and maintain at least a "C" average overall to remain in the program.
- Curriculum - The IB Diploma requires extended study in six academic areas or groups: English, Foreign Language, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and an IB-approved elective.
- IB Core - In addition to the academic course work, IB students must complete an Extended Essay (EE) on a topic of the student's choice, Community, Action, and Service (CAS), and a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course.

IB Core Courses

IB ORIENTATION/IB THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE 11 (EE RESEARCH SEMINAR)

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors pursuing IB Diploma

In the 1st semester of grade 11, students take a research writing seminar course preparing them for the complex writing assignments in their IB courses. The course will present a systematic approach to research essays of various types with the focus being on the extended essay. During the 2nd semester, students will take an introduction to Theory of Knowledge (TOK). Throughout TOK, students are involved in a critical examination of knowledge through readings, discussions, and writings based on the perspectives of language, logic, perception, mathematics, history, science, ethics, politics, and the arts.

IB THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE 12/CAS (STUDY HALL)

Prerequisite: Available only to IB seniors pursuing IB Diploma

In the 1st semester of grade 12, students take the second half of TOK in a traditional classroom setting. Students take Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) study hall in the last semester of their senior year. During this course, students will complete reflections and submit evidence for their CAS projects and the eight learner outcomes.

IB Group 1 – English Literature

IB ENGLISH A: Literature HL 11th GRADE

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors pursuing IB Diploma

This course is the first part of a two-year International Baccalaureate curriculum that prepares students for higher-level (HL) assessments in literature and composition. Extra emphasis is placed on oral presentation skills and the study of world literature themes.

IB ENGLISH: A Literature HL 12th GRADE

Prerequisite: IB English 11

This course is the second part of a two-year International Baccalaureate curriculum that prepares students for higher-level (HL) assessments in literature and composition, in May of the senior year.

IB GROUP 2 – FOREIGN LANGUAGES

IB SPANISH SL

Prerequisite: Two years of Spanish and enrollment in IB program

IB FRENCH SL

Prerequisite: Two years of French and enrollment in IB program

These courses prepare students for the standard-level (SL) Spanish or French B Language Examination. Emphasis is placed on active communication in the language and analysis of Spanish or French culture and literature. During their junior and senior years, students will be required to give oral presentations and to develop text-handling skills. ***Students with less than two years of the same foreign language will be enrolled in the Ab initio class during their junior and senior years.***

IB GROUP 3 – HISTORY

IB HISTORY HL 11th GRADE

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors pursuing IB Diploma

This course is the first part of a two-year International Baccalaureate curriculum that prepares students for higher-level (HL) assessments in the history of the American continent. This level focuses on U.S. history in the context of World history.

IB HISTORY HL 12th GRADE

Prerequisite: IB History 11

This course is the second part of a two-year International Baccalaureate curriculum that prepares students for higher-level (HL) examination in the history. This course takes the place of Government and Economics and focuses on specific 20th Century historical topics prescribed by IB and selected by the teacher.

IB GROUP 4 – EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE

IB CHEMISTRY HL 11

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors pursuing IB Diploma. See Science department's course offerings guide for more information.

This course introduces college-level Chemistry topics which are covered in the Higher Level IB assessments. Emphasis is placed on extensive laboratory experiences that apply scientific knowledge. Students keep a laboratory notebook in order to complete the IB laboratory component of the course.

IB BIOLOGY HL 11

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors pursuing IB Diploma. See Science department's course offerings guide for more information.

This course introduces college-level Biology topics, which are covered in the Higher Level IB assessments. Emphasis is placed on extensive laboratory experiences that apply scientific knowledge. Students keep a laboratory notebook in order to complete the IB laboratory component of the course.

IB BIOLOGY HL 12

Prerequisite: IB Biology 11

This course continues the advanced study of college-level Biology topics, which are covered in the Higher Level IB assessments. Emphasis is placed on extensive laboratory experiences that apply scientific knowledge. Students keep a laboratory notebook in order to complete the IB laboratory component of the course.

IB CHEMISTRY HL 12

Prerequisite: IB Chemistry 11

This course extends the study of college-level Chemistry topics which are covered in the Higher Level IB assessments. Emphasis is placed on extensive laboratory experiences that apply scientific knowledge. Students keep a laboratory notebook in order to complete the IB laboratory component of the course.

IB GROUP 5 – MATHEMATICS

IB MATH STUDIES SL

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors and seniors pursuing IB Diploma.

Math Studies provides a structured introduction to areas of emphasis in most postsecondary studies of mathematics in preparation for IB assessments. Topics covered in this two-year course include Number Properties and Algebra, Set and Logic, Probability and Statistics, Functions, Geometry and Trigonometry, and Introductory Differential Calculus. To assist students with numerical and graphical analysis, the use of advanced technological tools is required. IB Math Studies would be suitable for students who do not need mathematics in their future studies at university.

IB MATHEMATICS SL

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors and seniors pursuing IB Diploma.

This two-year course covers the Pre AP Pre-calculus curriculum in addition to producing portfolio work for the IB diploma. For students who plan to pursue subjects such as chemistry, economics, psychology, and business administration, it is recommended that they select Mathematics SL for the IB diploma program.

IB GROUP 6 – ARTS/IB ELECTIVES

IB MUSIC SL

Prerequisite: Two years of instrumental and/or choral music and approval of IB music instructor.

Students with a special interest in and talent for music may take concert or symphonic band or concert choir through their senior year and complete IB assessments for music, group performance. Additional work is required to meet IB requirements. See IB coordinator for additional information.

IB VISUAL ARTS SL

Prerequisite: Approval of art teacher and enrollment in IB program.

It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media.

IB THEATER SL

Prerequisite: Approval of theater teacher and enrollment in IB program.

This course will be taught in conjunction with advanced drama. Students will complete additional assessments based on the IB theater requirements and develop their theater portfolio which will be submitted for IB assessment.

IB FILM SL

Prerequisite: Approval of film instructor and enrollment in IB program.

Through the study and analysis of film texts and exercises in film-making, the Diploma Programme film course explores film history, theory and socio-economic background. The course develops students' critical abilities, enabling them to appreciate the multiplicity of cultural and historical perspectives in film. To achieve an international understanding within the world of film, students are taught to consider film texts, theories and ideas from the points of view of different individuals, nations and cultures.

IB DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (ROBOTICS) SL

Prerequisite: Available only to IB juniors and seniors pursuing IB Diploma.

DP design technology achieves a high level of design literacy by enabling students to develop critical-thinking and design skills, which they can apply in a practical context. While designing may take various forms, it will involve the selective application of knowledge within an ethical framework.

For more information about the Ramsay High School IB program, contact:

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