



To: Prospective Parents
From: Nirit Cohen Vardi, IB Coordinator
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RE: International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO)
Exam Registration and Fees

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a non-profit international educational institution created in 1968 in Switzerland. The IBO offers an approach to education that emphasizes research, writing, and learning through directly working on projects. International Baccalaureate (IB) classes follow the curriculum mandated by the IBO. Schools that use this educational program are referred to as International Baccalaureate, or "IB" schools. Mastery of the IB curriculum is measured by student performance on "assessments" mandated by the IBO for the IB programs. During and at the end of the two year concurrency of the IB coursework, using IBO rubrics, student performance on the IB components is assessed. A student's mastery of IB coursework is expressed as a numerical score from 1 to 7.

San Diego High School of International Studies participates in the IB program. The IB program is a two year program during the 11th and 12th grades. Participation in the program is **strictly voluntary**. For every school subject that has the IB curriculum, a course without the IB curriculum is available to students. A student can enroll in, attend, and fully participate in a course with an underlying IB component, including both regular coursework and IB prescribed coursework, and receive full course credit towards a high school diploma, without paying any fee of any kind and without registering for, paying for or taking any end-of-course IB exams.

If a student chooses to register for and take end of course IB exams, which can lead to a separate IB designation on the transcript and a separate IB diploma, the IBO charges a registration fee, and a fee for each course exam. The IBO will invoice each parent who elects to register for and take end of course IB exams. The school collects the payments and transmits those payments to the IBO.

The IBO mandated IB coursework is a component of regular school courses. Students are not required to take any particular number of regular school courses with an IB component. Students enrolled in courses with an IB component also complete regular course work which is not regulated by the IBO. The non-IBO course work is a curriculum with standards and testing requirements prescribed by the state and the San Diego Unified School District (District). Every student in a course with an IB component must complete the IBO prescribed work in that course in addition to the state/District prescribed work for that course. At the end of a semester a student will receive a letter

grade, A-F, for that state/District prescribed course work. That academic letter grade is the grade that is entered into the student's District issued high school transcript. The IBO numerical score (1-7) **is not** shown on a student's high school transcript or on a student's District issued high school diploma. There is no fee charged to a student for their regular course semester/end of year A-F grade in any high school course with an IB component.

If students take one or more courses with the IB component, and if the student performs the IB coursework, following assessment of the IB component in each course taken, at the end of the second school year of the two year concurrency the student will receive an IB certificate from IBO certifying the student completed the IB component in that particular course. That certificate will also have a numerical score from 1 to 7 indicating the level of the student's mastery of the IB components of that course. If a student takes six school courses with an IB component, one from each of the 6 IB subject groups (3 HL and 3 SL) plus the Theory of Knowledge course, plus completion of the Extended Essay and Creative, Activity and Service (CAS) components, meeting the IBO established score requirements the student will receive an IB Diploma. That Diploma will also have numerical scores from 1 to 7 indicating the level of the student's mastery of the IB components of each course and a total score indicating the scores received for all the components combined. The IB Diploma **is not** the District issued high school graduation diploma. The IB Diploma is an IBO document reflecting achievement only on the IB component(s) of the regular school courses. Upon request the IBO will provide an official IBO transcript reflecting the student's outcomes on the course certificates, and the IB Diploma to colleges and universities for college/university course credit for the high school courses with the IB component.

If you have any questions regarding the IB program please feel free to contact me at the following e mail address: ncohen-varadi@sandi.net.