



2016–2017 High School Course Descriptions

Please be sure to check that courses you select match the ISD graduation requirements and that they are taken in the proper sequence. Please note that not all courses listed below are offered every year and that courses noted with an * are offered with special circumstances.

Performing and Fine Arts Courses

Songwriting (Grades 9-12) - Semester course

Learn how to write your own songs - it's not as hard as you might think! Many hit songs today are quite basic. You will learn some of the tools songwriters use to make hit songs. We will learn to write songs in basic popular styles and more complex styles as well as add just the right instruments and harmonies. In doing so, if you don't already know how to play the guitar, piano, bass, and drums, you will pick up some basic skills on these instruments. You will also learn to identify and manipulate chords and chord progressions, which are very common in popular styles today as well as create some of your own. The course will culminate by creating iTunes quality songs in a recording studio environment.

Spring Production (Grades 9-12) – Semester course

This class will rehearse and prepare next year's spring production. Throughout the process students will learn about vocal performance, character development, choreography and ensemble building. Students will also learn about the production process from start to finish and take an active role both on and off stage.

Music Technology (Grades 9-12) – Semester course

This course will give you the basics on the software, equipment, and know-how to create music through technology. We will learn to create, mix, remix and mash-up songs/soundtracks. We will learn the basics of scoring to picture. The course will culminate with an exposition of student works.

Drawing and Painting (Grades 9-12) Semester course

This course focuses on the study of the principles of design by completing a variety of drawing and painting challenges. The students' solutions will be in the form of still life, landscape, figure studies, as well as abstract art and conceptual art pieces to enhance each student's creative ability to problem solve challenges given in their assignments. Students explore ideas and record reflections in a sketchbook and prepare their artwork for exhibition.

Printmaking and Collage (Grades 9-12) Semester course

This course introduces printmaking through the forms of linoleum block, etching, and monoprint techniques. The art of collage and multimedia experimentation will also be explored. Students will employ drawing as a foundation skill for printing and collage. They will learn and use the vocabulary of an artist, work with original ideas and creatively engage with art materials while solving visual problems based on assignments. Students explore ideas and record reflections in a sketchbook and prepare their artwork for exhibition.

IB Visual Art HL and SL (Grade 11-12)

The IB Visual Arts course is a two-year advanced art course that encourages individual experimentation and exploration in the visual arts. Students are expected to demonstrate an inquiring attitude towards a variety of visual phenomena, and explore the relationship between the visual arts and social, political and cultural context. Students are expected to be persistent in their research and daily studio work. IB Diploma and Course Candidates will present a portfolio of their artwork in an exhibition for the Internal Assessment. The supporting research will be documented in their process portfolio and submitted at the end of the second year of this course for external examination. Students will also write and present a comparative essay on two different artists for external examination.

IB Film HL and SL (Grade 11-12)

Film is both a powerful communication medium and an art form. The Diploma Programme film course aims to develop students' skills so that they become adept in both interpreting and making film texts. 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 context. 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. The IB film course emphasizes the importance of working individually and as a member of a group.

The Art of Cinema (Grades 9-12) - Semester Course

Movies are stories told in a visual medium. Through this course, students will become familiar with ways this storytelling evolved with innovations in cinematic technique over time. The advent of sound and color both represented major changes in the way films were made, and filmmakers and actors had to modify their methods in order to adapt to the changing landscape of the art form. Through analyses of film language and narrative, students will discover some of the secrets of cinema. Then, through creating a series of short films, students will experiment with these techniques in order to experience the challenges faced by filmmakers as they work to maximize the advantages of each technique without overwhelming the stories they are telling.

Movie Making (Grades 9-12) - Semester Course

This course is for budding movie-makers with an emphasis on experimentation in the use of the video medium. Students will write, direct, act, shoot, and edit short movies. We will cover the fundamentals of pre-production, shooting, sound, lighting, and editing, among other production issues. We will also experiment with practical effects and green screen. Students will form production teams and put these techniques into practice to produce short films that serve real-world purposes. Examples may include Public Service Announcements, trailers advertising campus events, news pieces, biographies and documentaries. Students will have the opportunity to work with various teams in each of the crew roles to produce different projects, thus honing their craft, improving their creativity and refining their teamwork skills.

Acting: Approaches to Character (Grades 9-12) - Semester Course

This class explores multiple approaches to developing both comedic and dramatic characters. Through the use of monologues, duet scenes, improvisation and devised scripts this class will challenge both experienced and inexperienced actors and help them develop as artists and performers.

Technical Theater (Grades 9-12) - Semester Course

Students will learn the basics of all aspects of technical theatre, including light and sound design and set and costume construction. They will use the spring production as a real world application of their learning.

IB Theatre HL and SL (Grade 11-12)

This course will focus on three elements of theatre: theatre in the making, theatre in performance and theater in the world. Accordingly, students will develop and hone the skills needed to devise, create, critique and reflect upon a range of original and scripted pieces. Students will take on a variety of production roles including: director, ensemble member, designer, and actor and audience member. Also, students will gain and apply an international perspective and understanding through their study of a broad range of theatrical forms from different cultures and time periods.

Physical Education Courses

Physical Education (Grades 9-12)

Physical Education at ISD is a sequential educational program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle and develop problem solving skills in order to attain personal goals. The units of study include traditional team sports such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball. In addition, other units such as badminton, flag football, ultimate frisbee, softball, and dance may also be explored. Learning skills necessary for lifelong health and fitness are integrated throughout the year.

Weight training and fitness units are also a large part of the curriculum. Students will understand the proper techniques of weight training and create individual goals based on what they would like to accomplish and how to improve their physical and emotional health.

Health units are also incorporated within the curriculum. These units include nutrition and creating proper individual healthy living plans for students. Sexual education which explores reproduction, contraception, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's), and prophylactics. Drugs and alcohol which dives into different types of drugs and the effects it has on the body both physically and mentally.

Equipment Required: PE shoes, exercise clothing, sport swimsuit (one-piece), goggles, and water bottle.

English Courses

English 9

This course will build upon strategies used and skills attained from grade 8 Language Arts. We will build independent reading skills and stamina, increase vocabulary, continue to develop writing skills through formal and informal writing tasks, build a greater understanding of literary devices and how language shapes meaning and our reactions as readers, and improve presentation and public speaking skills. Texts will cover Western and non-Western writing and will likely include works like *Fahrenheit 451*, *Nervous Conditions*, and a variety of short stories and poetry, including Shakespeare.

English 10

The class will cover themes such as the oral tradition, satire, adversity, and suspense through the study of American literature. This novel-based class will also include short stories, poetry, film, and non-fiction. As this class is considered an IB or AP prep class, students will mostly write for academic purposes and most writing will focus on analyzing literature and close reading. Some creative writing will be required. Major texts include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Crucible*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street*, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

Students will also be expected to read two books of their choice during the academic year: students may choose to purchase these over the summer.

IB English Language A: Literature HL (Grade 11-12)

In this two-year course students will examine how literature reflects humanity's conceptions, interpretations, and experiences of the world. Literary works will be explored through their cultural context and through the study of the author's choices. The works will include translations, varied genres, and classics of the English literary canon. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the artistry of literature as well as to reflect critically about what is read. Internal and external assessments will be both

oral and written. Texts include: *Antigone* by Sophocles, *God's Bits of Wood* by Sembene Ousmane, *So Long a Letter* by Mariame Bâ, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass, *Selected poems* by William Butler Yeats, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *The Tragedy of Hamlet: Prince of Denmark* by William Shakespeare, *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* by Tom Stoppard, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Moshin Hamid, *Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* by Jon Krakauer, *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

IB English Language A: Language and Literature HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

This two-year course focuses on four areas: language in cultural context; language and mass communication; literature-texts in context, and literature - critical study. They will consider the role of language in constructing meaning and understanding of particular issues in the world. They will analyze the way language is used in the media and how the production and reception of texts is influenced by the medium in which they are delivered. The texts will be chosen from a range of literary sources, genre and media. Parts 3 and 4 of the syllabus are the literature component. Texts include: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Moshin Hamid, *So Long a Letter* by Mariama Ba, "Master Harold"...and the boys by Athol Fugard, *The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy, *Jump and Other Stories* by Nadine Gordimer, *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

IB English B: HL and SL (Grades 11-12) * offered only with enough student interest

In this two-year course students are given the opportunity to develop an additional language and to promote an understanding of other cultures through the study of English. Language B is designed for students who already possess a degree of knowledge and experience in the English language. Students will explore three main core topics: communication and media, global issues, and social relationships. Students will also study two works of literature.

Mathematics Courses

The goal of the Mathematics Department is to provide a program emphasizing the understanding of basic mathematical language, structure and principles to suit a wide range of ability levels. All courses require teacher approval for admittance. Homework is an essential component of every course, while, in addition, some courses require project and/or computer work. Calculators are required for all classes. Given that graphing calculators are required on International Baccalaureate (IB) the HS Mathematics Department now requires that each student enrolled in the following courses purchase a TI-84+ graphing calculator: IB Higher Math 1 & 2, IB Mathematical Studies SL 1 & 2, IB Math SL 1 & 2 and Math 9, 9E and 10, 10E.

Math 9 (Grades 9 - 12)

Prerequisite: Math 8 with at least a grade of “C” or department recommendation. **TI-84 or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

In this course students study algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Topics such as sets and logic, multi-step equations, systems of equations, solving linear inequalities, graphs of linear functions, Euclidean geometry (including applying geometric properties, congruent and similar triangles, Pythagorean Theorem) and area and volume are thoroughly covered. Various applications including word problems are also presented.

Math 9E (Grades 9 - 12)

Prerequisite: Math 8E with at least a grade of “B” or department recommendation. **TI-84 or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

This course covers similar content as Math 9, at a more in depth level and is faster pace. Additional topics include factoring, solving and graphing quadratic equations, right triangle trigonometry, and exponential functions. This is a rigorous course recommended for students who have demonstrated the ability and desire to perform at a challenging level of mathematics. The TI-84+ graphing calculator is used introduced in the course.

Math 10 (Grades 9 - 12)

Prerequisite: Math 9 with at least a grade of “C” or department recommendation.

This course reviews many of the topics from the study of algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability, from Math 9, and proceeds to more advanced topics; including polynomial expressions and factoring, solving and graphing quadratic equations, exponents, exponential functions, and right triangle trigonometry. Various applications including word problems are also presented throughout the course. Students enrolled in this course will be prepared to take IB Math Studies in grade 11.

Math 10E(Grades 10 - 12)

Prerequisites: Math 9E with at least a "B-" grade or department recommendation. **TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

This course is for students intending to take IB Math Standard-level or Higher-level IB courses. Quadratic and higher-order functions are studied in detail, with a systematic development from rational to irrational to complex numbers. Trigonometric topics will include circular functions, radian measure, graphs, formulas, identities, and trigonometric equations. Exponential and logarithmic functions will also be introduced. The TI-84+ graphing calculator is used extensively throughout the course. See also Math 10 for alternatives to this rigorous course

Pre-Calculus

Prerequisite: Algebra II with a B and teacher recommendation.

This course is intended to provide the essential mathematical background required to be successful in calculus upon entrance to university. The goal of the course is to develop the concepts that play critical roles in calculus and to explore their applications to solving real life problems. The emphasis is on a graphical, numerical and algebraic approach to solving equations and functions. An in-depth study of trigonometric functions is also included. Graphing calculators play a pivotal role in understanding the concepts. **TI-84 or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

IB Math Studies SL (Grades 11-12)

Math Studies is designed for students with varied mathematical backgrounds and abilities with an emphasis on applications of mathematics, and the largest section is on statistical techniques. It offers students opportunities to learn important concepts and techniques and to gain an understanding of a wide variety of mathematical topics. It prepares students to be able to solve problems in a variety of settings, to develop more sophisticated mathematical reasoning and to enhance their critical thinking. Students taking this course are well prepared for a career in social sciences, humanities, languages or arts. The compulsory core is numbers and algebra, sets and logic, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability, functions and financial mathematics and an introduction to differential calculus. In addition, students must complete an individual project which is an extended piece of work based on personal research involving the collection, analysis and evaluation of data. **TI-84 or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

IB Math SL (Grades 11-12)

Includes Pre-Calculus and Calculus

Math SL caters for students who already possess knowledge of basic mathematical concepts, and who are equipped with the skills needed to apply simple mathematical techniques correctly. The majority of Math SL students will expect to need a sound mathematical background as they prepare for future studies in subjects such as chemistry, economics, psychology and business administration. This course fulfills the college requirement for high school calculus and is designed to meet the needs of most students. In the first year students learn a variety of Pre-Calculus topics including limits. In the second year, a full semester is devoted to differential and integral calculus. Students will also be expected to complete a mathematical exploration. **TI-84 or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

IB Mathematics HL (Grades 11-12)

This is a fast-paced, demanding and comprehensive course that caters for students with a good background in mathematics that are competent in a range of analytical and technical skills. The majority of these students will be expecting to include mathematics as a major component of their university studies, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as physics, engineering and technology. In addition to the IB Math SL syllabus the following topics are also covered: complex numbers, extended vectors, differential equations, and infinite sequences and series. Students will also be expected, as an internal assessment, to do a significant mathematical exploration. **TI-84 or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required.**

Science Courses

Science 9 (Bio/Chem/Phys)

The grade 9 Science course is the first year of a two-year course taught in grades 9 and 10. The course gives students the opportunity to study biology, chemistry and physics within a coherent syllabus. Students learn about the basic principles of each subject through a combination of theoretical and practical studies. The course aims to develop successful students who have the required understanding, knowledge and scientific skills essential for studying one or more sciences in the IB Diploma Programme. It also teaches students the inquiry skills that help them become independent learners and equip them for life. The following topics will be covered during the course:

Biology: Characteristics of living organisms, ecology, evolution, human health and physiology

Chemistry: The nature of matter, elements and compounds, the periodic table, chemical reactions

Physics: Linear motion, forces and movement, forces and pressure, energy and work, thermal physics.

Science 10 (Bio/Chem/Phys)

The grade 10 Science course is the second year of a two-year course taught in grades 9 and 10. The course gives students the opportunity to study biology, chemistry and physics within a coherent syllabus. Students learn about the basic principles of each subject through a combination of theoretical and practical studies. The course aims to develop successful students who have the required understanding, knowledge and scientific skills essential for studying one or more sciences in the IB Diploma Programme. It also teaches students the inquiry skills that help students become independent learners and equip them for life. The following topics will be covered during the course:

Biology: Cell structure and function, the chemistry of life, genetics

Chemistry: Measurement, the mole concept, periodic trends, bonding, stoichiometry

Physics: Waves, sound, optics, electromagnetic spectrum, electricity and magnetism.

IB Chemistry HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

Chemistry offered at both standard level (SL) and higher level (HL). Chemistry is an example of an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills. It is called the central science, as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems. Chemistry is a prerequisite for many other courses in higher education, such as medicine, biological science and environmental science. Some of the topics include organic chemistry, quantitative chemistry, and kinetics.

IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL (Grades 11-12)

Environmental Systems and Societies is trans disciplinary subject that satisfies the IB requirements for both group 4 (experimental sciences) and group 3 (individuals and societies) within the IB curriculum. Students will be encouraged to develop a deep understanding of environmental issues by studying them from various angles—including scientific, ethical, and socio-political perspectives. Whenever possible, students will engage in field studies and apply their learning to local and regional environmental issues. Environmental Systems and Societies are offered as a standard level course.

IB Physics HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

The Standard Level Physics course is an intensive course in general Physics and the most common experimental techniques. The core syllabus gives a presentation of the fundamental parts of physics, being these Uncertainties and Measuring, Mechanics, Thermal Physics, Waves, Electricity and Magnetism, Atomic Physics, and Energy. The options specialise in applied physics: Relativity, Engineering, Astrophysics and Imaging. At the end of the Higher-level course, a student will be well prepared for a college or university career in Physics or related subjects. The Higher level course deals extensions of some of the core topics: Wave Phenomena, Fields, Induction, Quantum and Nuclear Physics.

IB Biology HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

Biology is offered at both the standard level and high level. The central theme of the Biology course is the relationship between structure and function. This theme is explored in depth through a variety of topics, including cells, the chemistry of life, genetics, ecology, evolution, and human health and physiology plus additional topic options. Students engage in both theoretical and practical work involving laboratory investigations and projects. Both standard and high-level courses cover the core curriculum. HL Biology differs in that it involves a much greater depth and breadth of study.

Social Studies Courses

Grade 9 Social Studies

This course will emphasize World History and Geography from the beginning of the 20th century to present. The course focuses on four units; Time, Space and Place, Change, Global Interactions, and Systems. Throughout each unit, students will learn a variety of academic, thinking, communication, and organizing skills. Students will also learn the research process and will write a research paper based on an original research question.

Grade 10 Social Studies

This course will emphasize Psychology, Economics and Human Geography. Each of these topics will be covered in one unit of study. Psychology will be covered in Unit 1, with an emphasis on learning, research methods, and disorders. Economics will be covered in Unit 2, covering microeconomics and macroeconomics. Human Geography will be covered in Unit 3, and will focus on cultural and economic geography. An underlying goal of the course will be to promote readiness for the IB Diploma program through developing critical thinking skills and appropriate writing technique.

IB Economics HL and SL (Grade 11 and 12)

Is the study of the way that people meet their needs and wants. Students who take Economics will learn about how people behave in order to meet their needs and wants, and how people collectively make up an economic system. It will also cover topics such as international trade, economic development, and how different nations use different economic systems. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of how certain scientific procedures are applied to economic theories.

IB History HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

"History is a discipline that gives people an understanding of themselves and others in relation to the world, both past and present (IB History Guide, 2007)." Students taking standard level IB history will learn about 20th Century World History. Topics of study include Causes and Effects of 20th century wars, the Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries, and Rights and Protests focusing on case studies based on US Civil Rights movement and protests against apartheid in South Africa. Higher-level students will complete an additional, in-depth study of the history of Africa. Higher-level topics include Africa under colonialism (1890-1980), nationalist and independence movements, and Developments in South Africa (1880-1994). In addition to other coursework and assessments, to successfully fulfill the requirements of this course, students will complete an in-depth, historical investigation on a topic of their choosing.

IB Psychology HL (Grades 11-12)

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. Students who take IB Psychology will learn about psychology from the biological, cognitive, and sociocultural perspective. They will also study one or two related topics in greater depth (such as abnormal psychology or sports psychology). As psychology is a science, students will also have to demonstrate a basic understanding of scientific thinking and scientific procedures as they apply to psychology.

Technology Courses

Digital Citizen

High School Required 9th Grade Class

This course focuses on the effective and responsible use of technology for academic success in High School. Students will learn how to operate in the digital world by responsibly using social media for academic purposes. Subsequently, students will investigate the digital world through research and analysis. Finally, students will learn how to create in and control the digital world by learning basic computer programming and app making.

Yearbook and Digital Arts

Students create and publish digital art and media including animation, video, and graphics. Extensive project work culminates in the creation of school Yearbook.

Design and Technology

In this class, students learn about tools and materials used in design and creation of products. Students apply the design cycle and use Computer Aided Design to solve problems and create products. Major projects include architectural design, 3d engineering, robotics & programming, & a self-design final project.

World Languages Courses

French I

The course aims at integrating language and culture while learning the basics of communication in French. The objectives of this course are to develop students' familiarity and comfort with the basics of French, to encourage ease and spontaneity with answering and asking questions, to acquire expanded vocabulary, largely based on situational use, and to begin to develop accurate writing, focusing on appropriate use of grammar. Along with these skills, another aim of this course is to open students' minds to the possibilities of other ways of thinking and other modes of being and behaving.

Required materials: a notebook paper, a French-English dictionary (pocket-sized)

French II

This course emphasizes the expansion of students' oral communication, reading, and writing skills through the study of themes that reflect their interests. It aims at helping students develop linguistic proficiency and cultural sensitivity. As such, it is conducted entirely in French and the students are expected to speak only French in the classroom. This course is designed to increase students' knowledge of the French language and their oral and written skills through movies, reading, vocabulary, grammatical and conversation practice. Films and readings presented in this course will help students to develop their comprehension skills while providing interesting cultural information and examples of the grammatical points discussed.

Required materials: a notebook paper, a French-English dictionary (pocket-sized)

French III

This course is conducted entirely in French and emphasizes the expansion of students' oral communication, reading and writing skills through the study of themes that reflect their interests. Students will apply their knowledge of French in discussions, debates, dramatizations, and oral presentations. Students will read and write in a variety of genres and study at least one short novel. Films in this course will help students to develop their comprehension skills while providing interesting cultural information.

Required materials: 3 or 4 Ring binder with filler paper.

French IV

This course is intended for students who have already mastered the FRENCH III level or the Native French 4ème class or who have demonstrated ability in previous French courses and is considered as a French Lit prep class. The course, conducted entirely in French, emphasizes the expansion of students' oral communication, reading and writing skills. Students will be exposed to more complex grammar structures and vocabulary through thematic study. Students will apply their knowledge of French in discussions, debates, dramatizations, and oral presentations. The second part of this course will be dedicated to the study of literature with focus on vocabulary enrichment and further grammar study. Students will read and analyze a variety of literary genres (fiction, poetry, drama) from several historical eras. Films in this course will help students to develop their comprehension skills while providing interesting cultural information.

French Literature I (Grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: This course is a pre-IB French A course and is intended for students who have already mastered the French III level or the Native French 4ème class or who have demonstrated ability in previous French courses. A high motivation is also required as well as teacher recommendation.

In this course, students read and analyze a variety of literary genres (fiction, poetry, drama) from several historical eras. They will also select fiction for individual study and appreciation. Students will respond to literature in a variety of writing modes and styles, developing skills in critical observation and creative representation of literature. Language study parallels literature units and includes mechanics, vocabulary, revision, and usage skills. The course is designed with the following objectives in mind: consolidation of knowledge acquired in previous classes; mastering correctly spoken and written language; studying of different texts and means of expression (narration, description, argumentation in poetry, plays, novels, short stories); studying of the tools (i.e. critical vocabulary) needed to analyze a text.

French Literature II (Grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: This course is a pre-IB French A course and is intended for students who have already completed French Literature I or who have demonstrated ability in previous French courses. A high motivation is also required as well as teacher recommendation.

In this course, students are introduced to a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres. The course will offer the opportunity for continued language development and the acquisition of a range of skills including textual analysis and the expression of literary appreciation. The course is designed with the following objectives in mind:

- consolidation of knowledge acquired in previous classes.
- mastering correctly spoken and written language.
- studying of different texts and means of expression (narration, description, argumentation in poetry, plays, novels, short stories).
- studying of the tools (i.e. critical vocabulary) needed to analyze a text.

IB French Language A: Language and Literature HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of French language and of individual literary works and the relationships between them. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which cultural values are expressed in literature. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the artistry of literature as well as to reflect critically about what is read. Assessments will be both oral and written. The language A is a pre-university course for students who wish to pursue literature or related studies at University and who used French in an academic context. It will help 'to support future academic study by developing a high social, aesthetic and cultural literacy, as well as effective communication skills'.

IB Language B French HL and SL (Grades 11-12)

The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development of language skills. These language skills should be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material. Such material will extend from everyday oral exchanges to literary texts, and should be related to the culture(s) concerned. Unit topics include Communication and media, Global issues, and Social relationships. The HL student must complete more in depth of study as well as study of literature. The assessment criteria difficulty increases at the HL.

IB French *ab initio* (Grades 11-12)

This language two year course is designed for students with limited (less than 2 years) or no previous experience with the language of study. Language *ab initio* is a language acquisition course designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. The course is divided into three themes: Individual and society, leisure and work, and Urban and rural environment. Each theme has a list of topics and provides the students with opportunities to practice and develop intercultural understanding.

Spanish I

This course introduces students to the Spanish language through varied vocabulary, grammar studies, literature, music and cultural activities. Throughout the coursework, students receive a well-rounded introduction to reading, writing/grammar, speaking, and listening in Spanish. Students will be encouraged to use a variety of reading strategies, to employ grammar rules and correct spelling in writing, and to increase comfort in speaking the language using correct pronunciation. Students must be risk-takers in participation and language usage, participating in a variety of games, presentations, conversations and activities.

Required materials: 1 binder, 4 dividers, loose-leaf notebook paper

Spanish II

Students will continue to focus on the four main areas of language (speaking, reading, writing, and listening), building on language, skills and knowledge acquired in Spanish I. Thematic units will help students learn to communicate in a variety of settings and using a variety of verb tenses with continued complexity. Participation in classroom conversations, games, and group exercises is required to help students develop more proficiency in using the language.

Required materials: three-ring binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, Spanish-English dictionary

IB Spanish *ab initio* (Grades 11-12)

This language course is designed for students with limited or no previous experience with the language of study. Language *ab initio* is a language acquisition course designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where Spanish is spoken. The course covers three themes: individual and society, leisure and work, and urban and rural environment. Each theme has a list of topics and provides the students with opportunities to practice and develop intercultural understanding.

Required materials: 1 binder, 4 dividers, loose-leaf notebook paper

IB Core courses

IB TOK (Theory of Knowledge) (Grades 11-12)

The TOK course, a flagship element in the Diploma Program, encourages critical thinking about knowledge itself, to try to help young people make sense of what they encounter. Its core content includes questions like these: What counts as knowledge? How does it grow? What are its limits? Who owns knowledge? What is the value of knowledge? What are the implications of having, or not having, knowledge? It offers students the opportunity to reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and on areas of knowledge, and consider the role and nature of knowledge in their own culture, in the cultures of others, and in the wider world. Course assessment requirements include giving a presentation and submitting an essay on one of six prescribed titles for the examination session.

Required materials: 1 notebook

IB CAS (Creativity, Activity, and Service) (Grades 11-12)

Creativity, activity, service (CAS) should involve:

- real purposeful activities, with significant outcomes
- personal challenge – tasks must extend the student and be achievable in scope
- thoughtful consideration, such as planning, reviewing progress, reporting
- reflection on outcomes and personal learning

The emphasis is on learning by doing real tasks that have real consequences and then reflecting on these experiences over time.