IB Diploma Overview

Richmond Secondary School is one of 2900 schools around the world certified to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). The IBDP is a challenging, two-year program of learning that begins in September of Grade 11. Universities around the world recognize IB schools for graduating students who are open-minded, knowledgeable, and very capable thinkers, communicators and researchers. Students must complete two-year courses in six different areas as well as the IB core that includes:

- Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature.
- Group 2: Language Acquisition.
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies.
- Group 4: Experimental Sciences.
- Group 5: Mathematics.
- Group 6: The Arts (students can choose to take another IB course from Groups 2-3-4 instead of an IB Arts course).
- Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
- Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)
- Extended Essay (EE)

Who is the IB Diploma for?

At Richmond Secondary School, we believe that the IB Diploma is a program for all students who are curious, resilient learners; students who are genuinely interested in engaging and working with teachers and other students about ideas and concepts. Students motivated solely by marks may not enjoy the program. Students who like to learn and accept that deep learning and growth requires critical, creative and reflective thought, research, hard work and collaboration, may thrive in the two-year IB learning journey. It is our experience (from direct student feedback every year) is that the IB Diploma requires *two years of thoughtful, hard work*, but that students who do well in IB are extremely well prepared for university. Students completing the IB Diploma can also earn first year credits in many universities around the world.

Please note carefully that all IB Courses are two-year learning commitments.

IB Diploma Candidates:

IB Diploma Candidates are students pursuing and meeting all requirements of the full IB Diploma. Students must enroll in six IB Courses, three or four of which must be at the Higher Level. This means that two or three IB Courses must be at the Standard Level. IB Diploma Candidates must enroll in one course in each of Groups 1 thru 5. For their sixth course, students may freely choose from Groups 2 through 6. For timetabling reasons, IB Diploma Candidates at Richmond Secondary School may only take one Higher Level Group 4 Course.

IB Diploma Candidates are also required to enroll in and fulfill the three additional IB Core elements: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS), and the 4000-word Extended Essay (EE).

Student learning in IB courses is evaluated using a 7-point scale. A maximum IB Diploma score would be 45. An IB Diploma will be awarded to students who successfully undertake the Internal Assessments in each subject area, and sit comprehensive final exams in May of their Grade 12 year and achieve a minimum score of **24**, including at least 12 in their 3 HL classes. The three IB Core Courses (TOK, CAS, and EE) are central to the growth of students in the IB Diploma Programme and are defining elements of a genuinely successful IB Diploma.

IB Course Candidates:

IB Course Candidates are Richmond Secondary School students who choose to take IB Courses without pursuing the full diploma. While IB Course Candidates receive a certificate from IB upon successful completion of their coursework, they will not receive an IB Diploma. **Please note** - first preference for seats in all IB courses will be reserved for students completing the IB Diploma. Course candidate students may be enrolled if classes have space, but they can be displaced if classes fill up - and placed on a wait list. Course Candidate students can usually transition to parallel courses in the Provincial program.

Please be aware that, in the event that there is insufficient initial enrollment in some IB Courses offered in the Grade 11 Course Selection process, some IB Courses and/or Levels may not run in each IB Cohort. On such occasions, in order to remain eligible for an IB Diploma, students will be required to select an alternate Course and/or Level.

For More Information on the RHS I.B. Diploma Programme:

Contact the I.B. Coordinator Mr. Miller at: dmiller@sd38.bc.ca and read our website: https://rhsib.wordpress.com

Group 1 – Studies in Language and Literature

COURSES IN THE I.B. DIPLOMA PROGRAMME:

IB HIGHER LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE 11

IB HIGHER LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE 12

IB HL English is a two-year course for students who would like to explore knowledge through an extensive list of literary works and by developing their critical thinking through more sophisticated oral and written analysis and composition skills. Students who do well in HL English may receive first year post-secondary credits at many universities. As with all IB Diploma courses, enrollment preference will be granted to full diploma students first, in both Grades 11 and 12.

IB THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE 11

IB THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE 12

This course is part of the IB core and is required to achieve an IB Diploma. ToK is a two-year learning journey with a timetabled course in Grade 11 and an unscheduled class in Grade 12, with a focus on the ToK essay in year two. One of the main objectives of the course is to give students a forum in which they may question, reflect on, judge, consider, and weigh the validity of the knowledge claims made in each subject area of the curriculum. As open-minded, independent thinkers, students will consider and grapple with questions such as:

- How does one make valid, independent choices?
- Is the historical knowledge presented in history books accurate?
- Does the acquisition of mathematical skills make us better thinkers?
- What is ethically proper for me to do?

This is a required course for all students who are in the IB Diploma Program. However, all students with good writing and oral skills, and an inquisitive mind, will benefit from taking this course. Students who are not doing an IB Diploma are able to get IB credit for it; however, enrollment will only be granted if there is space as first preference will go to full IB Diploma students.

Group 2 – Language Acquisition

COURSES IN THE I.B. DIPLOMA PROGRAMME:

IB French (SL) 11 and IB French (SL) 12

Voulez-vous vivre à la française? Parler la langue d'amour?

Eh bien, voici le programme pour vous!

This is a two-year course that will follow the five core themes as prescribed by IB (Social organisation, Sharing the planet, Human ingenuity, Experiences and Identities). The course will cover a broad variety of topics such as cultural diversity, mental and physical health, education systems in Québec and France, social media and the environment. Instruction will be conducted in French, and students will be expected to speak French as much as possible. Exams will be conducted in the four areas of language learning: speaking, listening, reading and writing. This course is intended for students with good work habits and a strong academic standing in French 10, as it is quite accelerated. Please see the department head if you have questions or concerns regarding your placement in the program.

IB French (HL) 11 and IB French (HL) 12

This is a two-year course designed for students with extensive experience with the French language. It is for students who would like to extend their use of French in the future. This course is for students who have near-native abilities. French for daily use and for literary purposes will be studied. A novel will be issued for self-study during the year, and assessments will be facilitated and guided by the teacher. At the end of the two-year course, students will have two written exams, and both a listening and oral exam to complete their IB requirements. If you have not had additional French courses or have not taken French immersion in the past, this course is not recommended. Please see the department head prior to registering in HL. Merci!

IB JAPANESE (SL) 11 and IB JAPANESE (SL) 12

This is a two-year course designed for high ability, highly motivated students who have good work habits and strong standing in Japanese 10. Sophistication in writing and speaking will be developed through more exposure to written and aural texts. At the end of the two-year course, students will have two written exams and both a speaking and listening exam to complete their IB requirements.

IB JAPANESE (HL) 11 and IB JAPANESE (HL) 12

This is a two-year course designed for students with extensive experience with the Japanese language. It is for students who would like to extend their use of Japanese in the future. This course is for students who have near-native abilities. Japanese for daily use and for literary purposes will be studied. A novel will be issued for self-study during the year. At the end of the two-year course, students will have two written exams, and both a listening and speaking exam to complete their IB requirements.

IB MANDARIN (HL) 11 and IB MANDARIN (HL) 12

This is a two-year course that follows the themes in the International Baccalaureate curriculum, designed for students who have a very strong proficiency in Mandarin, with an interest in Chinese literature. Language skills will be refined through the immersion in, and appreciation of a variety of aural and written formats, including literary texts. In grade 12, students are expected to complete IB speaking, listening, reading, and written exams.

IB MANDARIN (SL) 11 and IB MANDARIN (SL) 12

This is a two-year course that follows the themes in the International Baccalaureate curriculum, designed for students with good work habits who are committed to honing their Mandarin Chinese skills. Language skills will be extended through the comprehension and application of a variety of aural and written formats. In grade 12, students are expected to complete IB speaking, listening, reading, and written exams.

IB SPANISH (SL) 11 and IB SPANISH (SL) 12

This is a two-year course designed for high ability, highly motivated students who have good work habits and strong standing in Spanish 10. ¿Te fascina el español? Pues, ¡Esta clase es para ti. Aquí únicamente se habla castellano! Sophistication in writing and speaking will be developed through more exposure to written and aural texts. At the end of the two-year course, students will have an internal speaking assessment and an external exam to evaluate their listening, reading and writing and complete their IB requirements.

Group 3 – Individuals and Societies

COURSES IN THE I.B. DIPLOMA PROGRAMME:

IB DIGITAL SOCIETY (SL) 11
IB DIGITAL SOCIETY (SL) 12

IB DIGITAL SOCIETY (HL) 11
IB DIGITAL SOCIETY (HL) 12

Digital society welcomes students with interests ranging from history, IT, media, economics, philosophy, film and beyond. Digital Society links perspectives of the social sciences and humanities through the technology lens. There will be practical explorations of ethical policies tied to real-world digital dilemmas from privacy and security to gaming culture and algorithmic bias. Some of the topics we will explore include how does Artificial Intelligence work? Will AI replace human labour and so forth.

IB BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (SL) 11
IB BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (SL) 12

IB BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (HL) 11
IB BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (HL) 12A

Students learn to analyse, discuss, and evaluate business activities at local, national and international levels. The course covers a range of organizations from all sectors, as well as the socio-cultural and economic contexts in which those organizations operate. The course covers the key characteristics of business organizations and environments, including the business functions of human resource management, finance and accounts, marketing and operations management. Links between the topics are central to the course. Through the exploration of six underpinning concepts (*change, culture, ethics, globalization, innovation,* and *strategy*), the course allows students to develop a holistic understanding of today's complex and dynamic business environment. The conceptual learning is firmly anchored in business management theories, tools and techniques and placed in the context of real world examples and case studies. Students will learn:

- Organized interaction decision making
- The business decision making process, and how these decisions affect/are affected by internal/external environments
- How individuals and groups interact in an organization
- An understanding of business theory and the ability to apply these to actual business practices
- The understandings and implications of business activities in a global market

*Both IB courses mentioned above are two year courses, available in both SL & HL (for more information, see Mr. Szeto or visit the IBO website).

IB HISTORY HL 11
This is the first year of the Higher Level IB History Program and the course fosters an understanding of major historical events in a global context. It encourages students to engage with multiple perspectives and to appreciate the complex nature of historical concepts, issues, events, and developments. It invites comparisons between, but not judgments of, various political, economic, social, and cultural systems. The course examines the American systems of government, Slavery in America, the American Civil War, Reconstruction Era, and the causes and implications of World War I. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, document studies, analytical skills, and history concepts like change, continuity, causation, consequence, significance, and perspective.

IB HISTORY HL 12
This course is the second year of the Higher Level IB History Program and students will build upon research, document analysis and writing skills and evaluation of historical perspectives. Areas of study will include 20th century world history: the Russian Revolution, the emergence of the USSR, USA and China as world powers, the rise and rule of authoritarian states, the move to global war (Italy, Germany, Japan), and the Cold War. This course also examines Latin American history with a focus on revolutionary case studies in Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Brazil, and Mexico. American foreign and domestic policies of the 20th century will be addressed to offer a rounded perspective. *Students will be required to complete the IB internal assessment and the IB History exam in May of Grade 12.*

IB GEOGRAPHY SL 11
IB GEOGRAPHY HL 11
IB GEOGRAPHY SL 12

IB GEOGRAPHY HL 12
As with all IB Diploma courses, this is a two-year program and students may meet the course demands of either the Standard Level (SL) or the Higher Level (HL). This course is designed for the global-minded student who wants to expand their knowledge of the world while gaining an understanding of human activities and their impact on the environment. Contemporary issues will be examined such as: sustainability, climate change/crisis, urbanization, poverty, global networks, superpowers, population growth, cultural and economic patterns. In addition, themes such as access to health and food, impacts of tourism and sports on society will be explored. Throughout the two-year course, students will develop an international awareness and build on critical problem-solving skills. The required fieldwork component of the course will provide the opportunity for practical geographical skills by getting students to collect and analyze read-world data.

Students will be required to complete the IB internal assessment and IB Geography exam in May of Grade 12.

Group 4 – Experimental Sciences

COURSES IN THE I.B. DIPLOMA PROGRAMME:

*All IB Science courses are rigorous pre-university courses that provide challenging and in-depth studies of specialized knowledge, concepts, and scientific thinking. IB science courses are offered in Standard Level and Higher Level and are completed over two years. In May of the second year (Grade 12), students will write external IB final exams. As with all courses at RHS, each of the six IB science courses will only be scheduled if there is sustainable enrollment. *Please note: the IB group 4 sciences are in the midst of a curriculum revision and topics are subject to change for first exams in 2025.*

IB BIOLOGY (HL) 11
IB BIOLOGY (HL) 12
Marks of "B" or higher in both Science 10 and Math 10 (Foundations & Pre-calculus) are strongly recommended. Students need to be relatively comfortable with mathematical problem-solving in this course.
Biology is the branch of science that attempts to understand the living world using different approaches and techniques. In this 2-year program students will examine the variety of scales upon which life exists, from molecules to cells to organisms and their interactions in ecosystems. Areas of study will be viewed through the lens of 4 major themes: Unity & Diversity, Form & Function, Interaction & Interdependence, Continuity & Change. Students will learn about molecular biology, cell biology, genetics, statistics, ecology, evolution & biodiversity, and human physiology. [Students will complete a mandatory Collaborative Sciences Project, as well as an individual investigation (internal assessment)].

IB BIOLOGY (SL) 11
IB BIOLOGY (SL) 12
Marks of "B" or higher in both Science 10 and Math 10 (Pre-Calculus) are strongly recommended. Students need to be relatively comfortable with mathematical problem-solving in this course.

Biology is the branch of science that attempts to understand the living world using different approaches and techniques. In this 2-year program students will examine the variety of scales upon which life exists, from molecules to cells to organisms and their interactions in ecosystems. Areas of study will be viewed through the lens of 4 major themes: Unity & Diversity, Form & Function, Interaction & Interdependence, Continuity & Change. Students will learn about molecular biology, cell biology, genetics, statistics, ecology, evolution & biodiversity, and human physiology. [Students will complete a mandatory Collaborative Sciences Project, as well as an individual investigation (internal assessment)].

Note - IB 11 credits meet the BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements.

IB CHEMISTRY (HL) 11
IB CHEMISTRY (HL) 12
Marks of "B" or higher in both Science 10 and Math 10 (Pre-Calculus) are strongly recommended. Students need to be relatively comfortable with mathematical problem-solving in this course.
Higher level IB Chemistry is a rigorous, fast-paced academic course that is completed over 2 years of study. In this 2-year program major topics include measurement & data processing, atomic structure, stoichiometry, periodicity, chemical bonding, thermochemistry, kinetics, equilibrium, acids & bases, redox processes and organic chemistry. Additional higher-level topics delve further into the major areas listed above, and will also include a focus on the transition metals, as well as further exploration of tools for data analysis. [Students will complete a mandatory Collaborative Sciences Project, as well as an individual investigation (internal assessment)].

Chemistry is the study of matter and changes to matter. It is a hands-on science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical lab skills. It is often called the central science, with its chemical principles linking the physical environment in which we live to all biological systems.

Note - IB 11 credits meet the BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements.

IB CHEMISTRY (SL) 11
IB CHEMISTRY (SL) 12
Marks of "B" or higher in both Science 10 and Math 10 (Pre-Calculus) are strongly recommended. Students need to be relatively comfortable with mathematical problem-solving in this course.
Standard level IB Chemistry is an academic course that is completed over 2 years of study. In this 2-year program major topics include measurement & data processing, atomic structure, stoichiometry, periodicity, chemical bonding, thermochemistry, kinetics, equilibrium acids & bases, redox processes and organic chemistry. [Students will complete a mandatory Collaborative Sciences Project, as well as an individual investigation (internal assessment)].

Chemistry is the study of matter and changes to matter. It is a hands-on science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical lab skills. It is often called the central science, with its chemical principles linking the physical environment in which we live to all biological systems.

IB PHYSICS (HL) 11
IB PHYSICS (HL) 12
Marks of "B" or higher in both Science 10 and Mathematics 10 (Pre-Calculus) are strongly recommended. Students need to be comfortable with mathematical problem-solving in this course.
Higher level IB Physics is a rigorous, fast-paced academic course that is completed over 2 years of study. In the two-year program, major topics include measurement, mechanics (motion & forces), thermal physics, waves, circular motion & gravitation, electricity & magnetism, atomic nuclear & particle physics and energy production. Additional higher-level topics include: wave phenomena, fields, electromagnetic induction, quantum & nuclear physics. Students will complete a mandatory Collaborative Sciences Project, as well as an individual investigation (internal assessment).

Physics is the branch of science that looks at how the physical world works, and why things are the way they are. It underlies and helps us to understand all the other sciences. IB Physics develops insight and critical thinking-skills with emphasis on experimental design, the nature of science, and social and environmental issues.

Note - IB 11 credits meet the BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements.

IB PHYSICS (SL) 11
IB PHYSICS (SL) 12
Marks of "B" or higher in both Science 10 and Mathematics 10 (Pre-Calculus) are strongly recommended. Students need to be comfortable with mathematical problem-solving in this course.
Standard Level IB Physics is an academic course that is completed over two years of study. In this w-year program major topics include measurement, mechanics (motion & forces), thermal physics, waves, circular motion & gravitation, electricity & magnetism, atomic nuclear & particle physics, and energy production. Students will complete a mandatory Collaborative Sciences Project, as well as an individual investigation (internal assessment).

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Group 5 – Mathematics

COURSES IN THE I.B. DIPLOMA PROGRAMME:

Mathematics in the *International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme* is designed for students with a genuine interest in math and a willingness to extend their thinking, computational and problem-solving abilities. IB math is challenging and it is expected that you already have solid mathematical knowledge and skills and have successfully completed Foundations and Pre-Calculus Math 10 and it is strongly recommended that you have already completed Pre-Calculus Math 11. Our teachers are dedicated and will both challenge and support you, but you must be a hardworking and resilient learner to be successful in IB math.

IB MATHEMATICS ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES SL 11

Standard Level IB Mathematics is a challenging course. It is strongly recommended that students have a high standing in Foundations and Pre-Calculus Math 10 and it is strongly advised that students have also completed Pre-calculus Math 11. Students will have an interview at RSS and achieve a satisfactory standing in an entrance exam. This single-blocked course is designed to provide students of high mathematical ability and good work habits with challenging materials. Topics include algebra, functions and equations, geometry and trigonometry and the beginning of a mathematical exploration. Students receive credit for IB Math SL 11. *A graphing calculator is required for this course.*

IB MATHEMATICS ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES HL 11

This very challenging higher level mathematics course is double blocked and will be available to only 30 students entering Grade 11. Students selecting HL Mathematics must have completed Math 10/11 OR Pre-calculus 11 (with a very high standing), attend an interview, achieve a satisfactory standing in an entrance exam, and permission by the Math Department. Please note that this is the first year of a *very challenging* two-year course and the class will meet every day all year. It is designed for students with a genuine passion for math, who possess high mathematical thinking abilities and are resilient, dedicated students with excellent work habits and plan to complete the HL exam in Grade 12. Topics include algebra, functions and equations, circular functions and trigonometry, matrices, vectors, statistics and probability, calculus and optional topics, mathematical investigations, and models. Students will receive their IB Math HL 11 credit. *A graphing calculator is required for this course.*

IB MATHEMATICS ANALYSIS AND APPROACES SL 12

Prerequisite: IB Mathematics SL 11

This course is a continuation of IB Mathematics SL 11. The core curriculum consists of probability, statistics, and calculus and completion of a mathematical exploration. The IB SL Math exam will be written in May of the Grade 12 year.

IB MATHEMATICS ANALYSIS AND APPROACES HL 12

Prerequisite: IB Mathematics HL 11

This course is a continuation of IB Mathematics HL 11. The core curriculum consists of mathematical induction, complex numbers, vector algebra, 3D geometry, transformations, probability and statistics and further calculus. The IB HL Math exam will be written in May of the Grade 12 year.

Group 6 – The Arts

COURSES IN THE I.B. DIPLOMA PROGRAMME:

IB 11 VISUAL ARTS SL AND HL

IB 11 Visual Arts is the first year of a two-year program for students who are very interested in art and wish to investigate past, present and emerging forms of visual art and engage in producing, appreciating and evaluating these. There is a strong emphasis on written research and finished studio pieces that are developed from the student's research into areas such as art history, art of other cultures, art as social commentary and contemporary art. Students are expected to have a good understanding of art techniques, an ability to work independently, strong time management skills as well as being innovative and curious about the process of making art. A hardcover sketchbook is required for this course and will be provided by the teacher. This course also provides a strong foundation for students who may wish to pursue a career in further study in visual arts or creative communications.

IB 12 VISUAL ARTS SL AND HL

IB 12 Visual Arts is the second year of a two-year program in which the student, together with the teacher, determines a direction of study. The students' focus may consist of making art in response to broader social issues in the world, a personal theme or continuing to work with a particular medium. Students need to be well disciplined, able to work independently to achieve success on their IB Visual Arts Exam in their graduating year. Upon completion of IB Art 11 and 12, students interested in furthering their art studies at the post-secondary level should have a well developed portfolio. A hardcover sketchbook is required for this course and will be provided by the teacher.

IB THEATRE ARTS (HL) 11/12

IB THEATRE ARTS (SL) 11/12

This two-year course is an excellent opportunity to explore and develop artistic vision through theatre. Students will be expected to think critically about theatre and its social and political context in the world at large. Through several opportunities to perform and direct in various global genre and styles, students will gain practical knowledge about the creative process, and the power of performance and media in culture. Through this process students will develop a better understanding of themselves, their society and their world.

IB MUSIC (Choose one grade level of the following)

IB MUSIC (HL) 11

IB MUSIC (HL) 12A

IB MUSIC (SL) 11

IB MUSIC (SL) 12

This is the most comprehensive study of music offered at the high school level. Students will engage in listening to, analyzing, performing and creating music from personal, local and global contexts. Over the two-year duration of the IB Music course, students keep a journal documenting their exploration of music as a researcher, creator, and performer. At the end of the course, students select samples of their best work for a portfolio submission that includes written excerpts, performances, and compositions as evidence of their musical growth. Previous musical experience is not required but acquiring a basic knowledge of music theory concepts would be an asset.