



IB Diploma Programme Handbook 2023-24

New Westminster Secondary School
IB World School



Message from our Principal and Head of School

As the Principal and Head of School, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program at New Westminster Secondary. Our IB Diploma Programme (DP) is an approach to education which challenges each student at his/her own level to become an internationally minded, life-long learner. Our program focuses on the development of the whole child by offering a transdisciplinary, inquiry-based curriculum across all subjects.

The International Baccalaureate program is developed independently of government and national systems, and incorporates quality practice from research and the global community of schools.

The program:

- Encourages students of all ages to think critically and challenge assumptions;
- Encourages students of all ages to consider both local and global contexts; and
- Develops students who invest in their educational community.

We value the social and emotional growth of our students with opportunities to develop IB Learner Profile traits embedded across all areas of our school. We value the diversity our students bring to our learning community and encourage students to share and celebrate their additional languages and cultural backgrounds.

The NWSS IB Diploma Programme is a fully inclusive program for students and families who believe in working collaboratively with us to support your child's curiosity about the world around them as they develop knowledge, confidence and skills to make a positive impact on our world.

The entire NWSS IB Staff are committed to providing the best education possible for our students!



Mr. Murray McLeod
IB Diploma Programme Head of School

Message from our Coordinator

Welcome to the IB at New Westminster Secondary School!

Our IB Diploma Programme aims to embrace the philosophy of 'IB for All' where there are pathways to a diploma for all students. If you are interested in the experimental sciences, social sciences, humanities, social justice, or environmentalism – there are exciting options that can shape your final two years of secondary education.

IB is also exceptional preparation for post-secondary studies. The curriculum is comprehensive and engaging, focusing on methods and skills that you will encounter in your future studies. Universities recognize and embrace the benefits of an IB education and shape their admissions policies to reflect how well prepared IB students are for post-secondary. IB students are knowledgeable in diverse academic subjects, learn time-management to balance their studies, and to contribute to their community – something that Universities highly value in students as indicators of continued success. Our teachers at NWSS are regularly trained in IB practices, and many have graduate degrees in the fields they teach. Our philosophy is to make sure you are not only challenged in your classes, but also supported through your studies every step of the way through our inclusive approaches to teaching and learning.

At its heart, IB aims to develop well-rounded students that are internationally minded and ready to take on our shared challenges. We will work together to nurture your passions, challenge you, and inspire you as you look towards the future.

I look forward to meeting you, and please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Mr. Pawel Korczyk
IB Diploma Programme Coordinator



What is an IB Education?

The IB mission statement: The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Preparation for University

Recognized by universities around the world, the IB Diploma Programme prepares students for post-secondary studies through one of the most rigorous and prestigious high school academic curricula. IB Diploma Programme courses are designed to provide students opportunities to learn in their subjects using methods reflecting those used by disciplines at the university level.

Universities widely recognize how well IB prepares students for post-secondary study, and often offer favourable admission policies for IB students, as well as university credits for successful diploma completion and/or courses completed at the Higher Level (HL).

In June 2022, IB published a study carried out with UBC and U of T that found IB students are more prepared for post-secondary, achieve higher grades in university courses, and are far more likely to complete their degrees, participate in coop programs, and win awards.

Davies, S., & Guppy, N. (2022). *Comparing university outcomes of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme graduates to their peers in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada*. International Baccalaureate Organization.





IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

The IB Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma is a two-year program for students in grades 11 and 12. Courses begin in the grade 11 year and exams are written in May of grade 12. Students that complete the IB Diploma take 6 courses from 5 subject groups, as well as the core elements of the Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).

IB Diploma courses are taken at either the **Standard Level (SL)** or **Higher Level (HL)**. Higher level courses go deeper into the subject, and require additional assessments.

At NWSS, we practice the principle of **IB For All**, where there are pathways to a diploma that match up to a variety of interests in the humanities and sciences.



Earning the IB Diploma

To complete the IB Diploma, students must complete one course from each of the 5 course groups, plus an additional course from either group 3 or 4. These 6 courses must contain 3-4 HL options. Students must also complete the three core requirements (TOK, EE, CAS).

Group 1: Literature	English Literature HL/SL
Group 2: Language Acquisition	French B HL (French Immersion)
	French B SL
	Mandarin Ab Initio
	Spanish Ab Initio
	Language A Self-Study
Group 3: Individuals and Societies	Global Politics HL/SL
	Psychology HL/SL
Group 4: Sciences	Biology HL/SL
	Chemistry HL/SL
	Physics HL/SL
	Environmental Systems and Societies SL
Group 5: Mathematics	Analysis and Approaches HL/SL
	Applications and Interpretation HL/SL

Students can also enroll in the partial IB Course program, where they can take a minimum of two IB courses combined with regular BC curriculum courses, with the potential of earning university credit for HL courses. Students in the course program need to work with their counselor to ensure they meet graduation requirements.

Suggested grade 9-10 courses for anticipated IB students

Grade 9	Research in Motion 9	Math A&A Pre-Requisite: Pre-Calculus 11
Grade 10	Honours Social Studies 10	Physics Pre-Requisite: Physics 11
	Honours English 10	French Immersion Dual Dogwood: Sciences Humaines 11
	Honours Math 10	Indigenous graduation requirement: Honours English 10
	Honours Science 10	
	Honours French 10	

Sample Pathways to a Diploma

Social Justice Focus	Applied Science Focus
English Literature HL	English Literature HL
Any Language Option	Any Language Option
Psychology HL	Psychology SL
Global Politics HL	Chemistry SL/HL
Environmental Systems and Societies SL	Physics HL
Math A and I SL	Math A and A HL

Environmentalism Focus	Social Science Focus
English Literature HL/SL	English Literature HL/SL
Any Language Option	Any Language Option
Global Politics HL	Global Politics HL
Biology HL	Psychology HL
Environmental Systems and Societies SL	Biology HL/SL or ESS SL
Any Math Option	Math A and A HL/SL

Pharmaceutical Science Focus	Commerce Focus
English Literature HL	English Literature HL
Any Language Option	Any Language Option
Psychology or Global Politics SL	Global Politics HL
Biology HL	Psychology HL/SL or ESS SL
Chemistry HL	Chemistry or Physics SL
Math A&A HL/SL or Math A&I HL	Math A&A HL/SL or Math A&I HL

Be sure to double-check university admission requirements during your course planning process.

Dual Dogwood + IB Diploma

Students who successfully complete French Immersion courses in grades 9 and 10, Sciences Humaines 11, and **French B Higher Level** may be eligible for both the Dual Dogwood diploma and the IB Diploma. Please make sure to check with your counselor to ensure all requirements of the dual dogwood are met.



Sample Course Program Pairings

Pairings depend on enrollment. Not all options will be available every year. 2 Course Parings also available.

Environmentalism Focus
Theory of Knowledge
Environmental Systems and Societies SL
English Literature HL
Global Politics HL

Applied Science Focus
Math A and A HL/SL
Physics HL
English Literature HL or Language
Biology or Chemistry HL/SL

Humanities Focus
English Literature HL
Any Language Option
Psychology HL/SL
Global Politics HL

Bio-Chem Focus
Biology HL
Chemistry HL
Math A and A HL/SL
English Literature or Language HL/SL



GROUP 1:

Studies in Language and Literature

The course descriptions in this booklet are based on the information found in the subject briefs on the IB website. For more details on the courses and assessment information for individual courses, visit the subject brief page by using the QR code to the right or following the link below:

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/support-students-transition-to-higher-education/course-selection-guidance/#dp-subject-briefs>

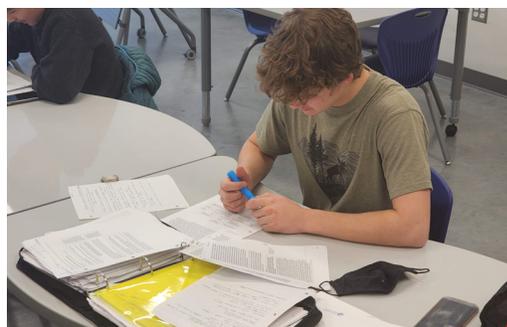


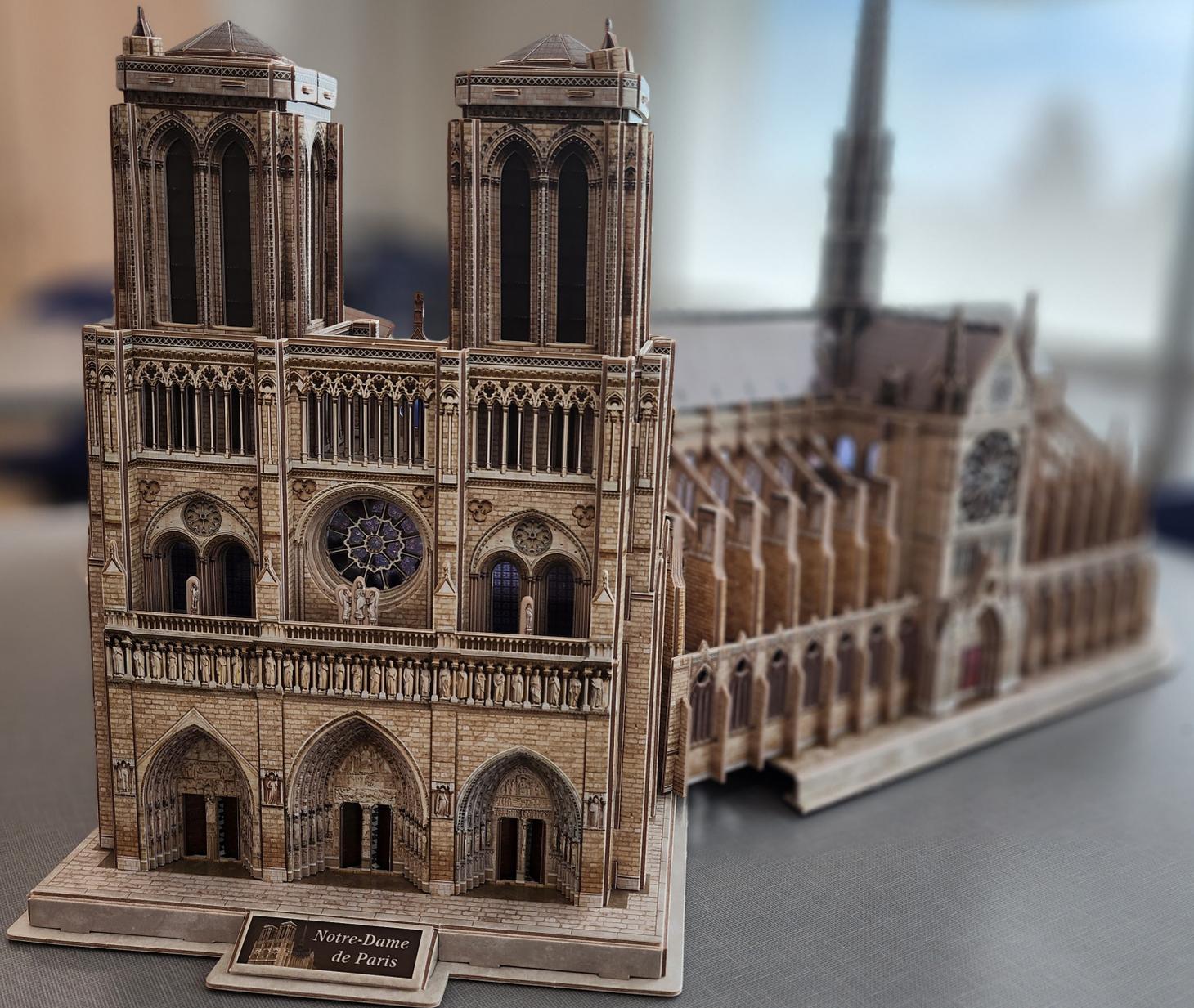
Language A: Literature HL / SL

This course explores literature in both local and global contexts. The focus of IB English is the study and appreciation of literary achievements of our culture and the cultures of other societies. Students will develop skills in literary criticism, writing, and oral presentation through a study of texts in translation, poetry, novels, drama, and non-fiction texts written in English. Students connect the literature they study to global issues and to the areas of exploration of readers, writers and texts; time and space; and intertextuality.

Language A: School-Supported Self-Taught

Only open to IB Diploma students, the Language A: SSST program allows students to use a language they are proficient in as part of their IB Diploma. Students who take this course will create a reading list using selections from IB's prescribed list, and complete the self study over two years using techniques learned in the English Language A course. **Successful completion of the self-study will exempt students from the Group 2 Language requirement.**





GROUP 2:

Language Acquisition

Language B: French SL

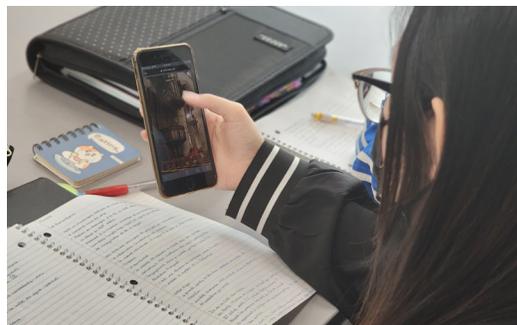
The French B course aims to develop international-mindedness in students through the study of the French language, culture, and ideas. French B looks at the context of French speakers around the world and the importance of French in our contemporary global society. Students will continue to learn to read and respond in the French language in both oral and written formats. The French B SL course is for students who have experience in French language instruction at lower levels.

Language B: French HL

French B HL focuses on similar concepts to the SL course, but gives students the opportunity to go deeper into the understanding of French language and culture. More emphasis is placed on developing the ease of responding both orally and in written format in the French language. **The French B HL course forms the basis of the French Immersion dual dogwood diploma option**, and is only appropriate for students who are coming from the French Immersion program.

Mandarin/Spanish Ab Initio SL

Offered at SL only, Mandarin and Spanish ab initio are language acquisition courses designed for students who are new to Mandarin or Spanish and have no previous experience learning the language. Students will learn to read and communicate the language both orally and in writing. There is also a strong focus on cultural understanding of the context of Mandarin or Spanish speakers around the world.





GROUP 3:

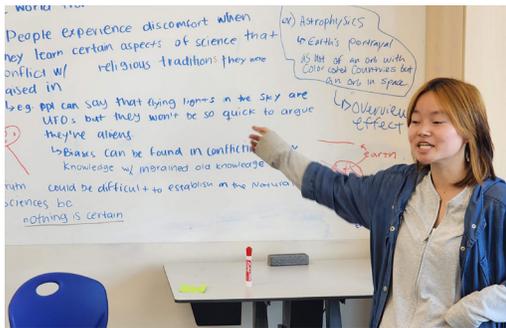
Individuals and Societies

Global Politics HL / SL

This course explores various political issues and their impact on us through various levels - from the local and community level, all the way to the international and global levels. Global politics is also a course about power and the extent to which actors at various levels have the ability to influence us, and students are challenged to think about how they can make a positive impact on their community. Core themes in the course include the study of international relations, human rights, peace, conflict, and development.

Psychology HL / SL

IB Psychology gives students a broad understanding of the subject and its major theoretical approaches. At both levels, the course guides students through the study of human behaviour focusing on the biological, cognitive, and socio-cultural perspectives. Additionally, IB Psychology HL students study two of four and SL students one of four optional psychology topics: abnormal, developmental, health, and human relations. This course introduces students to qualitative and quantitative research methods and to probability and statistics. The awareness of ethical issues in research and an emphasis on culture as it applies to human behaviour permeate IB Psychology.





GROUP 4:

Sciences

Biology HL / SL

IB Biology 11 is a survey of all the human body systems including a dissection of the fetal pig. The course ends with the study of ecology. IB Biology 12 begins with the biochemistry of micro molecules, metabolic pathways and the roles of DNA in protein synthesis, genetics, and evolution. The course ends with the IB examinations. **A lab fee may be charged for this course.**

Chemistry HL / SL

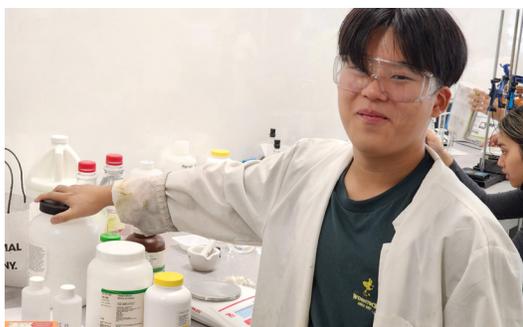
IB Chemistry curriculum arms students with academic theoretical knowledge along with practical and investigation skills, giving them an insight into the analysis, collaboration, and communication that occurs in the global scientific community. Topics include: Measurement and Stoichiometry, Atomic Theory and Periodicity, Bonding and Energetics, Kinetics and Equilibrium, Acid-Base chemistry, Redox processes, and Organic chemistry at the core, along with Biochemistry as the chosen option. **A lab fee may be charged for this course.**

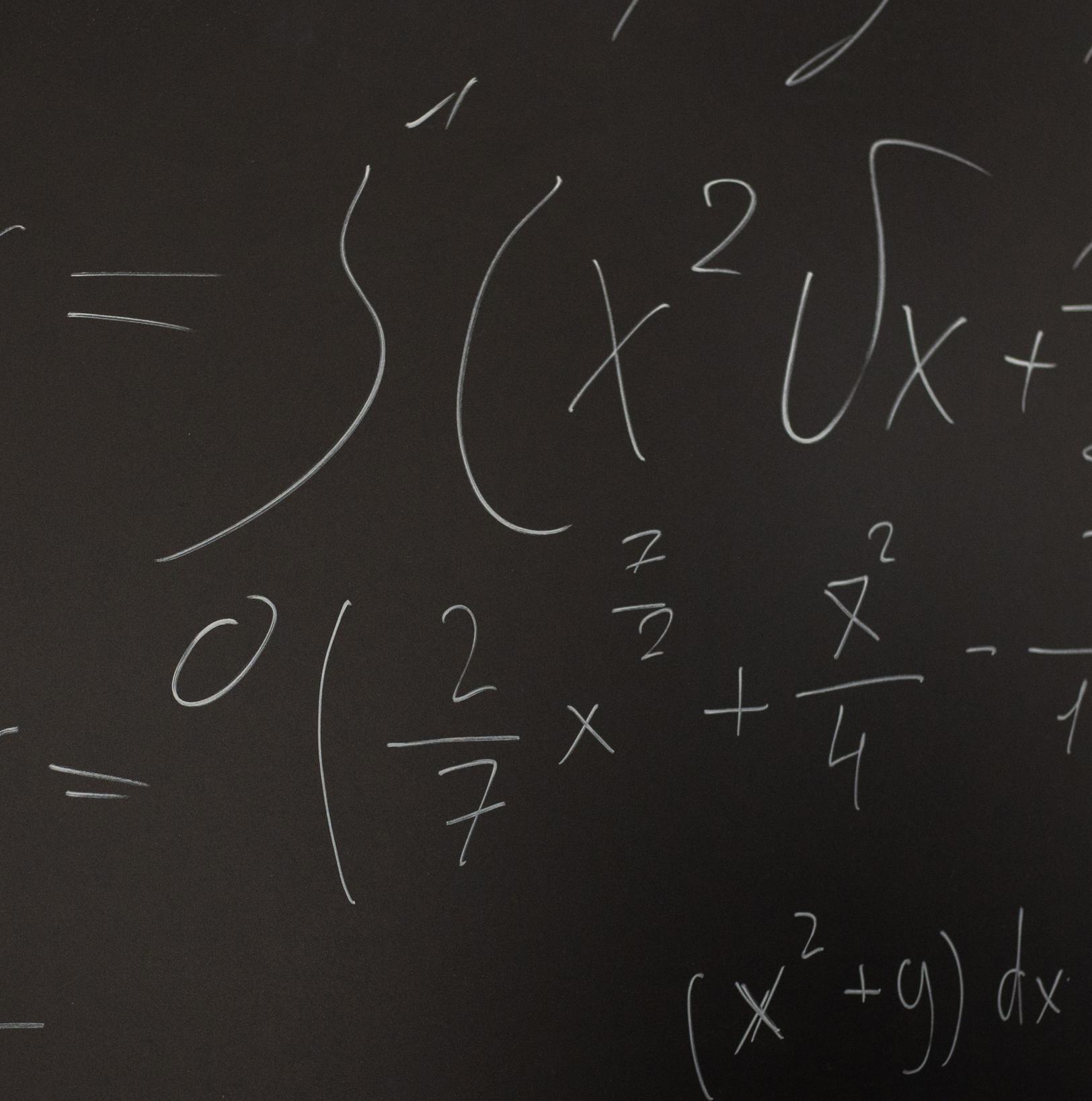
Physics HL / SL

The objectives of IB Physics will concentrate on the laws of physics, experimental skills, and the social and historical aspects of physics as an evolving body of human knowledge about nature. Students will also experience the real-world applications of physics through undertaking experimentation and practical work. **Physics 11 is a pre-requisite for IB Physics.**

Environmental Systems and Societies SL

Only offered at the SL level, ESS is an interdisciplinary course focused on the environment that combines methods from both the sciences and humanities. It is grounded in the scientific aspects of the study of the environment, while also looking at how our impact on it has affected societies around the world. Students will understand environmental issues at both the global and local levels. Students will also learn about environmental value systems and the role they play in our understanding of environmental issues.





The background features several handwritten mathematical expressions in white on a dark surface. At the top, there is a large expression $(x^2 + \sqrt{x}) + \dots$. Below it, another expression $(\frac{2}{7}x^{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{7^2}{4} - \frac{1}{1})$ is visible. To the right, there is a partial expression $(x^2 + y) dx$. In the bottom right corner, there are some faint scribbles including the letters 'cos' and 'x'.

GROUP 5:

Mathematics

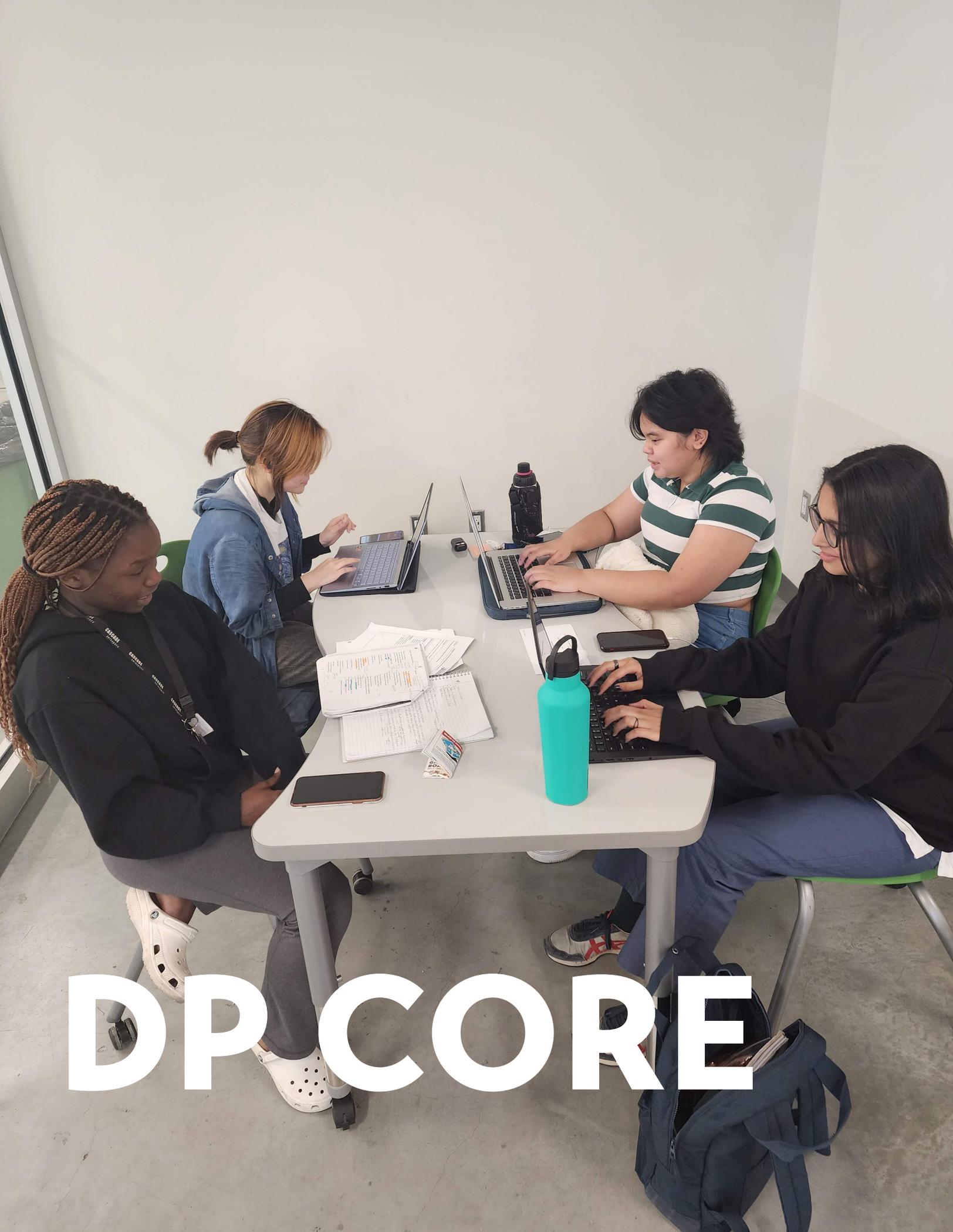
Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL / SL

The Analysis and Approaches course is for students interested in the theoretical foundations of mathematics with deep analytical understanding. Students learn to solve complex abstract problems, through an in-depth study of calculus, number theory, geometry, and trigonometry. At the HL level, students further delve into calculus, trigonometry, and mathematical proofs. This course is designed for students seeking post-secondary studies in mathematics, the experimental sciences and engineering. **Pre-Calculus 11 is a pre-requisite for Math A&A.**

Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL / SL

The Applications and Interpretation course looks at how math is used in an evolving data-driven world. Students are challenged to solve real world problems through a greater focus on statistics, probability, functions, and mathematical modelling. In this course, students will also learn how to work with and communicate mathematical concepts through technology. The SL course is designed for students interested in pursuing post-secondary studies in the arts and humanities, while the HL option will satisfy application into many University business and science programs. Please double-check university websites for the most up-to-date entrance requirements.





DP CORE

Application Process and Timelines

Application Requirements

As spaces in the IB programme are limited, preference for admission will be based on a combination of factors. While academic ability is one important aspect of IB, students who are ultimately successful in IB have strong intrinsic motivation, demonstrate resiliency, and reflect the IB learner profile. Applicants should demonstrate these qualities throughout the application process. Academically, we recommend a B average in academic courses, and a minimum score of 3 on the grade 10 literacy assessment. All applications will be considered.

Application packages can be found in the IB Office (room 3118), the main office with the IB Secretary, Ms. Michelle Sherwood, or online on the NWSS IB website.

Required Application Documents
IB Application Questionnaire
Full IB Diploma OR Partial IB Course Selection Page
Signed Parent/Caregiver Form
Grade 9 Final Semester 1 and Semester 2 Report Cards
Most Recent Grade 10 Report Card

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to IB Coordinator, Pawel Korczyk, by email at pkorczyk@sd40.bc.ca

2023-24 Diploma Programme Fees

Exam Fees:

\$119 USD per exam (for both Diploma and Courses)

Diploma and Courses students taking 4+ exams pay a \$500 deposit in grade 11, and remainder in grade 12 (appx. \$550 for Diploma students)

Anticipated Program Fees (Under review and subject to Board approval):

Full IB Diploma: Grade 11: \$150 fee. Grade 12: \$200 fee.

Partial IB Courses: Grade 11: \$50 / course (up to \$150). Grade 12: \$50 / course (up to \$200)

Fees support annual IB World School membership fee, and specific IB resources and online tools.

If families need to discuss financial need, they are welcome to contact our Principal, Murray McLeod

Applications are due January 30th, 2023

10 Reasons



why the IB Diploma Programme (DP) is ideal preparation for university

1



It increases academic opportunity

Research* shows that DP graduates are much more likely to be enrolled at top higher education institutions than entrants holding other qualifications.

2



IB students care about more than just results

Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally and ethically as well as intellectually.

3



It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner

For example, the extended essay requires independent research through an in-depth study.

6



The IB encourages critical thinking

Learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, generate ideas and consider new perspectives.

5



Graduates are globally minded

Language classes encourage an international mindset, key for increasingly globalized societies.

4



It's an international qualification

The DP is recognized globally by universities and employers.

7



DP students have proven time management skills

Take good study habits and strong time management to further education and the working world.

9



Subjects are not taught in isolation

Theory of knowledge (TOK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.

10



It encourages breadth and depth of learning

You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

8



It assesses more than examination techniques

Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.





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www.nwss.ca



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