



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

- OVERVIEW -



FRIENDS OF
JOE MICHELL
SCHOOL

WHAT IS IB? The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is a globally recognized educational framework that fosters holistic development, critical thinking, and intercultural understanding, preparing students for success in a rapidly changing world. **AT ITS HEART, IB IS LEARNING HOW TO LEARN.**

UNDERSTANDING IB & AP

	INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE	ADVANCED PLACEMENT
Origin	1968 - Parents in international and multinational business who frequently relocated, sought a globally recognized high school diploma for their children to successfully achieve university admission. IB was developed by educators seeking to offer a comprehensive education that goes beyond memorization and rote learning.	1950s - During the Cold War, amid fears of American students lagging globally, AP was introduced to expedite high-achieving students into the workforce by allowing them to earn college credits while in high school.
Why considered rigorous?	Explores concepts in depth. Designed to teach students how to conduct inquiry, synthesize knowledge, reflect on thinking processes, and leverage interdisciplinary thinking.	Covers extensive material rapidly, modeled after a traditional college-level class. Methodology relies heavily on retention of facts and test taking.
Why do colleges give credit for it?	IB classes/tests weren't initially designed for college credit, but as university admissions officers observed the success of IB students in college, they started offering credit to attract them.	The College Board and educators craft AP course content and tests to align with college-level material, enabling students to score well and earn college credit.
Why would a school district offer it?	Highly regarded, but relatively rare in US public schools (1,100). Schools offering IB often become sought-after, transforming surrounding communities. Classes earn college credits, therefore saving on college expenses. It promotes unique subjects, fostering critical thinking and vibrant class discussions.	All classes can lead to college credit, therefore saving on college expenses. AP offers unique subjects exclusive to the program; highly esteemed and available in 23,000 US high schools.



IB TERMINOLOGY



DP (Diploma Programme): The full, two-year IB program for students in 11th and 12th grade, culminating in exams and the awarding of an IB Diploma.

MYP (Middle Years Programme): Designed for students 6th-10th grade, providing a framework that encourages academic challenge and development of life skills.

PYP (Primary Years Programme): Aimed at students TK-5th grade, emphasizing the development of the whole child, both in the classroom and the world outside.

HL (Higher Level) and SL (Standard Level): Referring to the depth and breadth of study within IB courses for 11th and 12th grades. Students often take three HL and three SL courses.

CP (Career-related Programme): An IB framework for students aged 16 to 19, integrating academic and career-related education (**not currently offered**).

CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service): A core component of the DP, encouraging students to engage in a range of creative activities alongside their academic studies.

TOK (Theory of Knowledge): A required course in the DP, exploring the nature of knowledge and its impact on various disciplines.

EE (Extended Essay): A mandatory component of the DP, involving independent research and writing on a topic chosen by the student.

THE IB CONTINUUM

LIVERMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT



CASE STUDY AT FRESNO HIGH

Despite a student body with 96% socio-economic disadvantage and 90% English Learners, Fresno High School's entire student body participates. Tenth graders, including those in special day classes, complete a IB Personal Project, while 11th and 12th graders take at least one IB English course. Students then have the flexibility to choose their level of engagement in DP and CP courses.

MYP CLASSES AT GRANADA

Designed for 9th and 10th graders, MYP offers a framework promoting academic challenge and life skill development. While preparing students for the DP, it is not a prerequisite; application for the diploma occurs in junior year. Students have the flexibility of taking a mix of MYP and traditional courses.

THE IB DIPLOMA

IB learners (11 & 12 grade) seeking a challenge or college credit can opt for the IB Diploma. Completion involves timed exams, an Extended Essay, creative activities, service hours, and completion of Theory of Knowledge. Completing MYP is not a prerequisite.

IB & AP BLEND

Granada High School provides academic choice, allowing students to take both AP and IB courses. AP students value IB for its streamlined, in-depth approach, navigating a fast-paced curriculum, and ability to earn college credit or advanced placement.

Learning in the IB community celebrates the many ways people work together to construct meaning and make sense of the world. Through cycles of inquiry, action and reflection, this constructivist approach leads toward learning how to learn, and growth in communication and collaboration skills.

INDIVIDUAL IB CLASSES

Students may choose traditional courses and individual IB classes to access a challenging curriculum, earn college credit, and benefit from the program's emphasis on critical thinking, research skills, and global perspectives without committing to the IB Diploma.

REASONS TO TAKE MYP AT GRANADA:

- Personalized Learning
- Holistic Development
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Global Perspective
- Preparation for Diploma Program
- College & Career Readiness