

How is the International Baccalaureate Program unique and why is it needed in the Boulder Valley School District?

The goal of the IB program is to prepare high school students for **quality** university life in a way no other educational program can. How is it done? There are FOUR key components to the IB program here at Fairview:



1. Academic Rigor

Students learn how to learn, how to analyze, how to reach considered conclusions about humankind, its languages and literature, its ways in society, and the scientific forces of its environment. An IB diploma candidate typically functions at a level of an introductory college student. IB courses, with their emphasis on depth of study and quality of coursework, mimic college courses much more closely than do other high school honors courses. IB students arrive in college prepared to succeed.

Like AP, IB courses are recognized by many U.S. universities for college credit and advanced placement. IB credits can help students graduate earlier, or can be used to exempt students from distributional requirements, freeing them to take other courses.

2. Comprehensiveness of the Program

Students encounter rigor throughout ALL disciplines of the program. Students refine their areas of strength and developmentally improve in areas of weakness. A total of six exams from the major subject areas are evaluated by international examiners. Students also submit a significant portion of their course work (e.g. essays, oral commentaries, lab books, etc.) for evaluation. Theory of Knowledge specifically focuses on the development of interdisciplinary critical thinking skills. The Extended Essay prepares students to produce the kind of authentic research papers that will be required in college. Equally important, students emerge from the IB program with time management skills and the ability to handle complex workloads that enable them to feel comfortable and confident in the college environment.

3. Internationalism

IB encourages students to think globally because the IB curriculum is based on true international standards. Coursework and exams are graded by an international Grading team, professionals from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

"The IBO has always embraced the concept of an international community and its chief purpose is to provide an educational environment in which anyone, anywhere, may participate, may contribute, and may be encouraged by all to grow individually, and with an understanding of others."

- IBO, *A Continuum of International Education*

4. Self-selection

The entire IB program here at Fairview is self-selecting, which means students who want the IB challenge may simply register for the courses. This self-selection administration of the program is unique. Less than three-percent of all IB schools world-wide are administered this way according to International Baccalaureate Organization statistics. Since the program is self-selecting, students tend to register for a varying number of IB courses. Some register for just one IB course; others register for six or even seven, or any number in between. We believe the self-selection aspect of the program is one of the greatest features and strengths of IB at Fairview, allowing students to tailor their educational experience.

Fairview High School International Baccalaureate Program

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