

# Bentonville High School International Baccalaureate Handbook

I.	Table of Contents	1
II.	Glossary	2
III.	IB Explained	
	a. What is IB?	3
	b. IB at BHS	3
	c. Why IB?	4
	d. Who Should Select IB?	4
IV.	The IB Diploma Programme	
	a. Requirements	5
	b. Benefits	5
V.	IB Contacts	6
VI.	IB Hexagon	7
VII.	IB Sample Schedule	8

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## About This Handbook

This handbook is designed to provide a comprehensive view of the history, philosophy, and requirements of the Bentonville High School International Baccalaureate Programme. Use this handbook as a guide, to find answers to your questions, or where to go for answers. As policies and procedures change for the program, so will this handbook. Always be sure to ask questions and attend related meeting to stay current and to achieve success in the IB Diploma Programme.

## Glossary of Frequently Used Acronyms

AP	Advanced Placement
BPS	Bentonville Public Schools
DP	Diploma Programme
EE	Extended Essay
EOC	End of Course Test
HL	Higher Level
HOTA	History of the Americas
IB	International Baccalaureate
IBO	International Baccalaureate Organization
IBDP	International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
SL	Standard Level
TOK	Theory of Knowledge
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test

# Bentonville High School

## International Baccalaureate Handbook

### **What is IB?**

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a non-profit educational organization that was established in 1968. It is governed by a 17-member Council of Foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland. The IBO is funded by fees from IB world schools with additional income from workshops and catalogue sales. The IBO 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 IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

IB programs are offered and recognized on every continent. The IB Diploma is recognized around the world as a gold standard in international education. Oxford University was the first university to accept the IB diploma as a qualification of entrance. Now, the IB Diploma can be used for entrance requirements to any major college on earth.

### **IB at BHS**

In the fall of 2001 a committee of parents, students, teachers and administrators began exploring options for increased growth at BHS. This committee studied 17 benchmark schools as identified by the Northwest Arkansas Economic Council. Many of these schools offer IB which prompted the administration of BHS to begin exploring the IB Diploma Programme. In January of 2005 after several site visits and orientation conferences, the department chairs of BHS recommended adding the IB Diploma Programme to the high school curriculum. In April of 2005 the Bentonville School Board of Trustees approved adding the program to the high school curriculum. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Bentonville High School was pre-approved to the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP). We are seeking final approval during the 2006-2007 school year. We expect to implement the program in the fall of 2007.

# Bentonville High School

## International Baccalaureate Handbook

### Why IB?

IB is more than just a rigorous curriculum. It is an educational philosophy. IBDP candidates will develop as critical thinking students who will be able to integrate new information, analyze it and then produce new information. An IB student is innovative and creative. IB students develop into successful college students because they are more prepared for the rigor of analytical and evaluative thinking.

IB classes are taught by IBO trained teachers using an international, standardized curriculum. All IB students around the world take the same tests on the same day. In fact, in some classes, an IB student at BHS could take the IB exam for any given subject area at any testing center on earth and would test over the same material.

All major universities know of the IB Diploma Programme and most have developed policies with regard to college credit awards to students who succeed on IB exams. The IB website has more and specific information on the details of credit awards. Go to <http://www.ibo.org/country/US/index.cfm> then select the university that interests you from the heading, "Universities that recognize the IB diploma."

Finally, IB offers to develop students beyond the classroom. As its mission statement points out, IB programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

### Who Should Select IB?

The IB Diploma Programme is open to any student at BHS who:

- is able to cope with a demanding schedule of rigorous courses
- has or is willing to develop well-disciplined study habits and time management
- is capable of critical and creative thinking
- is open to international perspectives and opinions
- has fundamental fluency in a second language
- is considering application to a major university within or outside of the United States

The IBDP is best suited for students who have already demonstrated the majority of the above characteristics and who have achieved considerable success in previous, rigorous curriculum such as Honors, Pre-AP, and AP courses.

# Bentonville High School

## International Baccalaureate Handbook

### **The IB Diploma Programme**

Requirements – These are the basic requirements to achieve the IB Diploma.

- All required IB courses from the six groups as designated by the IBO; Language A1, Language A2 or B, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, and the Arts / Electives
- Take and pass related IB examinations (minimum of 3, maximum of 4 at HL)
- Complete the Extended Essay
- Take and pass Theory of Knowledge course
- Complete and document at least 150 hours of CAS related activity over two years

Benefits – Earning the IB Diploma will offer numerous benefits to students.

- Increased likelihood of acceptance to major and/or international universities
- Increased likelihood of scholarship and grant awards
- Awarding of credit for freshman-level university courses sometimes up to sophomore standing at the university
- Highly developed skills of critical thinking, independent research, synthesis and evaluation
- Increased confidence of ability in post-secondary education
- Demonstrable preparation for university-level academic rigor
- Increased perspective of and sensitivity to the international, global society

# Bentonville High School International Baccalaureate Handbook

## **IB Contacts**

### Globally

[www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

### Regionally

North America & the Caribbean

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USA

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# Bentonville High School International Baccalaureate Handbook

