



West Anchorage High School

Pre-IB Program

What is IB?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program at West Anchorage High School is a smaller learning community that encourages creative inquiry and critical thinking while helping students develop a global perspective. IB is a challenging two-year pre-college course of studies in the tradition of the liberal arts.

What is Pre-IB?

To be prepared to meet the challenges of the IB Diploma Program at West in grades 11-12, motivated students should consider becoming part of West's Pre-IB program in grades 9-10. The West Pre-IB program prepares students for the IB Diploma Program not only in terms of academics but also in terms of students' attitudes about, and approaches toward, learning and life. IB encourages students to develop independence of thought, creativity, inquiry skills, open-mindedness, and an ability to think critically and reflectively.

Pre-IB classes will help students develop these ways of learning in grades 9-10 while encouraging individual students to see themselves as part of a smaller learning community. In addition to taking a Pre-IB schedule of classes, students will have opportunities to interact socially in a variety of ways. They may join IB 11th and 12th graders in community CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) projects. They will meet periodically as a group for special activities and learning opportunities. They will be encouraged to participate in activities, such as our IB Global Lunch speaker series, that contribute to a climate of international-mindedness at West. Pre-IB students will also have access to a support network of students, teachers, and staff who will help them navigate the academic and social challenges of high school.

Pre-IB Course of Studies

To participate in West's Pre-IB program, students must be enrolled in 4 of the 6 courses each year in grades 9-10.

9th Grade

English: Honors English 9
2nd Language: French, German, Russian, or Spanish
History: Honors World History
Science: Biology
Math: Algebra I or higher (Geometry, Algebra II)
Arts: Visual Arts, Music, or Theater

10th Grade

English: Honors English 10
2nd Language: French, German, Russian, or Spanish
History: Honors or AP U.S. History
Science: Chemistry
Math: Geometry or higher (Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus)
Arts: Visual Arts, Music, or Theater

For more information, contact your counselor or John Ruhlin, IB Coordinator (742-2610, ruhlin_john@asdk12.org).