



# Notre Dame Academy

Dear NDA Parents and Students,

I am very excited to introduce to you a program that Notre Dame anticipates offering Fall 2011. Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is an academically-rigorous University-preparatory program that runs through the junior and senior years of high school. The program aims to develop critical thinking skills, research skills, and international-mindedness: an ability to respect those different from oneself, and a desire to make a difference in the world. The IB Diploma Program is well recognized and respected by U.S. universities, as well as institutions abroad. Many institutions also give advanced standing and credit to IB students. IB students have also been shown to have a college admissions advantage over non-IB students:

School:	All Applicants:	IB Diploma Applicants:
Brown University	17%	21.6%
College of William and Mary	37%	66.4%
Cornell University	28.5%	51%
Dartmouth College	20.7%	33.3%
Harvard University	11%	14.8%
Johns Hopkins University	35%	68.8%
MIT	16.9%	26.2%
US Air Force Academy	12.1%	68.4%
US Naval Academy	11.7%	45.0%
University of Chicago	41.6%	59.1%
University of Michigan	49%	72.7%
Villanova University	14.5%	89.4%
Wellesley	47%	83.3%
Yale University	13%	18.9%

*Note: Acceptance rates for all applicants were provided by each respective institution. Acceptance rates for IB applicants based on self-reported survey of over 5000 IB students in the US entering colleges as freshmen during fall, 2002.*

<http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/academics/hs/Documents/Minnetonka's%20IB%20Program.pdf>

Already NDA is moving quickly forward with the appointment of an IB Coordinator, myself, as well as the training of IB teachers:

**Mrs. Laura Gallaher** attended IB training in Florida for Theory of Knowledge.

**Mr. Joseph Gerhardinger** attended training in Atlanta for IB Mathematics.

**Mrs. Susie Huffman** attended training in Atlanta for IB History.

**Mrs. Christine Knaggs** attended training in Houston for IB Coordination, and will be attending training in Florida for IB Biology.

**Mrs. Trish Sanders** attended training in Germany for IB Theatre Arts.

**Mrs. Beth Strbik** attended training in Atlanta for IB Spanish.

**Mrs. Lindsey Sutton** attending IB training in Florida for IB English.

In addition, **Mrs. Cheryl Pryor** will attend training for the Creativity Action Service (CAS) component, **Mrs. Adrian Meier** will attend training for IB Counseling, and **Mrs. Ruthi Mitchell** will attend training for IB Librarians.

At NDA, students will be encouraged to participate in the [Full Diploma Program](#), as the program is designed to embrace an interdisciplinary, international, and action-oriented philosophy. However, students can also opt to take individual IB courses, and earn certificates for each course taken.

The full Diploma Program consists of the following:

- 1) Students will take IB courses in six core areas of study: [Language A1 \(English\)](#), [Individuals and Societies \(History\)](#), [Mathematics](#), [The Arts \(Theatre Arts\)](#), [Experimental Sciences \(Biology\)](#), and [Second Language \(Spanish\)](#).

Core courses will be offered in [Standard Level \(SL\)](#) or [Higher Level \(HL\)](#). All HL courses will run over two years, and SL courses may run over one or two years.

- 2) Students will participate in a two-year [Theory of Knowledge \(TOK\)](#) course. TOK is a philosophy course that focuses on how knowledge is acquired in different disciplines. It serves to form connections between the six core courses in which students will be participating.
- 3) Students will participate in a [Creativity, Action, Service \(CAS\)](#) Program. Over two years, students will participate in and reflect on a variety of activities that are creative, action-oriented, and service-oriented, including at least one long-term project.
- 4) Students will write a 4000-word [Extended Essay \(EE\)](#), a mini-thesis on a topic of their choice. Working closely with a mentor, students will conduct research and compose an essay for submission to IBO.

All IB courses will culminate with examinations that are scored by an external examiner. A passing grade in an IB course is determined based on a combination of internal (in-class) assessments and external examinations taken at the end of the junior or senior year. Once examinations have been scored (usually in July), full Diploma Candidates will receive an [IB Diploma](#) (in addition to their Notre Dame Diploma), and students who take individual IB courses will receive [certificates](#) for every course in which they earn a passing exam score.

If a current NDA freshman is preparing to enter into the Diploma Program, here is what their **four-year plan** might look like:

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade (example)	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade (example)
Honors English 1	Honors English 2	IB English (HL)	IB English (HL)
Honors World History	A.P. Psychology	A.P./IB History (HL)	IB History (HL)
Honors Spanish 1 (or higher)	Honors Spanish 2 (or higher)	Honors Spanish 3 (or higher)	IB Spanish (SL)
Honors Math 1 (or higher)	Honors Math 2 (or higher)	IB Mathematics	IB Mathematics
Honors Biology (recommended)	Honors Chemistry (recommended)	IB Biology (HL)	IB Biology (HL)
Speech and Drama 1 (9 <sup>th</sup> or 10 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Speech and Drama 2 (recommended)	IB Theatre Arts (SL)	IB Theatre Arts (SL)
--	--	Theory of Knowledge	Theory of Knowledge
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
Health/PE	Computer Apps/Elective		Government/Elective

Currently, Notre Dame Academy is applying to become an IBO World School. Our implementation plan is as follows:

Date	Activity	Explanation
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2009	Application A Due	We will show IBO that we have the resources to implement IB, as well as a strategic plan in place.
Apr. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2010	Application B Due	All IB teachers will submit their course outlines, and we will refine our strategic plan.
Fall 2010	Authorization Visit	An IB team will visit our school to witness our readiness and ability to implement IB for the following school year.
Spring 2011	Authorization Decision	IBO will make the final decision regarding our status to become an IBO World School.
Fall 2011	Anticipated IB Diploma Program Start	We anticipate that students will be able to participate in the IB Diploma Program, and take IB courses.

As a Harvard graduate and a current Ph.D. candidate, I am very excited to be able to help other students become prepared to enter selective colleges and universities, and to pursue lifelong education. I also teach Advanced Placement Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science, and I direct the Quest Program, a full-tuition scholarship program for students at NDA with extreme financial need. I look forward to working with you over the next four years as we begin a challenging but fulfilling journey in the IB program. Notre Dame Academy is very excited to be embarking on the IB authorization process, and we welcome any questions that you might have. Please contact Mrs. Christine Knaggs, IB Diploma Program Coordinator, at 419-475-9359 ext. 3171, or [cknaggs@nda.org](mailto:cknaggs@nda.org). Also, please visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) for more detailed information at IB. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christine Knaggs, M.Ed.

IB Diploma Program Coordinator

Notre Dame Academy

419-495-9359 ext. 3171

[cknaggs@nda.org](mailto:cknaggs@nda.org)