



PROVISO
MATHEMATICS AND
SCIENCE ACADEMY

“A CATALYST FOR GREATNESS”

PMSA
PRE-IB PROGRAM
OVERVIEW

Revised September 2017

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1. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IB)

The IB was founded in 1968 and is currently in place in over 4,000 schools worldwide. The IB is known for the quality of its education, the high standards to which it holds its affiliated students, teachers, schools and organizations. The IB Organization places a high value on global awareness and intercultural understanding. All of this is evidenced in its Mission Statement, which reads:

The International Baccalaureate 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 organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.¹

The IB has developed a “Learner Profile” which is a set of learning outcomes designed for a 21st century education. The IB intends these ideals to be a guide for teachers and schools, providing focus and unity in order to foster the development of all students in these areas. The learners should be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-Takers
- Well-balanced
- Reflective

A video and the full Learner Profile can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/en/benefits/learner-profile/>

¹ From the “Mission and Strategy” page of the IBO website, available at <http://www.ibo.org/en/about-the-ib/mission/>

2. The IB Diploma Programme (DP) & Approach to Teaching and Learning

Although the IB offers programs for elementary and middle schools as well, at the high school level the program is the “Diploma Programme” and takes place over the final two years of a student’s high school career.

The IB Diploma Programme is a rigorous course of studies. The educational experience is student-centered and requires that students construct their own knowledge through problem-based and experiential learning activities. Students must develop and use strong analytic skills to draw conclusions and apply the knowledge they have gained in real-world situations, always with a view to community involvement and global implications.

3. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at PMSA

We are very pleased to announce that PMSA was awarded a Certificate of Authorization to offer the Diploma Programme of the International Baccalaureate on January 28, 2016. This means that the Grade 11 students who have opted to participate in the IB Diploma Programme will be eligible to earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Some of the many benefits to participating fully in this course of studies are that it will:

- ease the transition to the rigorous expectations of top-tier universities
- prepare your child for the type of coursework offered at prestigious universities world-wide
- foster lifelong learning
- encourage international mindedness
- create active learners who understand how they learn, how they connect learning and how they apply learning

4. The PMSA Pre-IB Program

Several of the courses on your child’s schedule are listed as PDP. This stands for PMSA Pre-IB Program, which is not officially recognized by the IB Organization, but is however used by many IB World Schools in order to designate those classes explicitly designed for preparing students for success in the anticipated Diploma-level courses.

At PMSA the PDP identifier signifies that PMSA Pre-IB Freshman Cohort students are together in the core courses (Math², English, Science and Social Studies), that the teacher of a PMSA Pre-IB Program course has already successfully completed IB workshop training in that specific subject area, and that the students are exposed on a daily basis to the IB philosophy and are working toward developing all the character traits listed in the IB Learner Profile.

² Based on incoming freshman mathematics test scores, some students may be placed into Integrated Mathematics 2.

5. Student Expectations & Academic Honesty

PMSA students are already held to the highest academic and behavioral expectations and membership in the PMSA Pre-IB Program adds another layer to these expectations. With these expectations also comes the benefit of additional support. The IB DP Coordinator is Mrs. Tanaka in the Main Office, Room 221J and students may stop by before school, after school or at the beginning of their lunch period for any assistance needed. Additionally the IB Program has a designated counselor, Ms. Amy Paulus in Room 509A for help with arranging tutorials, post-secondary educational planning and other counseling issues.

The IB DP places the highest value on Academic Honesty

In their academic work, DP students develop research skills and study habits that are needed to demonstrate academic honesty in more formal ways than would be appropriate to expect of younger learners. DP students investigate and evaluate the usefulness of a greater variety of resources, and incorporate and reference them within oral and written presentations of increasingly complex formats. This level of rigour can present a challenge to students who certainly know right from wrong, but who may not possess the organizational and self-management skills to demonstrate clearly that their work meets a formal standard of academic honesty. All IB students understand the importance of acknowledging others because it is a central feature of the constructivist, inquiry-based approach promoted in all IB programmes; yet, in the DP, this requires the explicit teaching and learning of specific conventions accepted in a community of learners for being transparent about the use of ideas and work of others—note making, in-text citation and the preparation of a bibliography, to name but a few examples (Carroll 2012: 5–6).³

Via their classes, students will be explicitly instructed as to the importance of academic honesty and the means of avoiding plagiarism. Students found in violation will be subject to those consequences outlined in the Proviso Math & Science Academy Student Handbook (beginning on p. 30) and/or these infractions may be grounds for removal from the PMSA Pre-IB Program. For more information about the academic honesty policy and practices, please refer to the Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Academic Honesty Policy, which you have already received.

³ From “Academic honesty in the IB educational context” http://occ.ibo.org/ibis/occ/Utils/getFile2.cfm?source=/ibis/occ/spec/malpr.cfm&filename=template/malpr/g_0_malpr_sup_1408_1a_e.pdf

6. Course Requirements

The IB Diploma Programme consists of courses in 6 academic subject areas and 3 core areas:

Academic Subject Areas	Core Areas
Group 1-Studies in Language & Literature	Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
Group 2-Language Acquisition	Community, Action & Service (CAS)
Group 3-Individuals & Societies	Extended Essay (EE)
Group 4-Sciences	
Group 5-Mathematics	
Group 6-Arts & Electives	

During their junior and senior years the students will be taking at least three, but no more than four of the Academic Subject Area courses at the Higher Level (HL), and three or four at the Standard Level (SL). In general both HL and SL courses are taught over this two-year period, the main distinction being in rigor and nature and length of assignments and assessments.

The IB Diploma Programme can and does co-exist with Advanced Placement (AP) courses and certain of the courses offered during the junior and/or senior years may be categorized as both AP and IB. This can lead to a very busy May during a student's senior year as both AP and IB assessments take place during this period. Time management, setting priorities and creating a manageable balance between academic, social and other obligations are key to success at this time of year.

7. PMSA Pre-IB Program and IB Diploma Programme 4-Year Student plan

The following chart outlines the course progression and yearly requirements designed to meet both PMSA and IB requirements. Students who do not successfully complete the PMSA Pre-IB course sequence will not be considered for enrollment into the Preliminary IB Diploma Programme except in cases of Administrative Recommendation.

Students will be scheduled for one lunch period during their school day and will be required to take Wellness during the normal school day or during 0 period from 7:00-7:45am, as dictated by their schedules and academic requirements.

IB Diploma Programme 4-Year Student plan

Summer	9 th Grade	Summer	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
	PMSA Pre-IB Integrated Mathematics I	PMSA Pre-IB Summer Acceleration Integrated Mathematics II	PMSA Pre-IB Integrated Mathematics II	IB Math Studies 1 or IB Mathematics 1	IB Math Studies 2 or IB Mathematics 2
	PMSA Pre-IB English I British Literature		PMSA Pre-IB English II American Literature	IB English A – Language & Literature 1 HL	IB English A – Language & Literature 2 HL
	PMSA Pre-IB Physics		PMSA Pre-IB Chemistry	IB Biology 1 HL	IB Biology 2 HL
	PMSA Pre-IB World Studies European History		PMSA Pre-IB American Government	IB History 1 HL	IB History 2 HL
	World Language I		World Language II	IB Language B French 1 SL or Spanish 1 SL	IB Language B French 2 SL or Spanish 2 SL
	Wellness I		Wellness II	IB Psychology IB Economics 1 ⁴ IB Visual Arts 1 ⁵	PMSA Elective IB Economics 2 IB Visual Arts 2
	Arts Elective		Arts Elective	TOK 1	TOK 2
				Wellness	Wellness
				[CAS]/[EE] ⁶	[CAS]/[EE]

⁴ Available to be offered only if enough students register for the course.

⁵ Due to the advanced nature of the IB Visual Arts curriculum, PMSA Art 1 is a prerequisite for those students wishing to register for IB Visual Arts 1/2 sequence.

⁶ CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) and EE (Extended Essay) are IB Diploma Core Requirements that students must satisfy, but these classes are not scheduled subjects during their school day.

8. Additional Information

This document is intended as an overview of the PMSA Pre-IB Program. It is subject to update and annual review. It is available on the PMSA website and we have a Spanish language version of this document available. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Spanish language version, please let us know and we will make sure that you receive it.

Thank you for embarking upon this journey with us and please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions you or your child may have.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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