The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective
The IB is a rigorous pre-university program in which students pursue studies in six areas over a two year period while also participating in the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, completing a program of Creativity-Action-Service (CAS), and writing an Extended Essay (EE). Students are externally assessed by the IB Organization against specific criteria, applied to all IB Diploma candidates all over the world.

IB Diploma candidates must take six subjects; three at the Higher Level and three at the Standard Level. An IB Diploma is awarded after successful achievement on the internal assessments, end-of-course examinations and completion of the requirements for TOK, CAS, and the Extended Essay. Successful Diploma candidates are given preferential college admission and scholarship consideration and often receive advanced standing or university course credit for their work.

The IB approach stresses critical thinking, the ability to reason, and an open-minded attitude to different cultures. The IB educates the whole student to become an independent thinker and learner who is capable of creative problem solving.

---

**IB Courses Offered at Hillside**

Students must take one course in each of six groups.

1. English A Literature 11 & 12 HL
2. Spanish B 11 & 12 SL or French B 11 & 12 SL
3. History of the Americas— Peacemaking HL and 20th Century World Topics
5. Math 11 & 12 SL or Math Studies 11 & 12 SL
6. Visual Arts 11 & 12 HL or Psychology 11 & 12 HL

**TOK, EE, CAS, & IB Exams**

Theory Of Knowledge, the Extended Essay, and Creativity-Action-Service are mandatory components for the IB Diploma student. These components address the whole student by providing extra-curricular opportunities to pursue personal interests.

The TOK course asks students to consider different Ways of Knowing and diverse Areas of Knowledge, and serves to link the six academic courses through meaningful reflection. Personal insight, creativity, risk-taking and effective communication are essential.

The EE is an in-depth research paper of approximately 3500 words, focusing on any topic the student chooses. It represents the culmination of the student’s work in the IB, and is an outstanding preparation for the demanding written work students will face at university.

CAS asks students to complete, document, and reflect upon 150 hours of long-term, project-based extra-curricular work over two years.

As well as meeting the above requirements, IB students take six exams during May of the senior year as a diploma candidate. Students can earn college credit based on the score (1—7) that each child earns for the course and the respective college’s credit policy. The exams cost $108 each plus $157 registration fee for each student but prices may vary each school year.