



NOTRE DAME

Open House
Informational
Handout

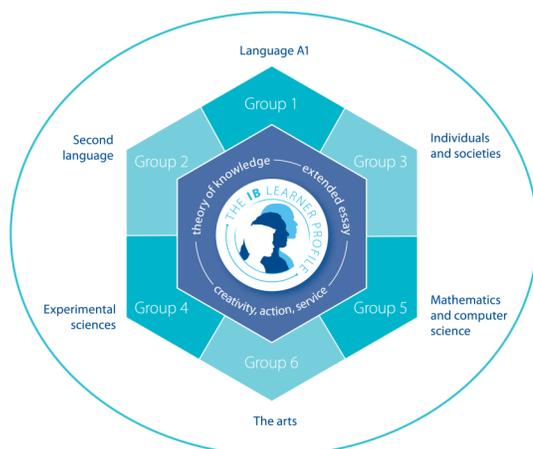


INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MARIST ACADEMY

Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a rigorous course of study designed to meet the needs of highly motivated secondary students and to promote international understanding. The focus of the curriculum is the offering of courses as prescribed by the IB Course of Studies. Full diploma students must take three courses at the Higher Level (HL) and three courses at the Standard Level (SL). HL courses are two year classes, while SL generally are one year classes. Students thus are able to explore some subjects in depth and others more broadly. The science-oriented student is challenged to learn a foreign language and the natural linguist becomes familiar with laboratory procedures.



What is IB?

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy offers a curriculum centered on the International Baccalaureate Programme, a rigorously academic program that leads to the globally recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. We are the only Catholic school in the United States with all three IB curriculum levels: PYP, MYP and DP.

The IB Programme is derived from an independent, non-governmental, non-profit educational organization. It is a recognized leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. Founded in 1968, the IB today works with 3,580 schools in 145 countries to offer and develop its three challenging programs to approximately 1,098,000 students ranging in age from 3 to 19.

Each year the Social Science Scholars Program recruits between 15 and 20 high-performing students to receive high-quality education comprising special seminars, faculty-led research, competitive internships, community mentoring, study abroad and the opportunity to publish as undergraduates. In recruiting our first cohort of Scholars earlier this year, it was apparent to us that IB students were well primed for this ambitious and demanding program ~John Waller, Ph.D. Director of MSU's Social Science Scholars Program

The Core of IB Diploma Program

NDPMA DP Students in the News

During the summer of 2014, NDP senior and International Baccalaureate student Stephanie Stoneback spent a few weeks in Ghana in West Africa as part of a youth missionary group. She and her fellow missionaries brought much-needed water, education, the Gospel and, most importantly, hope to many young people in this impoverished county of 27 million. "This trip truly opened my eyes to a more cultural and worldwide perspective, one that I have been learning about throughout my time in the IB programme here at Notre Dame Prep. I was able to immerse myself into a completely unknown lifestyle where clean water and a soccer ball from a dollar store for a Ghanaian is more valuable than millions of dollars to an American. I had the ability to connect with so many young people and witness the tears that poured down their faces as they watched the first droplets of water emerge from a brand new borehole. I was able to talk to the committed teachers of the Ghanaian schools about their curriculum and it inspired me even more to pursue my personal dream of going into education."

Extended Essay

The Extended Essay is an independent, self-directed piece of research culminating in a 4,000-word paper. As a required component of the DP, it provides a practical preparation for the kinds of research required at the collegiate level, and an opportunity for students to engage in an in-depth study of a topic of interest within a chosen subject.

Emphasis is placed on the research process:

- engaging in a personal exploration of the topic
- formulating an appropriate research question
- communicating ideas
- developing an argument

Participation in this process develops the capacity to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate knowledge. Students are supported throughout the process with advice and guidance from a supervisor (usually a teacher at the school).

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

A key element in the educational philosophy of the IB, TOK challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases and to develop the ability to analyze evidence that is expressed in rational argument. In TOK, students examine the nature of knowledge and the process of acquiring it. They also explore the dynamics of knowing and understanding in a multidimensional, interdisciplinary, and global setting.

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)

Participation in the school's CAS program encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy

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NDPMA DP Students in the News

The high school classes that most prepared me for my college-level studies are definitely the IB courses I took. The challenge of those courses, in addition to the research and technical writing I experienced with the Extended Essay aspect of IB, set me up very well to succeed in my college education. -Alexander Rink, NDP '11 Notre Dame graduate Alex Rink ('11) is in his third year at the University of Michigan, studying mechanical engineering. He's got his sights set on a career in the automotive industry, planning for an eventual manufacturing position with Ford Motor Co.

