

## How-To of the IB Diploma Program

### Course Requirements

- The IB Diploma Program course of study requires 6 subjects, one from each of the 6 groups.
- Most subjects are studied over 2 years. Three subjects are studied at “Higher Level” (HL) and three are studied at “Standard Level” (SL). The HL subjects require a minimum of 240 hours of instruction and the SL subjects require a minimum of 150 hours of instruction.

### Central Components

- The central component of the Diploma Program are CAS, Theory of Knowledge, and the Extended Essay.
- CAS stands for “creativity, action, and service” and is the experiential learning aspect of the program. Students are required to spend 150 hours outside the classroom in activities that further their growth as individuals in these areas.
- The Theory of Knowledge (ToK) is the glue that hold the DP together. It is a course that asks students to explore the basis of knowledge and the assumptions we have about truth, beliefs, and knowledge.
- The Extended Essay (EE) is a 4,000 word independent research project. Research questions are on a topic of each student’s choice.

### Subjects Offered at WHS

|                 | SL                               | HL                                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Group 1:</b> |                                  | World Literature                  |
| <b>Group 2:</b> | Spanish<br>French                |                                   |
| <b>Group 3:</b> | Psychology                       | Psychology<br>History of Americas |
| <b>Group 4:</b> | Biology<br>Physics               | Biology                           |
| <b>Group 5:</b> | Math<br>Math Studies             |                                   |
| <b>Group 6:</b> | Visual Arts<br>Design Technology | Visual Arts<br>Design Technology  |

### **Awarding of the Diploma:**

Students must earn a total of 24 points. Each exam is graded on a scale of 1-7, 7 being the best. Students must earn 12 of the 24 points in their HL courses. Students must complete the EE and TOK coursework, as well as completing CAS hours. Failure to complete any one element of the IB exams will result in a “no grade,” and students are no longer eligible for a diploma. Students can earn college credits for any passed exams, even if the diploma in full was not awarded.