

HONORS AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSES

Archbishop Carroll High School offers honors and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses in almost all disciplines. Students are placed in honors courses in ninth grade based on previous academic performance and standardized testing. Students are recommended for honors and I.B. courses from tenth through twelfth grade by department chairs. Placement in honors and I.B. courses is based on demonstrated academic achievement, not potential. Students' academic performance must meet consistent standards to continue placement in honors or I.B. classes. Students may take one or several honors or I.B. classes, depending on interest and demonstrated achievement. To take I.B. courses, students must also apply for the I.B. Diploma Programme.

Courses designated as either honors or International Baccalaureate will have an additional point added to the quality points available for each grade in the course. Thus, for example, a grade of B, which normally receives 3.0 quality points, will earn 4.0 in an honors or I.B. course. A grade of D or F in an honors or I.B. course will not merit any additional quality points. Grades earned for failed honors courses made up in summer school will also not merit any additional quality points.

Advanced Placement courses have been phased out to enable our honors community to focus on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. A.P. tests are still be available to students by request.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

The IB Diploma Programme is a rigorous, two-year course of study in seven areas that includes additional requirements of an extended essay and 150 hours of Creativity, Action & Service. Students will be eligible to apply for the pre-I.B. coursework in the spring of their ninth grade year and will apply for the Diploma Programme itself in the spring of their tenth grade year.

Admissions criteria: Students will be admitted to pre-I.B. courses and to the Diploma Programme if they meet the following criteria:

1. No grades below a B in any of the six main course areas (English, foreign language, social studies, science, mathematics, and art/music);
2. Completion of application essays;
3. Recommendations from ninth and/or tenth grade teachers verifying that the student has the characteristics needed to thrive in IB, including a strong work ethic, curiosity, initiative, and generosity towards other students;
4. Successful, timely completion of the ACHS service requirements;
5. Completion of necessary summer school courses, particularly in foreign language, to be prepared for IB-level work beginning in 11th grade.

IB Course Sequence:

Grade 9

Catholicism

English 1

Art/Music/Choir

Algebra 1, Geometry or Algebra 2

Foreign Language Year 1 or 2

Conceptual Physics

Honors Introduction to Civilization

Freshman Seminar

P.E. 1

Courses can be honors or regular. Note: all students interested in pre-I.B. courses should place out of Introduction to Technology before the 9th grade, either through taking the course in the summer or through passing a placement test.

Grade 10

Christ: Mission, Church, Sacraments

Introduction to Literature

Art/Band/Choir/Theater/Computer Science

Geometry, Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus

Foreign Language Year 2 or 3

Biochemistry

World History

U.S. Government (1 semester)

The assumption is that most or all courses will be honors.

Grade 11

Social Justice

IB English 11

IB Art, Music or Information Technology 11

IB Mathematics or Math Studies 11

IB Language B (Spanish, French or Latin) 11

IB Biology 11

IB History of the Americas 11

IB Theory of Knowledge 11

Grade 12

Peer Ministry or Vocations/World Religions

IB English 12

IB Art, Music or Information Technology 12

IB Mathematics or Math Studies 12

IB Language B 12

IB Biology 12

IB History of the Americas 12

IB Theory of Knowledge 12

All IB students will need to complete 150 hours of Creativity, Action and Service outside of school hours. In addition, IB students will take band or choir after school at least two days per week, participate in robotics, or complete a week-long summer art institute for those doing Visual Art.

IB students may need to take the following courses in summer school: Intro to Technology, Pre-IB Math, and Foreign Language Immersion. All IB students will be required to take Extended Essay Research Seminar in the summer before their senior year.

The International Baccalaureate Organisation designates courses as Higher Level or Standard Level. ACHS I.B. students take the following at the Higher Level: English, History and Biology. They take the following at the Standard Level: Foreign Language, Mathematics, and Fine Arts or Information Technology. Students can work with the I.B. Coordinator to establish a different combination of Higher and Standard Level courses. For more information, please see the I.B.O.'s website at www.ibo.org.

Certificate Candidates: In some instances, students who may not qualify for the full Diploma Programme will be allowed to take a partial program of I.B. courses. Certificate candidates will be required to follow the I.B. application process and will be informed of their Certificate Candidate status in the spring of 10th grade.