



high school course guide

2010–2011

Students and Parents;

This course guide is intended to help students and parents know more about our programs and courses. We have carefully structured a curriculum to ensure a smooth transition from Middle School to High School. Although we are a small school, we attempt to provide a broad range of options to cater for student interest and ability. All students who meet the requirements described in this course guide will earn an ICS High School diploma. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme provides excellent course offerings for students seeking admission to selective colleges and universities. Some students will attempt the full IB diploma. Others will take one or more IB courses for “certificates” which may give them advanced placement credit at college.

Regardless of their path through our curriculum and courses, it is our hope that all ICS students will be prepared for success beyond ICS, and will have the character skills and attitudes that will empower them to contribute to their future communities and our world.

This Course Guide will assist students and parents in their discussions with counselors and teachers in choosing appropriate programs of study. *Let the dialogue begin!*

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ICS Mission Statement

The International Community School of Addis Ababa, accredited in the United States, develops the talents and intellects of a multicultural student body using learner-centered, holistic instructional methods, empowering each student to contribute in an evolving world.

Adopted by the ICS Board of Governors, Spring 2006

Philosophy Statement

We of the International Community School promote an interactive, holistic learning environment, which encourages freedom of inquiry, initiative, creativity and academic achievement. Emphasis is placed on providing students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to face the challenges of the future. We teach respect for the richness and diversity of individuals, cultures and spiritual beliefs. We build self-esteem and sustain self-discipline, and above all, we cultivate and celebrate a passion for learning. Within a dynamic multicultural environment, we acknowledge our responsibility to and involvement with the global community.

IB Learner Profile

Learners in an IB World School strive to be

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

High School Program Overview

The ICS High School Program is designed to:

- Offer courses that meet entry requirements to a broad range of colleges and universities around the world. Successful ICS students will be well prepared for the demands of post-secondary education.
- Support all students in attaining their educational goals. A wide range of course offerings and emphasis on differentiated teaching strategies ensure that all students are supported to achieving their potential. However, only limited EAL and special needs support is available.
- Provide learning opportunities that support the development of independent learners and the IB Learner Profile.

The transition from Middle to High School demands that students take increasing responsibility for their personal learning. Good time management skills and personal reflection on teacher feedback are important pillars for academic success. Many high school assignments will require that students develop timelines and completion strategies that will provide balance to their daily workload.

Planning a Course of Study

In Grades 11 and 12 students may choose one of three paths through our program of studies:

- Path A: ICS High School Diploma
- Path B: ICS Diploma with IB Certificates
- Path C: Full IB Diploma

Upon successful completion of Grade 12, all students will be awarded the ICS High School Diploma. Students who successfully undertake the full IB Diploma Program (*Path C*) will receive the IB Diploma and the ICS High School Diploma. Students who choose to study a combination of IB courses and other ICS courses (*Path B*) can earn the ICS High School Diploma and IB Certificates that may make them eligible for advanced placement credit at colleges and universities. One of ICS's strategic goals for the coming years is to improve students' preparation for and participation in the IB program.

We feel that all students will benefit from the challenge of the IB, either for certificates or for the full diploma.

High School Graduation Requirements

Listed below are the graduation requirements for the ICS High School Diploma. These are minimum requirements that must be successfully completed before an ICS High School Diploma can be awarded. Colleges and universities have their own admission standards, and most demand evidence of high levels of achievement with an emphasis on a rigorous course of study. A student who only meets the minimum requirements may find their college choices are limited. Students must decide, with the guidance of school counselors and faculty, and the help of parents, what is best for them based on their goals and aspirations beyond high school.

All courses meet the same amount of time per week, but some courses run for one semester and other courses run for the entire year. A half (0.5) credit is awarded for each semester of a high school course when the student has earned a passing grade of D- or better.

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Credits Required</u>
• English Language Arts	4
• Mathematics	3
• History & Social Studies	3
• Natural & Physical Sciences	3
• Foreign Language	2
• Physical Education & Health	2
• Computer Applications	0.5
• Fine or Performing Arts	1
• Elective Courses	7.5
<hr/>	
	26 total

Details about ICS's credit requirements, GPA requirements, CAS requirements and any potential waivers to graduation requirements are explained in more detail in the High School Student/Parent Handbook.

It is important to read course descriptions and to select courses that will fulfill graduation requirements and meet individual needs. Some courses are required and will be assigned automatically. Other courses are considered electives.

Elective courses listed in this guide may be changed or canceled if there is insufficient student interest or if teachers cannot be assigned.

The International Baccalaureate Programme

The IB Diploma Programme is recognized as the flagship of the high school academic program. Students in Grades 11 and 12 are encouraged to participate in the IB program, which challenges students to master content knowledge and to acquire advanced critical thinking skills. Students are expected to use their creativity, to be actively involved in community service, to demonstrate proficiency in conducting independent research, and to be *reflective* through a balanced interdisciplinary approach to learning.

The IB Diploma Requirements

Over the course of two years, Diploma candidates must complete the following:

- Coursework in six subject areas or *Groups*
- A course in Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- An independent research project with a faculty advisor (called the Extended Essay)
- A required number of creativity, action and service hours (CAS)

The Six Groups

The six academic areas an IB Diploma candidate is to pursue are distributed as follows:

- Group 1: First Language (A1), usually English
- Group 2: Second Modern Language (A2, B or *ab initio*)
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies
- Group 4: Experimental Sciences
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: The Arts and Electives

Three subjects must be taken at a Higher Level (HL) and three should be taken at Standard Level (SL).

Students should choose their HL courses based on their strengths and interests. Humanities oriented students may take English and History HL classes, whereas a future engineer might want to take Math and Science HL classes.

For their Group Six class, IB Diploma candidates can choose IB Visual Arts, IB Music or a second course from Groups 1–4. Some students have opted for a third language, or Geography SL. Students interested in engineering typically take Chemistry with Physics as their Group Six elective, and students interested in medicine as a career might take Chemistry with Biology as their elective, with one of them at the Higher Level.

Why Take IB Courses or “Do the Diploma?”

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an acclaimed, two-year university preparatory program which is based not on the curriculum of a single country but which amalgamates the best elements of many national curricula. The IB contains features common to US high school curricula, English A-Levels and the French Baccalaureate, to name a few educational systems. The IB Diploma programme is offered by more than 2000 national and international high schools around the world. Students who meet the requirements of the program receive an internationally recognized IB Diploma. Although recognition varies from country to country, the Diploma in most cases assures students’ access to universities worldwide and university course-credit or sophomore status at many selective American colleges.

Who Should Take IB Courses?

Well-motivated students are encouraged to complete the full IB Diploma. Depending on the university, the breadth and rigor of the full Diploma is favorably considered for applicants who have taken advantage of it. In the United States, college admissions committees tend to regard IB Diploma graduates as a “class apart.”

For non-US bound students, successful completion of the IB Diploma program can open doors to university systems (for example, European or Asian), which do not recognize ICS’s US High School diploma. US-bound students who are not ready to meet all the requirements of the full IB Diploma can take some IB courses, sit for the exams, and earn IB Certificates. Higher Level (HL) courses may be considered the equivalent of a first-year university course. Depending on the coursework and grade, students may earn university credit and academic scholarships for their work in high school.

Students who take IB courses are expected to complete *all* coursework including internal IB assessments, regardless of whether they take the IB exam or not.

IB Examination Fees

The IB Organization charges fees for exams whether you are a full Diploma candidate or are taking a few IB courses and exams for certificates. In the year(s) you take your exams, ICS will assess IB examination fees in addition to ICS tuition and fees. *Please ask the IB Coordinator for details.*



English 1

- Grade Level: 9 (required) or successful completion of English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Grade Nine English provides students with an introduction to genre, including the novel, short stories, poetry, and drama, Greek Mythology and the essay. Students write for different audiences and purposes, producing research, descriptive, analytical and creative papers. Students will learn peer- and self-editing to improve their writing process. Regular vocabulary and grammar exercises are part of this class. In addition to class novels and works, students will choose supplementary pleasure reading books throughout the year. Throughout the course, students will work creatively, cooperatively and independently on a variety of activities designed to enhance intellectual and emotional growth.

Works studied: Greek mythology and *The Odyssey*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Animal Farm*, Poetry, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The River Between*.

English 2

- Grade Level: 10 (required)
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 1

In this course students will read, analyze, and respond to multicultural literature in order to identify its unique and unifying aspects of character, theme, conflict, archetype, and imagery. Students will enhance their understanding and appreciation of the literature through cooperative projects, dramatic presentations, interdisciplinary study, writing translations and student-based teaching seminars. Developing skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary development, oral communication, and writing will be emphasized. Writing of all types will be encouraged, including narrative, research, exposition, and literary analysis.

English 3: College Preparatory / IB A2

- Grade Level: 11
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 2

This is the first year of the two-year college preparatory English program. This course will give students from a wide variety of backgrounds the opportunity to reach a high level of competence in English and to develop a variety of linguistic skills through the study of a wide range of texts. It also seeks to promote an appreciation of the wealth and subtleties of the English language and to facilitate the clear expression of ideas. The students will develop their powers of expression in both written and oral communication through critical reading and analysis of literary and nonliterary texts. Successful completion of the course will prepare students for English 12, College Preparatory. Successful students will also be prepared for the IB English A2 course as a senior, which is a “Group 2” class for students with a different first language as their Group 1 choice.

English 3: IB A1, Year 1

- Grade Level: 11
- Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and a grade of B or better in English 2

This is the first year of the two-year IB English A1 course. Students will develop critical reading skills through the in-depth study of seven literary texts, including four "World Literature" texts in translation. Students will be assessed using the IB oral and written assessment criteria and given much practice in developing reasoned arguments in written and oral form. Analytical essays, written commentaries, and oral presentations will form a major part of the course, along with a variety of other learning activities. Students will complete their IB Individual Oral Presentation and a first draft of the World Literature Assignments by the end of the year. Successful students will be prepared for either IB English A1 (SL/HL) or A2 (SL/HL) next year, depending on performance motivation, and the teacher's recommendation.

English 4: College Preparatory

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 3

This is the second year of the two-year College Preparatory English Program. Course work will be organized according to thematic units, which will include reading and analyzing a variety of genres, such as drama, novels, poetry, short stories, essays and other non-fiction writing. Students will also encounter a variety of writing opportunities as well as oral activities.

English 4: IB A1 SL or HL

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Students will have passed IB English 3 with a B or better, have teacher recommendation and demonstrate motivation and outstanding competency in English.
- All students who enroll in this course will be expected to complete the IB English A1 examinations, for which the IB charges a fee.

This is the second year of the two-year IB English A1 course. Students will continue to refine their critical reading skills through the in-depth study of seven additional literary texts, including poetry, drama, the novel, and nonfiction. Much attention is focused on the detailed study of writers and their craft, including the student's own developing style as a writer. The IB World Literature Assignments will be revised and submitted early in the year, followed by the student's Individual Oral Commentary which is recorded in February. Preparation and practice for the two May IB Examination papers will take place throughout the

year, including independent student response to an unseen text in Paper 1, and the study of one genre (drama, the novel, or poetry) for the Paper 2 Essay.

English 4: IB A2, SL or HL

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Students will have passed English 3 with a C- or better, have teacher recommendation and demonstrate motivation and competency in English.
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

This is the second year of the two-year IB English A2 sequence. We will investigate, through reading and discussion of news, magazine, and video resources, the cultural options for IB English A2: language, media and culture, future, social and global issues. Students would produce a range of written essays and other assignments for a variety of audiences. Students will also do interactive oral presentations, meeting the IB requirements for the English A2 course.

Creative Writing

- Grade Level: 9–12
- Semester course, for elective credit.
- Offered based on teacher availability

Students will explore a variety of creative writing genres including poetry, fantasy, fiction, etc., and the class will produce a literary magazine at the end of the semester.

Journalism

See section on Computer Applications...

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

- Grade Levels: 9–10
 - Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation
- Our Secondary English as an Additional Language (EAL) program offers intensive but limited support in English for speakers of other languages. It includes listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and visually representing with particular emphasis on pronunciation, comprehension and academic vocabulary. The goal is to increase academic language proficiency so that students can participate to a greater degree in their regular English grade level.

Please see the ICS Math Course flowchart on page 19, as you plan a sequence in mathematics that will help you achieve your college hopes and plans.

Pre-Algebra

- Grade Levels: 8–9
- Prerequisite: Recommendation by mathematics teacher

This course is for students who need to strengthen basic math skills to prepare for the abstract nature of algebra. Students will further develop their math skills as well as overview most of the topics covered in Algebra I. The graphic display calculator will be explored as a tool to check and support their work. Students successfully completing this course will be recommended for Algebra I. Students requiring further development of their algebraic skills will continue to Basic Math.

Introduction to Algebra

- Grade Levels: 9–11
- Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Algebra and recommendation by math teacher.

This course acts as a bridge between Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1. Students will spend time practicing and reviewing their skills in pre-algebra and elementary geometry and develop skills in algebraic equation-solving, rational and radical expressions and their applications, and graphing in the coordinate plane.

Algebra 1

- Grade Levels: 8–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra or Intro to Algebra

This course covers the language of algebra, transformation principles, factoring, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, inequalities, exponents, polynomials, rational and irrational expressions, and data analysis. Problem-solving applications are stressed throughout. Students completing this course will continue to Geometry. Students in Grade 10 may proceed to Algebra 2 / Geometry.

Geometry

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1

This course stresses the basic structures of geometry and includes the writing of direct and indirect proofs. Topics included are properties of lines, triangles, polygons and circles, coordinate geometry, transformations, area and volume, constructions, 3-dimensional space and solid measurements, and right triangle trigonometry. Students successfully completing this course will be recommended for Algebra 2 / Geometry or Algebra 2 / Trigonometry.

Algebra 2 / Geometry

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of a two-year program in Algebra and Geometry.
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

This course reviews algebra and geometry topics and is a lead-in course to *Topics In Math*. Students will study systems of equations and inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, functions and graphs, exponents and logarithms, relationship between roots and zeros, sequences and series, statistics, quadratics, geometry and problem solving.

Algebra 2 / Trigonometry

- Grade Levels: 10
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of a two-year program in Algebra and Geometry.
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

Students taking this course are intending to go on to a two-year IB Math course in their junior and senior year. Students will study systems of equations, rational and irrational numbers, functions and graphs, exponents and logarithms, relationships between roots and zeros, the binomial theorem, probability, sequences and series, matrices, conics, trigonometry, and problem solving.

IB Mathematics: Year 1

- Grade Levels: 11
- Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 2 with a grade average of 'B' or above or teacher approval.
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

This is the first year of a two-year course. Students will sit the IB HL/SL exam in the second year of this course. In this first year course, the focus will be on completing the majority of the IB Standard Level and High Level Math syllabus. This course is intended for students with a strong technical background and ability in mathematics. Topics will include functions, vectors, quadratics, trig, matrices, series and sequences, as well as an introduction to calculus.

Topics in Math

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Completion of Alg 2 or teacher approval.
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

This course is an alternate to the IB math curriculum. The topics include a basic review of most of the traditional high school algebra and geometry such as trigonometry, discrete mathematics, introduction to calculus, graphing methods and solid geometry. It also covers topics that are not usually included in a typical high school math curriculum such as number theory, graph theory, statistics and probability.

IB Math Studies SL (Two Year Course)

- Grade Level: 11–12
- Prereq: Completion of Geometry or teacher approval
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

This is a two year course. Math Studies introduces important mathematical concepts and applications through the development of mathematical techniques. This course is designed to build confidence and encourage an appreciation of mathematics in students who do not anticipate a need for math in their further studies. This course contains a broad range of math topics including further studies in numbers and algebra, sets and logic, functions, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability, financial mathematics and matrices. The course has a practical approach. Part of the internal assessment is a math project that constitutes 20% of the final IB grade.

IB Mathematics SL: Year 2

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Completion of IB Math Year 1 with a grade average of 'C' or above or teacher approval
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

This is the second year of a two-year program that is intended for students who expect to go on to study subjects that have a significant mathematical content. The course introduces students to concepts through the development of mathematical techniques. Math SL covers diverse topics in number and algebra, functions and equations, circular functions and trigonometry, probability, statistics, logic, derivatives and integrals.

IB Mathematics HL: Year 2

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Completion of IB Math Year 1 with a grade average of 'A' or teacher approval.
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

This is the second year of a two-year program that is intended for students with a strong background, ability and intuition in mathematics. The course is designed for students who expect to include math as a major component of their further studies, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as physics, engineering or technology. The course is theoretical in content, covering diverse topics in number and algebra, functions and relations, trigonometry, proof by induction, probability, and differential and integral pre-calculus with applications.

Biology 1

- Grade Levels: 9 (required) – 12

Biology is the study of life. The goal of this one-year conceptual and laboratory-based course is to understand and explore the science of living things. Students will study the nature and make-up of life and its processes. The biology of microorganisms, animals, and plants will be studied. Students will gain an appreciation of the diversity of life and the complexity of genetics and ecological relationships. One focus for this course is the week long trip to the Bale mountains. Students will gather data from a variety of habitats and (hopefully) see the rare endemic Ethiopian wolf on top of the beautiful Senetti plateau.

Chemistry 1

- Grade Levels: 10–12

Chemistry links the forces of physics to our existence in the world that comes alive in biology. Everything, from the sun burning to the melting of a frozen ice cream cone falls within the realm of chemistry. Students actively investigate how atoms naturally rearrange themselves and also how mankind is able to mimic this and re-engineer matter in order to create materials of strength for structural buildings, key electrical parts for the functioning of computers, and materials that are now being used by medical doctors as temporary substitutes for human organs and/or tissue. This course is a must for any student who seeks a career in health-care, engineering or a science-related field, yet it also offers a better understanding of our evolving world for those students who desire to become involved as contributing citizens.

Physics 1

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra

Physics is the most basic of all the sciences. We study the nature of basic things such as motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light and composition of atoms. The ideas of physics are fundamental to the other sciences. One can understand biology and chemistry much better if one first understands physics. This one-year introductory course focuses on the conceptual knowledge about the rules of the physical world, and teaches how the equations of physics reveal the connections in nature. This course is a prerequisite for any student thinking to enroll in the IB Physics SL course.

Environmental Science (1 or 2 Semesters)

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- This course may be offered depending on teacher availability and student interest.

Our topics will include understanding ecosystems as the basic units of the natural world, human population, renewable resources and energy, pollution and prevention, and working towards a sustainable future. The course will provide students opportunities to explore environmental science concepts in the classroom, laboratory and in the field. The class will review case studies from all over the world, designing experiments and models to solve water problems, and field studies in local environments.

IB Biology Year 1

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology 1 and/or approval of teacher

This is an advanced, one-year biology course that will prepare students for the HL course as a senior. IB core topics that are covered in the first year include cells, biochemistry, genetics, ecology and evolution, and human physiology. Students will be offered many opportunities to reinforce and expand on their laboratory skills and experimental design. There will be three internal assessments in the form of written labwork to add to a portfolio that will be evaluated at the end of year two. Students will participate in the IB Group 4 project, which includes ten hours of researching, investigating, and collaborating in a group centered on a common theme.

IB Chemistry Year 1

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry 1 and/or approval of teacher

This study of chemistry provides students with a more detailed comprehension of the world in which they live and also themselves as well—of the cosmic evolution of elements from their natural rearrangement into gases, streams of water and pockets of natural minerals, to their formation into proteins (enzymes), then DNA, and ultimately into living organisms. Chemical laws, rules and many tools are more fully applied to allow students to synthetically manipulate matter. This course is designed for students who may wish to major in chemistry, engineering or any health-related field in college and/or pursue its application to any other anticipated occupation that may require a strong science background. Topics include atomic theory, periodicity, bonding, states of matter, equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction, and organic chemistry.

IB Physics Year 1

- Grade Levels: 11, 12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physics 1 and Algebra 2

Students will learn a more detailed comprehension of the physical world. Concepts include mechanics, thermodynamics, oscillations and waves, electric currents, and fields and forces. An in-depth study of the concepts accompanied with experimental work is involved. This course is extremely important for any student interested in working as an engineer and/or other science-related fields.

IB Biology Year 2, SL or HL

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB Biology Year 1 and approval of teacher
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

Students taking the higher level course will broaden their understanding of nucleic acids and proteins, cell respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, and human physiology. This course will also introduce plant science and extend into areas of ecology and evolution. The standard level course will extend into the areas of ecology and evolution, and provide ample time for a thorough review before examinations. Both senior courses will involve a field trip that focuses on Ethiopian ecosystems and require two additional internal assessment lab write-ups.

IB Chemistry Year 2, SL or HL

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB Chemistry Year 1 and approval of teacher
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

After successfully completing IB Chemistry Year 1, students may enroll in either the SL or HL course, pending the teacher's recommendation and approvals. These courses will expand upon atomic structure, quantitative chemistry, periodicity, bonding, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, electrochemistry, organic chemistry, measurements and data processing. Optional topics include analytical chemistry, human biochemistry, industry and technology, medicines and drugs, environmental chemistry and food chemistry. Students who complete either course (HL or SL) will have a competitive advantage in their pursuit of majors related to engineering, industrial businesses and/or the field of health-care.

IB Physics Year 2, SL or HL

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB Physics Year 1 and Algebra 2, and approval of teacher
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

The second year of IB Physics provides more details about the physical world, through the concepts of atomic & nuclear physics as well as energy, power, and climate change. Optional topics include optics, relativity, astrophysics, communications and digital technology. This course is extremely important for any student interested in working as an engineer and/or science-related field.

Modern World History

- Grade Level: 9 (required)
- *'The past is never dead. It's not even past.'* William Faulkner

The study of world history offers the student multiple opportunities to develop critical thinking, writing and public speaking skills. The students will develop skills to interpret evidence that at times can offer little, and at other times is overwhelming. Their ability to evaluate multiple competing resources from diverse media and the analytical ability to determine the qualities that make a good resource from different media will be covered. The subject matter covered includes the roles of the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, World War I and World War II in the development of today's world.

United States History (one semester)

- Grade Level: 10 (required)
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Modern World History

This required semester course begins with a brief overview of the discovery, exploration, and colonial settlement of America. Important historical events surrounding the struggle for freedom and democracy will be emphasized, including the Enlightenment, the Revolutionary War, drafting of the Constitution, and resultant expansion and reform. The Civil War and Reconstruction Period will be examined, including the experience of minorities and African Americans in particular. Finally, relationships and developmental parallels between America and Africa will be explored, especially those relevant to our host country, Ethiopia.

Introduction to African History (one semester)

- Grade Level: 10 (required)
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Modern World History

This required semester course begins with a review of the geography of Africa and a summary of its ancient and medieval history of kingdoms and civilizations. Important topics are the African slave trades, the Islamization and Arabization of North Africa, state formation and consolidation in the 19th century, the partitioning of and resultant "scramble for Africa," European colonial rule, making thematic links to more contemporary history, looking at the rise of African nationalism and struggle for independence, pan-Africanism, the post-independence politics of African states, and the future of democracy, human rights, and socio-economic development in Africa.

Model UN: International Relations

- Grade Level: 10 – 12
- One or two semesters
- Prerequisite: none
- This course is offered depending on teacher availability and student interest.

This course is designed for those interested in international affairs and the political sphere. Students will work together researching the history, culture and relevant domestic issues of their assigned country, and will learn about one of the most important international organizations in the world: the United Nations. With an emphasis on preparation for a citywide Model UN activity, students will research contemporary problems and real-life conflicts, writing resolutions that propose solutions to these issues and topics related to human and social rights, economics and finance, politics and disarmament, and environment and culture. In past years, motivated students who have worked after school in an MUN activity have traveled to conferences in Cairo and Doha to represent ICS and debate with students from dozens of other international schools.

Cultural or Social Anthropology

- Grade Levels: 10–12
- Semester course
- This course is offered only depending on teacher availability and student interest.
- *‘I’m more interested in how a man lives than how a star dies.’* Sherwin Nuland.

Anthropology is the study of humans. This course focuses on cultural or social anthropology, the subfield that describes, analyzes, interprets, and explains social and cultural similarities and differences. It is an elective class that allows the student to explore the human sciences. The course is designed to develop skills and habits valuable to a life long learner; teamwork, time management, problem solving and evaluation of resources.

Global Issues, Leadership and Action

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- *“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.”* Mahatma Gandhi

This class allows students to *“Think Globally, Act Locally”* through a survey of global issues and their effects on communities in Addis Ababa. Our students provide a voice and leadership for the ICS community for service learning, helping ICS students make a difference at school and in the world. Through integrated leadership training, students identify needs at ICS and in our Ethiopian context, devise and implement action plans, and evaluate their effectiveness.

Theory of Knowledge

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- *‘Only when we know little can we be certain; doubt grows with greater learning.’* Goethe.

The goal of Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is to encourage students to reflect critically on the knowledge and experience they gain both in and out of the classroom. It also asks students to question the bases of knowledge as well as to consider subjective and ideological biases. Lastly, TOK asks the student to develop a personal approach of thought and opinion based on his/her analysis and synthesis of evidence that can be conveyed in a rational line of development.

TOK should be taken in the spring in Grade 11 and continued in the fall of Grade 12, for one full year. TOK is required for all IB Diploma candidates and strongly encouraged for all others in Grade 11/12.

Intro to Geography

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester course

This is a general course in both physical and human geography, with the first term concentrating on the elements of the earth and subjects such as vulcanism, earthquakes, and weathering/erosion, and how they affect populations. The second term is concerned with why populations live where they do, and how they adapt to the natural environment. Population growth, migration, and the issue to health are related to this topic.

Students who take this course in ninth or tenth grade will better be prepared to take IB Geography.

Trial Law & Advocacy

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester course

In this course students learn how a real-life litigator prepares and executes a trial. Each student will be working from a trial packet that includes the facts of the case, witness statements, and documentary evidence or exhibits. In addition, students will learn basic rules of evidence and courtroom procedure; they will also get an appreciation for the rule and practice of law. The course culminates with a mock trial competition in which student-attorneys will try the case before a judge and jury. The course is not only designed to give students a meaningful glance at the legal profession but it serves to enhance public speaking, oral advocacy, and problem solving skills that will in turn help ICS produce confident, creative, quick-witted and expressive students.

Intro to Business

- Grade Levels: 10 and 11
- Semester course

This course will not be offered in 2010–2011.

IB Business and Management SL

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- This course is offered only depending on teacher availability and student interest.
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

This course will only be offered in 2010–2011 and will be discontinued in following years.

This course is designed for the study of the principles, practices and skills of business. The IB Standard Level syllabus is taught in one year. The course focuses on business organization and environment, human resource management, accounts and finance, marketing and operations management. Case studies are used to integrate and apply knowledge. The SL syllabus covers five units of coursework and a research essay.

IB Contemporary World History SL

- Grade Levels: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Approval of the teacher
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

IB Contemporary World History (IB CWH) is a topical *introduction in depth* to some of the major events and political institutions that have shaped the twentieth century world. The themes of the rise and rule of single party states and Cold War diplomacy will be stressed. The course prepares students to sit for the IB Standard Level exam at the end of the year's work or move on to the Grade Twelve IB Higher Level course. Students sitting for the IB SL exam in May are expected to have detailed knowledge of a unit entitled "Communist states in crisis" which looks into the challenges faced by Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and China from the mid 1970's through the end of the Cold War.

IB African History HL

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: IB World History SL
- *'Ex Africa semper aliquid novi'* (There is always something new out of Africa.) Pliny the Elder, 23–79 AD.
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

The Higher Level year focus is on Africa, our regional option for the IB History HL syllabus. Our selected period of African history is approximately 1884–2000. Although the emphasis is on the political history of Africa, emphasis is also given to African's economic, social and cultural history. Our study will focus on pre-colonial states and resistance to colonialism in Eastern and central Africa. We will also examine the period of European imperialism in depth. The IB African History HL course is geared mostly to those students who will be taking the IB Higher Level examination for the IB Diploma or certificate at the end of the academic year. Other students may select this course with teacher approval.

IB Geography SL or HL

- Grade Level: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Grade 10 History or the equivalent
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam**

Contemporary geography explains trends and developments in societies that are caused by the interactions between individuals, societies, and the physical environment. Geography also investigates the way people adapt to change and helps to evaluate management strategies associated with such change. The course integrates both physical and human geography, thus allowing the student to understand methodologies used both in the scientific and socio-economic spheres. Part of the coursework and IB assessment will be practical field experiences in the Addis Ababa area and other parts of Ethiopia. Over the two years, students will be prepared for the SL or HL IB exam.

High School Computer Applications

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester course

This course is designed to cover the basic needs of a high school student in using computers. Focusing on the various uses of computers in a school setting, students will cover the basic applications of word processing, using a spreadsheet, creating presentations as well as using mind-mapping software, simple photo editing software, and creating documents for web and print publication. Communication tools, and the safe and ethical use of computers and the web, will be emphasized.

Journalism and Yearbook DTP

- Grade Level: 9–12
- Prerequisite: motivation, computer experience and teacher recommendation.
- Year-long course for 1.0 credit

In this class we will create a new quarterly ICS “virtual” interactive newspaper, and publish the school yearbook! Students will be involved in on-line journalism projects and will design the yearbook. For the journalism component, students will learn the journalistic process and write in a variety of styles, such as sports reporting, advice columns, political commentary and editorials. Students will produce a virtual newspaper for the ICS website, where others can write in and respond. Student reporters will be assessed on reporting and interviewing skills, editing, and writing. For the yearbook component of the course, students will spend much of their time learning and using modern desktop publishing and image processing tools and techniques. Students will actively apply these techniques to design and produce the school’s yearbook using desktop publishing and image processing software, scanners, and digital cameras.

Advanced Software Applications

- Grade Levels: 10–12
- Semester Course

In this course, students will learn more advanced applications of the computer, working independently to learn a challenging piece of software to create a unique project. This could include:

- Website design and creation
- Creating a short film using video software
- Programming a computer game
- Using a photo editor to create artistic or “enhanced reality” images
- Creating a short 2D or 3D animation
- Computer programming: learning to program to produce a creative or useful application

• modern languages

French 1 or Spanish 1

- Grade Level: 7–10

Students learn the fundamentals of the target language through the five basic components of communication: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing. The textbook is supplemented by games, oral presentations, and other individual and class activities. Oral expression is greatly emphasized. Students will also learn about Spanish or French culture and that of other Latin or francophone countries.

French 2 or Spanish 2

- Grade Level: 8–10
- Prerequisite for Spanish 2: Completion of HS Spanish 1 or teacher approval.
- Prerequisite for French 2: Completion of HS French 1, completion of the two-year Middle School French program, or teacher approval.

Students will learn basic vocabulary and grammar structures. There will be reading and writing, but the main focus will be on oral expression; therefore, students should be prepared to speak mostly Spanish or French in the classroom. This course includes the study of some literature adapted to this level.

French 3 or Spanish 3

- Grade Level: 9–12
- Prerequisite for Spanish 3: Successful completion of Spanish 2 or teacher approval
- Prerequisite for French 3: Successful completion of French 2 or teacher approval

Students will review basic vocabulary and grammar structures, and learn intermediate vocabulary and grammar structures. More focus will be put on reading and writing at this level, although oral expression will still be emphasized. Students should be prepared to speak only Spanish or French in the classroom. This course includes the study of literature adapted to this level.

Amharic Literature

- Grade Level: 9–10
- Prerequisite: Reading/writing ability in Amharic

This course, for native Amharic speakers only, covers different literary genres, including the novel, short stories, poetry and drama. Students will write for different audiences, including literary essays and research-based essays. Vocabulary and grammar work is expected, and students will be expected to read for pleasure beyond the requirements of the course. This course will prepare students to enter the IB Amharic A1 course in Grades 11–12.

French 4

- Grade Level: 10–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 3 or approval of teacher

This course is taken as French 4 by grade ten students, and as IB French B Year 1 by juniors. It introduces the formal study of Francophone literary works. Students will be exposed to an appreciable amount of French culture and history through the study of the lives and philosophies of selected authors. It continues basic language instruction, with overall grammar review throughout the year. It is a critical course for any student wishing to continue in French, and particularly for IB diploma candidates wishing to study French as their Group Two “Language B.”

French 5

- Grade Level: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 4 or approval of teacher

Students will work with advanced vocabulary and grammar structures. Advanced reading and writing techniques will be practiced, with focus on analytical thought. Several works of Francophone literature will be studied.

IB French B Year 2: SL or HL

- Grade Level: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 4
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam.**

This course is for students in grade 11 or 12 who have successfully completed French 4, and who are working on the IB Diploma. Depending on their proficiency in the language, students will pursue the SL or HL course, both of which require two years of study (i.e., French 4 or equivalent, and French 5 or equivalent, and this IB course). The student may elect to do the SL level course as a junior; the HL course is only available to seniors.

IB Amharic A1 Years 1 and 2: SL or HL

- Grade Level: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Amharic Literature
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam.**

For literate Amharic speakers only, this is a two-year IB course. Students will develop critical reading skills through the in-depth study of literary texts in Amharic, including four translated “World Lit” texts. Students will be assessed using the IB oral and written criteria. Two formal IB assessments, the Individual Oral Presentation and a written World Lit assignment, will

be completed. Successful students will be prepared to enter Amharic A1 SL or HL, depending on performance, motivation, and teacher recommendation.

IB French A2 SL or HL

- Grade Level: 11–12
- Prerequisite: Native fluency in French, including reading and writing
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam.**

This course is for students fluent in French and will require the study of French literature at a high level. Speak to the counselor and IB Coordinator if you are interested.

IB *ab initio* Year 1: Spanish or French

- Grade Level: 11–12

Students learn the fundamentals of the language through the five basic components of communication: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing. A textbook is supplemented by oral presentations, games, and other individual and class activities. Oral expression is greatly emphasized. Students are also exposed to culture.

Grade 10 or 11 students interested in taking an IB *ab initio* course and exam should speak directly with the IB Coordinator and Counselor.

IB *ab initio* Year 2, SL: French or Spanish

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Completion of IB *ab initio* Year 1
- **IB fee will be charged for students who register for the exam.**

This course is open to students who have successfully completed IB *ab initio* Year 1 or its equivalent. Students will learn basic and intermediate vocabulary and grammar structures. There will be reading and writing, but the main focus will be on oral expression; therefore, students should be prepared to speak only the target language in the classroom. This course includes the study of some literature adapted to this level. IB internal assessments will form a major portion of the grade. Students will be prepared for the *ab initio* Standard Level (SL) examination at the end of the year.

Other Native Languages

ICS High School students may be able to study their native language with a qualified tutor paid by the family. Please speak to the HS Counselor and IB Coordinator if you would like to explore this option. Under certain circumstances, this may qualify a student to earn a bilingual IB Diploma.

Visual Arts 1 (one or two semesters)

- Grade Levels: 8–10

In this course students are introduced to the elements and principles of art. Media used are drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture, pottery, crafts, textiles, calligraphy, collage, figure drawing, modeling, painting, woodworking, architectural and interior design, art history, computer art and fashion design.

Visual Arts 2 (one or two semesters)

- Grade Levels: 9–12

This course is for students who want to improve their art skills and concentrate on a few fine arts subjects such as painting, sculpture, and architecture or any special subject like illustrating, photo, fashion, graphic design or scenic design. A portfolio and research workbook are required, so the student may demonstrate the skills learned.

Students taking this course for a second semester will continue building a portfolio for art school. Students at this level are given the freedom to concentrate on developing their skill in a chosen media. A research workbook is required which serves to document the creative process. Art portfolios from this course may also be used to help the IB Coordinator and art teacher determine if a student is eligible for the IB Visual Arts course.

IB Visual Arts Year 1

- Grade Level: 11
- Prerequisite: Recommendation by IB Art teacher

Grade 11 students may begin the first year of a rigorous two-year program of study and art production, leading to the Standard or Higher Level IB Visual Arts in year two. Students in IB Year 1 will explore different media and techniques. The course includes opportunities both for structured learning of the principles and elements of design and for wide-ranging personal research of a more experimental nature. Please ask for more information about IB Visual Arts syllabus.

IB Visual Arts Year 2 (SL or HL)

- Grade Level: 12
- Prerequisite: Recommendation of the teacher and IB Coordinator
- **IB fees will be charged for students who register for the exam**

This course is the second year of a rigorous two-year program of study and art production, and will prepare students to complete the SL or HL Visual Arts examination in April. During the final year of the course, students will follow their own artistic journey rather than respond to teacher-provided assignments. The focus is on personal interpretation and individual artistic statements. The experience for SL and HL students is basically the same, except that HL students are expected to produce more work.

Concert Choir

- Grades: 9–12
- Prerequisite: singing or piano experience preferred

This vocal ensemble performs several times a year. Attendance at all performances is required to receive full credit for the class. Through a wide range of musical styles, students will explore the concepts of vocalization, tone production, vowel and consonant sounds whilst singing, sight singing techniques and posture. Travel opportunities to the annual TAISM Festival of Choirs will also be available to interested Concert Choir members.

High School Concert Band

- Grades: 8–12
- Prerequisite: 3 or 4 years playing experience. Audition required.

Concert band is a full year course for students who desire to become advanced players. Attendance at all performances is required in order to receive full credit for the class. Students will continue their study of music theory, history, and performance and musicianship skills. Students will continue to refine their tone production, intonation, balance and blend with other players in the ensemble. Students will have the opportunity to audition to join AMIS High School Honor Band Festivals every few years in rotation with the middle school honor band festivals, should their audition tapes be accepted.

High School Drama (one or two semesters)

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- This course is offered depending on teacher availability and student interest.

Students will develop an understanding of and an appreciation for Theatre Arts as a performance art form. We will use IB standards and benchmarks including performance skills, world theatre studies, practical play analysis and theatre production. Being assessed through projects, performances, and readings, students will learn about different aspects of theater production, including acting, scriptwriting, directing, set design and stage production. Students will develop teamwork and collaboration skills, creativity and critical thinking. Students will be expected to take part in ensembles, in-class readings, improvisations and scenes, and will attend out-of-class performances whenever possible.

High School Creative Expression

- Semester course

This elective explores issues of identity, communication, culture and community, and helps students develop their oral, written, visual and digital communication skills. It broadens their range of expression, and allows them to deepen their understanding and knowledge of special interest areas, as well as integrating topics they are studying in other courses.

IB Music SL / HL

Juniors or seniors who have an interest in music and know how to play a musical instrument may be eligible to meet requirements of the IB Music SL curriculum. If you think you are interested in registering for IB Music, please speak with the HS Band/ Choir director and our IB Coordinator.

High School Jazz Band (Activity)

- No credit is offered for this activity, but students can earn CAS hours.
- Prerequisite: enrolled in High School Concert Band. Audition required.

This is a small, dedicated group of grade 6-12 students that meet outside regular class hours once a week, usually on a Wednesday. Students participating in the Jazz Band will have the opportunity to develop their jazz theory, improvisation and playing skills through jazz standards, exercises and other selected pieces from known jazz literature.

• physical education

& health

Physical Education & Health – 9 and 10 (One Year Each)

- Grade Levels: Required in grades 9 and 10

PE & Health is offered to prepare students for a life of activity, social interaction and physical well-being. The improvement of students' coordination, endurance, strength and ability will be encouraged through participation in various physical activities: track and field, volleyball, soccer, basketball, badminton, tennis, table tennis, softball, hockey, gymnastics and physical fitness training. Finally, students will demonstrate cooperation, sportsmanship, teamwork, and sensitivity to individual differences in abilities.

Beginning in August, 2010, our Health curriculum will be folded into our PE courses, to provide more elective course selection for grades nine and ten. Students will have four short health units per year in both grades nine and ten. The health curriculum is designed so that the students will be able to gain a better insight into the nature and function of their bodies, their environment, and the intricate relationship between the two. Through self-assessment, peer coaching, research and real life connections, students will be able to gain a better idea of how their health affects their lives. The topics discussed will include: healthy life components, stress, fitness, weight control, nutrition, sleep, drugs, sexuality, first aid, diseases including HIV/AIDS, and more.

Advanced PE (one or two semesters)

- Grade Levels: 11–12

This is an elective PE course for Grade 11 and 12 students who want to stay physically active, be introduced to new physical activities, and learn more about sports they are already familiar with.

Personal and College Planning

- Grade Levels: 11 or 12
- Semester Course (paired with TOK for Juniors)
- Pass/Fail Grade for 0.5 elective credits

This course is designed to help Grade 11 and 12 students make a successful transition to college. Students will focus on preparing for the SAT tests as well as engaging in all aspects of the college search and application process.

High School Learning Support

- Grade Level: 9–12
- Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and assessment

This course provides support in a small group setting for students struggling with study skills or academic classes, or for students diagnosed with a specific learning difference. Students receive specific assistance to support their learning needs.

Independent Studies

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Prerequisite: Counselor and Principal approval

Students may need to enroll in independent study in a subject area due the unusual circumstances related to their special needs, unavoidable conflict in scheduling a course required for graduation, or other circumstances. Special consideration may be given to students in such cases. Consultation between the counselor, teacher, the student, parents and administration will need to occur prior to making arrangements for a course in independent studies. All independent study courses will be supervised either in a supervised study room or another appropriate location. Independent Study will be graded on a Pass (“P” for credit) or Fail (“F” for no credit) basis unless a specific grading contract has been developed and approved.

Teacher’s Aide

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Prerequisite: Teacher and Counselor approval

Students in grades 9–12 may receive one (1) elective credit in their high school program for satisfactory work performed as a teacher aide. Students interested in assisting a teacher should have a strong interest in service accompanied by personal qualities of dependability, punctuality, hard work, and confidentiality. Teacher aides can work in elementary, middle or high school classrooms. Teacher aides will be graded on a Pass (“P” for credit) or Fail (“F” for no credit) basis unless a specific grading contract has been developed and approved.

ICS math course flowchart •

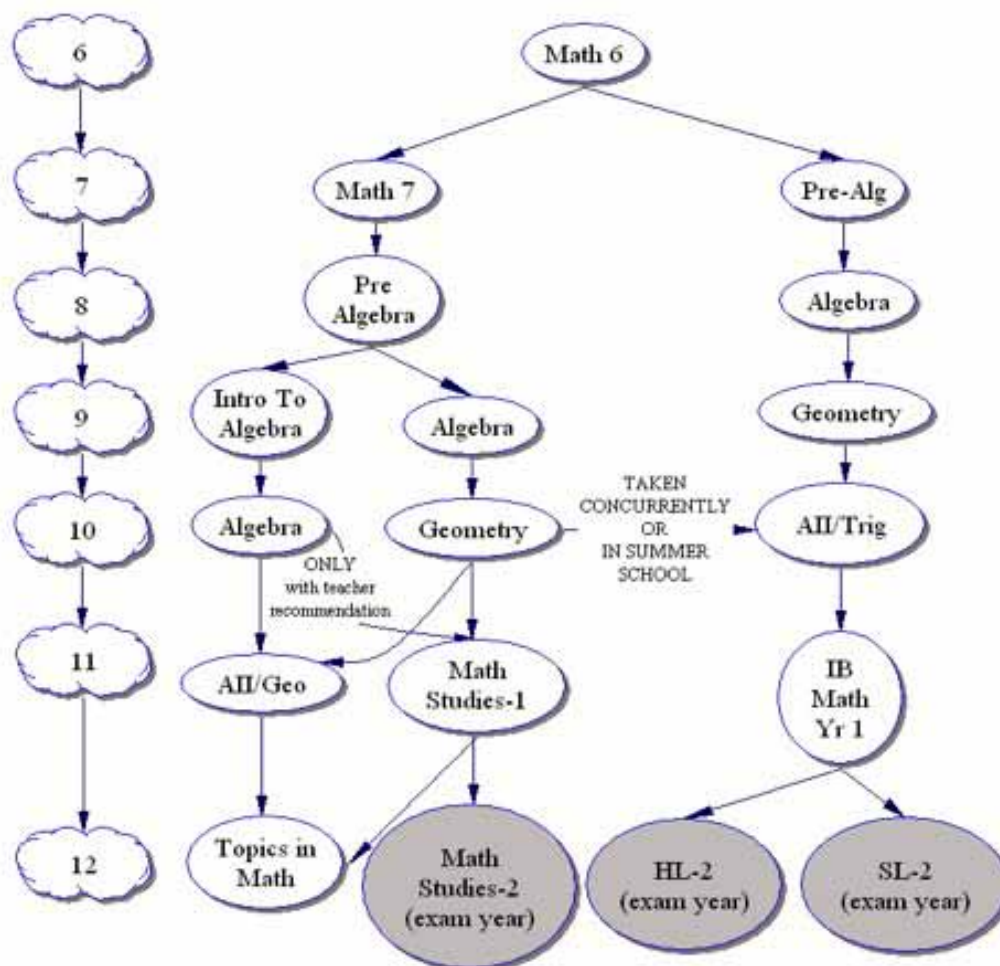
Philosophy

The age of information and technology has rapidly expanded the field of mathematics. In order to develop confident, effective students of mathematics, the mathematics teachers at ICS Addis endorse four primary beliefs.

- Students are capable of learning mathematics and gaining confidence in their understanding.
- Students can appreciate and value the connections of mathematics in their daily lives.
- Students are able to communicate mathematical ideas.
- Students can become effective, versatile problem solvers with the ability to reason logically.

ICS Mathematics Course Flowchart

ICS has planned a sequence that allows students to take four years of mathematics at an appropriate level. The flowchart below illustrates the recommended mathematical paths for students. The boxes that are shaded represent courses that offer IB certificates of completion. Students wishing to sit an exam in Math Studies MUST complete Algebra by the *beginning* of their Grade 10 year, or make arrangements for additional summer study before beginning Grade 11. Students wishing to sit an exam in Higher or Standard Level Math MUST complete Algebra 2 /Trig by the beginning of their Grade 11 year.



• 4 year course planner

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	English 1	English 2	IB English Y1 English 3	IB English SL/HL English 4
Social Studies	Modern History Model UN Geography Global Initiatives	US / Afr. History Intro to Business Model UN Geography Global Initiatives	IB History SL IB Business SL IB Geography Y1 Intro to Business TOK Model UN	IB Afr. History HL IB Business SL IB Geo SL/HL TOK Model UN
Science	Biology Env. Science Physics	Chemistry Physics Env. Science	IB Biology Y1 IB Chemistry Y1 IB Physics Y1 Env. Science Physics	IB Biology SL/HL IB Chem SL/HL IB Physics SL Env. Science Physics
Mathematics	Algebra I Geometry	Geometry Alg II / Trig	Alg II / Geo IB Math Studies IB Mathematics	Topics in Math IB Math Studies SL IB Mathematics SL IB Mathematics HL
World Languages	French 1 or 2 Spanish 1 or 2 Amharic (Fluent)	French 2, 3 or 4 Spanish 2 or 3 Amharic (Fluent)	French 4 or 5 IB French <i>ab initio</i> IB Span <i>ab initio</i> IB Amharic IB Languages	French 4 IB French B SL IB French <i>ab initio</i> IB Span <i>ab initio</i> IB Amharic IB Languages
Arts	Art/Music/Drama	Art/Music/Drama	Art/Music/Drama IB Visual Arts IB Music	Art/Music/Drama IB Art SL/HL IB Music SL/HL
PE / Health	Phys. Education Health (semester)	Phys. Education Health (semester)	Advanced PE	Advanced PE
Computers	Computer Apps. Adv. Applications Yearbook / DTP	Computer Apps. Adv. Applications Yearbook / DTP	Computer Apps. Adv. Applications Yearbook / DTP	Computer Apps. Adv. Applications Yearbook / DTP
Electives				

credits required for graduation

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Credits Required</u>
• English Language Arts	4
• Mathematics	3
• History & Social Studies	3
• Natural & Physical Sciences	3
• Foreign Language	2
• Physical Education & Health	2
• Computer Applications	0.5
• Fine or Performing Arts	1
• Elective Courses	7.5

26 total



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