



Albert Einstein High School International Baccalaureate Courses

Congratulations on taking an IB class!

The top indicator of success in college is a student's participation in challenging and rigorous high school courses, like IB! You are making a smart investment in your future; ensuring that you will be prepared for wherever life takes you. Offering 16 different courses at Albert Einstein High School, the International Baccalaureate program is enabling you to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both — while still in high school.

Taking a college-level course at Albert Einstein High School means that you can see and feel what college work is actually like, while receiving the support to help you get there. IB students can really test and push themselves in a familiar setting while gaining confidence, developing good study habits, and enjoying a great learning experience. Extensive research also shows that students in IB courses are more engaged in their coursework, and are more likely to be accepted and prepared for college compared to other college preparatory programs!

TOP 5 Things You Should Know about IB Exams

- 1. Students who take the IB exam are more engaged in the course through the year.** You chose to challenge yourself in an IB course and have been working hard all year to be successful. We find that taking the IB exam is a culmination of this hard work and serves as a goal for you. As a result, students who register for the exam often are often more engaged and successful in the course. Additionally, your final IB exam scores do not impact your MCPS grade. Students are sometimes apprehensive to take the IB exam as they believe it will impact their grade in the course. IB scores are entirely separate from a student's MCPS grade and do not impact the your course credit for graduation.
- 2. IB courses can help you earn college credit for a fraction of the cost.** IB exams are scored on a scale of 1-7. Most schools offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for IB Exam scores. The usual required score is a 4, but schools may require a higher score depending on the course, the course level (SL or HL), whether the student earned the IB Diploma and the student's major. With an average college course costing over \$1,500, IB exams can be an affordable option. Each school has their own IB credit transfer policy, which can be found on their website. The college credit policies of most Maryland schools is posted on the AEHS website under the IB page. You can also see Mrs. Becraft in the AP & IB Office, Room 172, for help. Additionally, Albert Einstein High School is committed to ensuring access to IB exams for all students. If the IB exam cost is a prohibiting you from registering, please see the IB Exam registration packet for more information about requesting a fee waiver, a payment plan, or school assistance.
- 3. IB students complete components of their IB exams during the school year.** IB believes in authentic assessment of students in multiple ways that highlight a wide variety of skills. In addition to traditional exams in May, you will also complete assessment tasks in class. These tasks often measure skills not assessed in May, such as writing a lab report or completing an oral exam, and are a percentage of your final IB score. This means that you have already completed some of your exam before sitting in May... phew!
- 4. IB exams in May occur over two days.** IB Exams are made up of components called papers. Each paper usually takes between 45 minutes to 2 hours and each IB course has either 2 or 3 papers. These papers are spread across two days, which allows you a mental break between the components.
- 5. Albert Einstein High School offers FREE full-length practice exams.** In case you are nervous, Albert Einstein High School offers multiple practice IB exam sessions. At these sessions, students take a full-length practice IB exams. This is a unique opportunity for authentic exam practice, as well as a chance to review their results with their teacher. Specific details and dates will be released in March!



Albert Einstein High School

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

What is International Baccalaureate?

College-level rigor with High School level supports

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program provides motivated students an opportunity to pursue college-level courses based on a global perspective. Through comprehensive curricula coupled with challenging, authentic assessments, the IB Program is committed to ensure that all students master the skills and knowledge that empower them to become critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed citizens. Albert Einstein’s IB Program is an open-access, interest-based IB program- there is no entrance exam. We offer both the IB Diploma Program, as well as the IB Academy.

IB Academy: An AEHS, school-based program recognizing a student’s successful completion of three IB courses & exams.

IB Diploma Program (DP): A comprehensive, internationally-recognized program of study for 11th & 12th grade students. Students choose 1 course from each of the 6 disciplines, as well as completing the DP “core”, comprised of creativity, activity, service experiences (CAS), the extended essay (EE), and theory of knowledge course (TOK). The IB Diploma is seen by colleges as the “gold standard” due to its rigorous and diverse coursework, as well as its focus on creating well-rounded students through the DP core.



Group 1: Language & Literature

- ◆ IB English Literature HL
- ◆ IB Spanish A Language & Literature SL

Group 2: Language Acquisition

- ◆ IB French ab initio, SL & HL
- ◆ IB Japanese ab initio & SL
- ◆ IB Spanish ab initio, SL & HL

Group 3: Individuals & Societies (cont.)

- ◆ IB Global Politics SL
- ◆ IB Geography SL

Group 4: Science

- ◆ IB Biology SL & HL
- ◆ IB Chemistry SL
- ◆ IB Environmental Systems & Societies SL
- ◆ IB Physics SL & HL

Group 5: Mathematics

- ◆ IB Math Studies SL
- ◆ IB Math Analysis SL

Group 6: Arts

- ◆ IB Theatre SL & HL
- ◆ IB Visual Arts SL & HL

Differences between the IB Diploma Program & AP courses:

| International Baccalaureate Program | Advance Placement Courses |
|--|--|
| Framework: | |
| Comprehensive program of study with the ability to choose individual courses within the 6 groups and Creativity, Action and Service, Extended Essay and TOK requirements | Individual coursework “a-la-carte”; no unifying core requirements |
| Courses are 1-year (Standard-level courses) or 2-year (Higher-level) starting in 11 th grade | Only 1-year courses that can be taken 9 th through 12 th grade |
| Assessments: | |
| IB scores (1-7) are a result of both internally-graded assessments (oral exams, laboratories, essays...) completed throughout the school year and externally-graded exams in May | AP scores (1-5) are a result of only externally –graded exams in May |
| External exams are primarily “authentic” and require critical thinking through short-response, case studies... | Exams are a mixture of multiple choice and short answer |
| Externally– graded exams occur over multiple days lasting between 45m– 2h15m | Externally– graded exams occur on a single day lasting between 2h-3h15m |