

# IB Course Offerings at Oscar F. Smith

The Grade 11-12 Diploma Program at Oscar F. Smith High School consists of the following two-year courses in each of the IBO subject groups. The student must take at least one course from each of the six diploma groups and each course has required summer assignments.

## *Group 1: Language A1*

IB English HL: a language and literature course in the student's native or best language. It focuses on in-depth study of American, British, and world literature in all four genres: fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Critical and reflective reading and written analysis of literature are emphasized. In addition, 30 percent of the final mark is derived from oral work-presentations, group discussions, and formal oral testing.

## *Group 2: Language B*

IB French SL/IB Spanish SL: a foreign language course for students with at least three years' previous experience in learning the target language. The courses emphasize both written and spoken communication with fluency as a goal. They also foster an awareness and appreciation for the culture(s) of the countries in which the target language is spoken.

IB French HL/IB Spanish HL: an extension of French or Spanish language that includes a greater emphasis on fluency in the target language and a deeper understanding of the culture(s) of the countries in which the target language is spoken.

### *Group 3: Individuals and Societies*

IB World History, Americas HL: an in-depth study of twentieth century world history with emphasis on the history of the Americas from 1840 to 1995. The course fosters a lasting interest in history and assists the student in developing the ability to use and communicate historical knowledge and understandings.

### *Group 4: Experimental Sciences*

IB Biology SL: a course designed to focus on understanding important relationships, processes, mechanisms, extensions and applications of biology and the environmental and social concerns in biology on a global level.

IB Biology HL: a course designed to give students a secure knowledge of selected topics and at the same time a broad understanding of the field of biology.

IB Chemistry SL: a course designed to meet the needs of students who will continue the study of science at the university.

IB Chemistry HL: An extension of IB Chemistry HL that requires additional laboratory hours and more in-depth study of several Chemistry Higher Level options.

IB Physics SL:

IB Physics HL:

All IB Science courses develop the student's experimental and investigative scientific skills through extensive laboratory and field work. An interdisciplinary group project requires students to see the relationships among the various scientific fields of study and their applications in the real world.

### *Group 5: Mathematics*

IB Mathematical Studies SL: a realistic mathematics course designed for IB students with varied backgrounds and abilities and whose future careers will not include a focus on mathematics. The course develops the skills needed to cope with the mathematical demands of a technological society.

IB Mathematics SL: a rigorous course designed to provide a foundation for students who will continue to study mathematics in college requiring a background of mathematical thought and a reasonable level of technical ability

IB Mathematics HL: a rigorous course designed for those students who will focus on mathematics or engineering in college. It meets the needs of students who have a genuine interest in mathematics and who enjoy meeting its challenges and problems.

An integral part of each of the math courses is an individual project that accounts for 20 percent of the final mark.

### *Group 6: Arts and Electives*

IB Psychology SL: a course that gives students a broad understanding of psychology and its different theoretical approaches. The student is guided through the study of human behavior by examining key topics from different psychological perspectives and is introduced to diverse methods of psychological inquiry.

IB Psychology HL: an extension of IB Psychology SL, which introduces students to the psychology of dysfunctional behavior and psychodynamic psychology. In IB Psychology HL, students undertake an experimental study requiring them to research, design, implement, and analyze the resulting data.

IB Visual Arts SL: a course that promotes, through the study of the art of various cultures, the student's aesthetic, imaginative, and creative faculties. It encourages a lively, inquiring and informed attitude towards art and design in all of its forms

and requires the student to research and develop personal responses to artistic expression.

IB Visual Arts HL: an extension of IB Visual Arts SL, this course by provides additional depth in the student's study of artistic expression and fosters the acquisition of sufficient technical skill for the student to produce some artistic works of quality.

*Note: A second IB science may be taken as an IB elective to fulfill the Group 6 requirement.*