

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why should I do IB?**

The goal of IB is to educate the whole person. Students are encouraged to appreciate cultures and attitudes other than their own and to articulate their views while being open to those different from their own. IB students are encouraged not only to focus on what they learn, but on how they learn it. It is also viewed by colleges and universities as the best preparation for post-secondary education.

## **Do IB students at Pedro Menendez have a life?**

Absolutely! IB students do take a demanding, rigorous course of study, but they are involved in all aspects of life here at Pedro Menendez, from clubs and service organizations to varsity sports. In fact, CAS requires that IB students be involved in both their school and community.

## **What courses will I take as a rising ninth grader if I am accepted into the IB Diploma Program at Pedro Menendez?**

- *Pre-IB English I Honors*
- *Pre-IB Biology Honors*
- *Pre-IB Geometry Honors or Pre-IB Algebra II Honors*
- *Pre-IB Spanish I*
- *Pre-IB Inquiry Skills*
- *AP Human Geography*
- *Elective of your choice*

## **Do IB students have room to take electives?**

Yes. At Pedro Menendez, we are a 7-period day which gives students room in their schedules for elective choices.

## **How do colleges and universities recognize the IB Diploma?**

All colleges and universities maintain their own policy regarding IB Diploma recognition. These policies can be found at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

By Florida statute, the public universities in the state, recognize the IB credential and may award up to 30 credit hours for the IB diploma.

## **How important is the IB Program to colleges when deciding whether or not to accept a student?**

Colleges and universities want to see good grades and a well rounded student. Participating in IB demonstrates that you have challenged yourself in a rigorous academic program that combines emphasis on research, analysis, international-mindedness and service.

## **How many IB exams are there and when do students take them?**

There are six IB exams that students must take for the IB Diploma: one in English, one

in Spanish, one in History, one in an experimental science (either Biology or Physics), one in math (Statistics or Calculus) and one in an IB 6<sup>th</sup> area. Currently, Pedro's 6<sup>th</sup> area is Psychology. Students here typically take the IB Psychology exam in May of their junior year and the remaining five exams in May of their senior year. In some cases, a student may take two exams in May of their junior year and four in May of their senior year.

**Can I take an IB exam without having taken the course?**

No. Part of the student's final IB score comes from work done in the classroom. (Internal Assessments)

**Do I have to take AP exams in addition to IB exams?**

No. You will take AP exams in those courses entitled AP. Only IB exams are required for the IB Diploma. AP exams are optional.

**What is the Extended Essay?**

The Extended Essay is a 4,000 word piece of original research conducted by each IB diploma candidate. It is completed between second semester of junior year and first semester of senior year. The student researches and writes on a topic of his/her choosing, and has an Extended Essay mentor to help with the essay. The mentor can be selected by the student, but must be a member of the Menendez faculty.

**What is "Theory of Knowledge"?**

TOK (Theory of Knowledge) is a course that explores the connections between IB subject areas. Focus is placed on the existential, philosophical, psychological and metaphysical. It is taken in conjunction with a Research class during junior year and senior year. The IB grade in TOK is based on two assignments: (1) a paper, the topic of which is selected from a prescribed list of topics and (2) a 10-minute oral presentation, performed individually or in a group.

**What is "CAS"?**

CAS stands for creativity-action-service. In order to successfully complete the IB Diploma Program, each student must have documented 150 hours of after school activities that are evenly split among creative, action and service oriented endeavors. CAS hours can be accumulated between the summer following sophomore year and spring of senior year.

**Will my participation in IB hurt my GPA?**

All Pre-IB and IB courses are weighted courses. Many colleges re-calculate GPAs, so you will be demonstrating to colleges that you are taking the most rigorous program available to you and that you have chosen to challenge yourself academically.

**What is the most important attribute I should have in the IB Program in order to be successful?**

Good time management skills and a good attitude.