

## **Frequently Asked Questions about AP and IB**

### **What is the difference between Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program?**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program are both designed to provide a quality educational experience to students, as well as to provide opportunities beyond what the high school curriculum traditionally offers. The AP program is structured around a curriculum representing introductory college courses, and allows students to enroll in courses in which they exhibit both ability and interest. The IB program combines advanced content knowledge with a focus on the development of critical thinking. Earning an IB diploma requires a multiyear commitment across disciplines.

Research has documented that gifted students tend to find the teachers and the curriculum of both AP and IB courses challenging and far superior to other courses in their high schools. Certainly these options offer sufficient challenge to meet the academic needs of many gifted students, but not all. Students also report great satisfaction in being in classes with equally motivated and advanced peers.

Whether to take all or some AP courses, be an IB diploma student, be an IB certificate student, or take a mixture of AP and IB courses needs to be a matter of student preference, interest, and learning style

### **Will the restructuring of the district's IB program reduce the number of students completing the program?**

On the contrary, we believe that the restructuring of the IB program will allow students from all of the District's eight comprehensive high schools to enroll into the IB program once they meet all of the entrance requirements.

### **Are the IB entrance requirements different for each site?**

The IB entrance requirements are standardized throughout the District's comprehensive sites:

- Student must complete all Grade 9 and Grade 10 classes as outlined in the Recommended Four year Course of Study
- Student performance on Grade 10 (Grade 9 if Grade 10 is not available) CST total math and total language must be at 65<sup>th</sup> Percentile or better (Advanced/Proficient)
- Student must have earned "C" or better grades in all Grade 9 and Grade 10 classes
- Student must be carrying a cumulative, weighted GPA , exclusive of non-academic courses, of 3.2 or better
- Student must have no extensive discipline record , defined as multiple violations of 48900 Education Code, resulting in more than 5 days of suspension
- Student must have no documented instances of infractions of academic dishonesty.
- Student must make a formal commitment to completing all qualifying requirements for the IB Diploma. Formal commitment requires parent and student to sign a Declaration of Intent committing the student to follow a two-year course of study culminating in:

- Completion of IB HL and SL classes
- Completion of testing in six curricular areas
- Completion of the CAS component
- Completion of the required Extended Essay of 4000 words

**Why was QHHS chosen as the site to house the IB program?**

The Antelope Valley Union High School District’s IB program has historically been housed on two campuses – Highland High School and Quartz Hill High School. The historical data showed that more IB candidates and IB diploma recipients were enrolled at Quartz Hill High School. This was the basis for restructuring the District’s IB Program to one site.

**Will my student currently attending IB program at Highland High School be able to continue?**

All students currently participating in the IB program at Highland High School (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade participating in the Honors program, as well as 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 grade IB candidates) will be able to complete the program at Highland High School.

**Will my incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade student be able to enroll in the IB program at Quartz Hill High School?**

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, in any of the District’s comprehensive high schools, will be able to enroll in their home school’s honors programs. When these students reach their junior year, they will be able to enroll in their site’s Advanced Placement/College Prep programs or apply for Program Open Enrollment into the District’s IB program at Quartz Hill High School.

**Will my student be guaranteed a spot in the AVUHSD IB program –at QHHS?**

11<sup>th</sup> grade students from any of the District’s comprehensive high schools will be able to apply for Program Open Enrollment into the District’s IB program at Quartz Hill High School beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Any student that meets the IB entrance and course of study requirements, and completes the Program Open Enrollment application, will be allowed to enroll in the IB program at Quartz Hill High School.

**If a student transfers to the district’s IB program at QHHS, will he/she be able to participate in Varsity level sports?**

Students who have participated in Varsity athletics and transfer to Quartz Hill High School under the IB program will be eligible for Varsity athletic competition, but will first have to follow the CIF “sit out period” rule, before being eligible to participate in a Varsity competition. Each school year the CIF Southern Section Athletics Office gives specific dates to when a student may become contest eligible for Varsity athletic competition.

