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# ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

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## IB Newsletter - Alexander Mackenzie High School

October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is our first monthly newsletter about our IB program and we are excited to share news with you about our program and other related information.

First of all, let us introduce ourselves. We are both experienced educators with diverse experience in various fields. We are glad to be the coordinators this year and part of our main jobs is building connections with parents and students in our program. Here are some brief introductions about ourselves.

Both Catherine and Benjamin are experienced teachers with passion in many different areas. As educators, we believe that building a strong communication with parents is an essential part of promoting student success in our program. We are supporting students in both Pre-IB (Gr. 9 and 10) and IB Diploma programs (Gr. 11 and 12). Students and parents can contact any one of us and we will do our best to address any concerns, questions or suggestions.

### **Here is a question that comes up frequently: What is International Baccalaureate (IB) program?**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is like a global (international) schooling system that's aimed at developing well-rounded students who can think critically, understand different cultures, and contribute to the world in a positive way. The IB Program doesn't just give students knowledge, but also tools like critical thinking, research skills, and a global perspective to use that knowledge effectively.

### **Gr. 9 and 10: Pre-IB program**

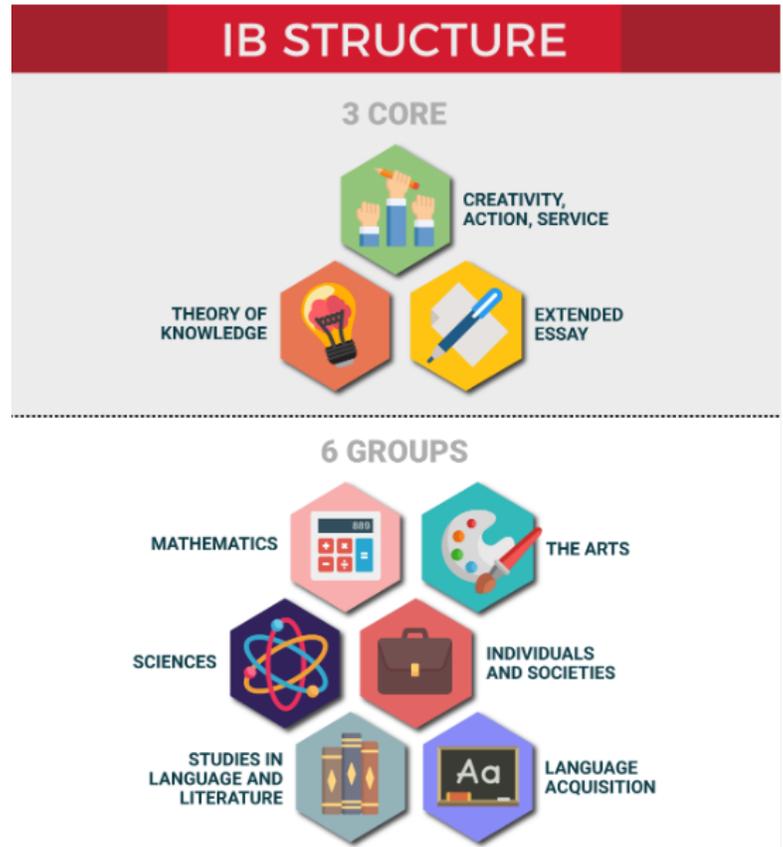
Students take most of the classes with other Gr. 9 and 10 Pre-IB students.

Each student will have 4 courses in each semester.

Courses are based on the Ontario curriculum with additional mark alignments with the IB assessment standards and practices. The pre-IB program infuses elements of the IB Learner Profile while preparing students for success in curriculum subjects and core diploma elements such as Creativity Activity Service, Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge in the grade 11 and 12 years.

## Gr. 11 and 12: Diploma Program (DP)

Grade 11 is when the Core IB Diploma Program (DP) starts. Over the course of the two-year IB Diploma Programme, students study six subjects chosen from the six subject groups (3 in Higher Level, 3 in Standard Level), complete an Extended Essay, follow a theory of knowledge (TOK) course, and participate in creativity, activity, service (CAS).



For more information, please visit [HERE](#).

## **Save the Date: IB Information Night October 12, 2023**

Alexander Mackenzie High School will be hosting an information night for grade 8 students and families interested in applying for the IB Programme starting in September 2024 on Thursday, October 12 at 7 p.m. We kindly ask that families share the date with anyone who might be interested in joining the IB Programme. Further information can be found on our [AMHS IB website](#).

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. We believe building strong communications with parents is essential in supporting our IB students throughout the years.

**Thank you for your attention and continued support**

**Catherine Clarke** ([catherine.clarke@yrdsb.ca](mailto:catherine.clarke@yrdsb.ca))

**Benjamin Law** ([benjamin.law@yrdsb.ca](mailto:benjamin.law@yrdsb.ca))

**IB Coordinators, Alexander Mackenzie High School, York Region District School Board**