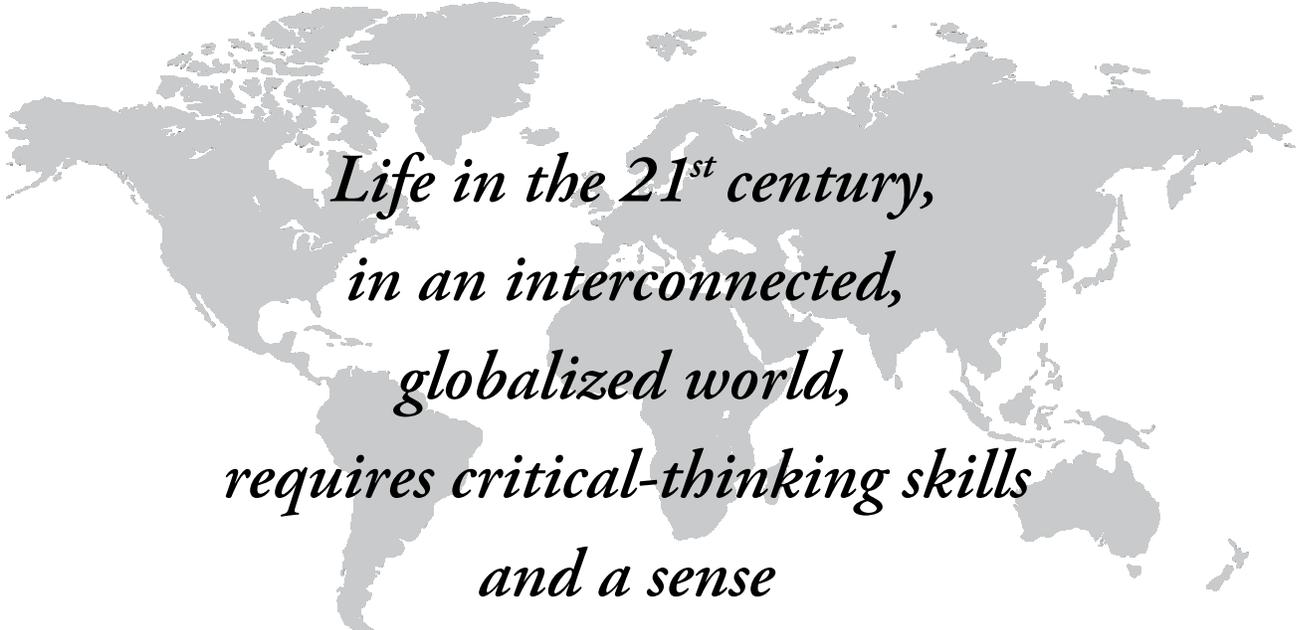




Mira Loma High School

International Baccalaureate Program

An Information Guide for Students & Parents

A faint, light gray world map serves as a background for the central text.

*Life in the 21st century,
in an interconnected,
globalized world,
requires critical-thinking skills
and a sense
of international-mindedness.*

Published by the
MLHS International Baccalaureate Parents Organization
Mira Loma High School
www.miralomahigh.org

About This Booklet

Significant effort and careful planning are required to achieve an MYP Certificate, one or more IB Certificates, an ML Associate Diploma, or an IB Diploma. Parents and students need to understand the requirements and options in order to successfully complete the program.

This guide, published by the IB Parents Organization, is intended to familiarize the reader with the Mira Loma IB program administration, options and requirements. We advise parents to sign up to receive IB broadcast e-mails, read the parent's newsletter, *Mat Matters*, regularly check the IB program coordinator's blogs, and attend IBPO meetings (see Additional Resources). Further clarification may be obtained from the IB Middle Years and Diploma coordinators. For individual student scheduling matters the IB Counselor should be contacted.

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Glossary

AP Advanced Placement. College level courses in various subjects for high school students run by the non-profit organization, College Board. Mira Loma currently offers AP Calculus.

ARC American River College. Part of the Los Rios Community College District.

CAHSEE California High School Exit Exam. Passing grade on this exam required by the State of California for graduation.

CAS Creativity, Action and Service. Part of the Diploma Program curriculum. Diploma students must spend a specified amount of time engaged in creative pursuits, physical activity and community service outside of the school day. The time commitment is dependent on the pathway a student chooses.

CAT/6 California Achievement Test, Version 6. Part of the STAR program of tests administered every Spring. (see entry for STAR). Mandatory standardized test, reflecting national standards, covering reading, English/language arts, math and sciences in grades 9-11.

CML California Math League. State chapter of national organization which specializes in math contests, books, and computer software designed to stimulate interest and confidence in mathematics for students from the 4th grade through high school. MLHS is a registered participant. Ask your student's math teacher for more details.

CST California Standards Test. Part of the STAR program of tests administered every spring. (See also entry for STAR). Mandatory state standardized test Grades 9–11 cover English/language arts, mathematics, and science. History-social science tests are added for grades 8, 10 and 11(as well as science for grade 5).

DP Diploma Program. IB curriculum for grades 11-12. Mira Loma juniors and seniors taking IB classes are, properly, Diploma Program students. Though we call the MLHS Middle Years students MYP students we do not use the same convention for the DP students. The phrase "IB student" or "IB Diploma student" is used commonly to describe the DP students. These students may be full IB Diploma candidates, Associate Diploma candidates or Certificate candidates.

EE Extended Essay. Four thousand word essay on a topic chosen by a DP student and approved by an IB teacher. Required to earn an IB Diploma. MLHS offers topics for which we have EE advisors.

FL Further Level IB Math exam. Recorded by IB as a Standard Level exam (even though the course content is beyond Higher Level Mathematics). Thus, in some rare cases students may take two math exams in the senior year, the HL and Further Level exams but only on advice and consent of the math teacher.

Global Studies IB History 2. Full year course following IB History 1 (HOA). Global Studies, HOA and the HL IB History exam must be completed to waive the SJUSD's American Government and Economics requirement.

HL Higher Level (exam). A Higher Level Exam is offered after the completion of a two year course sequence. (See pages 20-22 for more details)

HOA History of the Americas. IB History 1, a full year course followed by IB History 2 (Global Studies). Global Studies, HOA and the HL IB History exam must be completed to waive the SJUSD's American Government and Economics requirement.

IB International Baccalaureate. Used to distinguish elements of the entire IB program from other programs offered at MLHS including the basic district curriculum.

IB Diploma Certification for students who complete the DP curriculum, submit an Extended Essay, complete TOK, complete 150 hours of CAS, and pass six IB exams (at least 3 Higher Level). Sometimes referred to as a "full Diploma". (See page 17 for more details)

IB Exams Diploma Program exams in Standard and Higher Level subjects, administered outside of class in May. Juniors may take SL exams; seniors may take SL and HL exams. IB students must pass a certain number of each type in order to achieve an IB Diploma or an MLHS Associate Diploma.

IBNA International Baccalaureate North America. Regional arm of IBO.

IBO International Baccalaureate Organization. Governing organization. Headquartered in Switzerland.

IBPO IB Parents Organization. MLHS parent volunteer group. (See page 34)

IB Student A student enrolled in any IB pathway (MYP Certificate, IB Certificate, MLHS Associate Diploma or IB Diploma) and students enrolled in MYP classes but not pursuing a certificate.

MLHS Mira Loma High School.

MLHS Associate Diploma. Certification for students who complete the DP curriculum and pass four IB Exams and perform 100 hours of CAS.

MYP Certificate. Certification for students who complete the MY curriculum and the Personal Project

MYP Middle Years Program. IB curriculum for 6-10th graders. Mira Loma offers the MYP for freshman and sophomores. (See pages 15-16)

Pathway. Diploma Program students choose one of three pathways of certification—IB Certificate, ML Associate Diploma, IB Diploma.

SL Standard Level. SL tests are offered at the end of the first year of an IB course (except for Environmental Systems, for which only a SL test is offered for this two year course. (See pages 20-22 for more details)

TOK Theory of Knowledge. A core requirement of the Diploma Program. TOK explores the nature of values and the essence of truth in various disciplines including how we know what we know.

SAT Scholastic Aptitude Test - Reasoning (reading, writing and math)

SAT Subject Tests Replaces the SAT II. Single-subject tests

SJUSD San Juan Unified School District

STAR Standard Testing and Reporting Program. Series of state-wide mandatory standardized tests including the CAT/6 and CST. At Mira Loma they are administered over a 2 week period in the spring.

VAPA Visual and Performing Arts.

Freshman	9th grader
Sophomore	10th grader
Junior	11th grader
Senior	12th grader

Resources

MLHS Middle Years Program Coordinator (grades 9–10)

Mr. Guy Roberts
Email: groberts@sanjuan.edu

MLHS Diploma Program Coordinator (grades 11–12)

Mr. David Mathews
Email: dmathe ws@sanjuan.edu
Phone: (916) 971-7476
<http://www.sanjuan.edu/webpages/dmathews> – List of important dates, downloadable forms and more information about the IB Program
<http://www.thereforeib.net> – Mr. Mathew’s blog site for information IB at Mira Loma

MLHS MYP Community Service and DP CAS Coordinator

Mr. Dave De Ruysscher
Email: dderuysscher@sanjuan.edu
Blog for latest information: <http://www.csandcasatml.blogspot.co>
Available for CAS and CS related issues Monday through Thursday after school and Wednesday at lunch as well in room A-109.

MLHS MYP Personal Project and Extended Essay Coordinator

Mr. Tim Sullivan
Email: tisullivan@sanjuan.edu
Website under construction at publication:
<http://www.sanjuan.edu/webpages/tisullivan/resources.cfm>

MLHS IB Parents Organization for parents of all IB students.

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 pm in room F-3 (round building next to the cafeteria). All parents of IB students are encouraged to attend meetings and participate in the organization.

<http://groups.google.com/group/MLHSIBPO> - IBPO email group
www.miralomahigh.org – website run by the parent organizations

MLHS IB Counselors

**MYP Sophomores/
DP Juniors, Seniors** (grades 10–12)
Joan Adams
jadams@sanjuan.edu
(916) 971-7468

MYP Freshmen
Scott Evans
sevans@sanjuan.edu
(916) 971-7488

International Baccalaureate Organization

www.ibo.org – website for the organization

Email: ibna@ibo.org – for the North America and the Caribbean regional office

Quick Start Guide

Important

1. The IB curriculum takes careful planning. There are requirements which must be fulfilled outside of normal class hours and courses must be taken in the proper sequence to be counted. Sit down with your student early to review this booklet. Prepare a list of any questions you may have for the counselors and program coordinators.
2. Do everything you can to minimize unnecessary stress. Your student will be happier, healthier and perform better at school and at home.

General Information

1. Mira Loma High School is a member of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), which oversees the curriculum. www.ibo.org.
2. IB has three levels, Primary, Middle Years and Diploma. Mira Loma offers two of the three levels of IB curriculum: a continuation of the Middle Years Program, grades 9 and 10, and the 2-year IB Diploma Program, grades 11 and 12.
3. The Middle Years and Diploma programs are distinct from each other. An MYP student is not required to enter the DP. Qualified sophomores may enter the DP without having undertaken MYP Certification and the MYP Personal project in particular.
4. Qualified Freshmen and Sophomores may pursue a Middle Years Certificate. (See pages 12 & 15) See the MYP coordinator to discuss your options.
5. Qualified Juniors and Seniors can pursue one of three pathways in the Diploma Program:
 - IB Diploma
 - MLHS Associate Diploma
 - IB Certificate.

Selection of a pathway is based on student's interests including time spent on pursuits outside of school. Our committed IB students, regardless of the pathway they complete, get accepted to the same quality colleges and universities even in the same majors. (See pages 11,14, & 17-20)

6. Advancement requires a B or better and/or a recommendation from a teacher.
7. Some colleges and universities award credits for certain levels of achievement on IB exams. Discuss this with the institution of your choice.
8. The requirements to earn an IB Diploma exceed the graduation requirements of the District with the following exception: At present computer literacy, Health and Drivers Education must be completed in addition to the IB courses. Since there is no room in the IB schedule to take these courses other arrangements must be made. (See page 26) [Note: There is a district level review committee presently examining these requirements. If a change is enacted the counselors will be able to inform your student and the IBPO will make an announcement.]

Understanding Assessments

1. Internal assessment is a process through which the IB program establishes and maintains the high academic standard for which it is known throughout the world. Assessments are monitored and reviewed offsite to ensure adherence to standards. Assessments

are assigned at every grade level.

2. Student work is assessed against set criteria not against the work of other students.
3. All assessment is local and internal. Teachers submit samples to the IBO for external review (quality control).
4. Every Middle Years class features assessment tasks, including examinations, projects, peer- and self-assessment, organized by the teachers according to specified assessment criteria that correspond to the objectives of each subject group.
5. Every Diploma class features two assessment components: examinations and internal assessment.
 - Internal Assessment takes place during the school year. It consists of a major assignment, sometimes a research paper, sometimes a presentation, sometimes an oral exam.
 - Examinations are held in May, and are very familiar to anyone who's attended college. They look and feel exactly like undergraduate finals. The purpose behind exams is to find out if students have mastered the necessary content and skills to maintain the academic standards of IB.

Understanding Your Student's IB Grades

Your IB student will be graded using 2 different scales. First, their work will receive the standard A through F grades used by the school system. Second, the IBO administers a grading system in which IB courses and exams are graded according to a point scale of 7-1 with seven being Excellent and one being Very Poor. (Generally a 3 is the minimum accepted score required to advance to the next level.) The Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge are graded on an IBO-set scale of A–E. Specified point totals must be reached to earn recognition at the various levels. (See pages 21-22 for details regarding point totals necessary to earn a Diploma.)

Costs

1. Though there are considerable costs to offering the IB program at Mira Loma HS there is no fee for enrolling in the IB program.
2. Students are expected to pay the fees for MYP Certification and IB Exams. Financial aid is available. See the program coordinator for more information. (To help keep down costs for the IB exams, parent volunteers are needed to proctor (chaperone) the month long series of IB exams.)
3. Typical costs:
 - MYP Certificate: \$100
 - IB Diploma: \$650 (combined cost of all IB Exams)
 - IB Certificates: \$125-\$400, depending on the number of exams.
4. There will be incidental material costs for required group projects throughout the student's term.

Understanding the Course Numbering

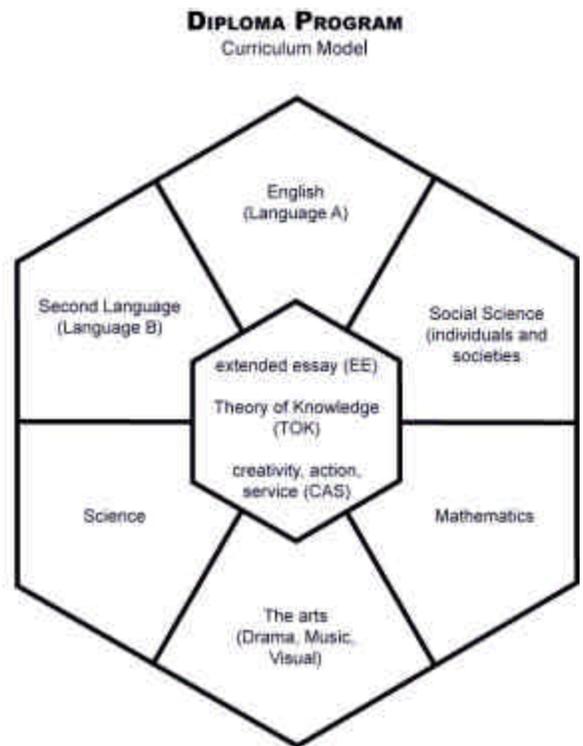
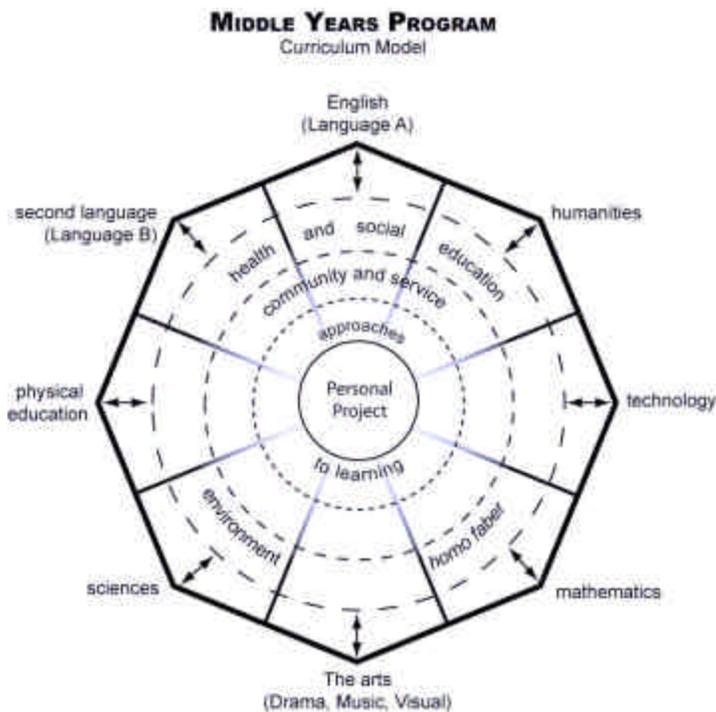
1. The Middle Years Program is a five-year program spanning two campuses (Churchill and Mira Loma) and the course numbering is based on that fact. Because the Middle Years Program begins in 6th grade, the 9th grade (freshman) courses are Year 4 and 10th grade

(sophomore) courses are Year 5.

2. The two-year IB Diploma Program labels 11th grade as Year 1 and 12th grade as Year 2.
3. A freshman student is enrolled in MYP Honors English 4, a sophomore is in MYP Honors English 5 but a junior would be in IB English 1. The numbers refer to the year in the IB Middle Years or Diploma Program not to the year in high school.

Understanding the Graphic Representations

Below are graphic representations of the Middle Years and Diploma Program curriculums. Graphics similar to these appear in IBO materials, around campus, and elsewhere. They are meant to show the components that make up the curriculum and to express the core concept that all the components are interconnected. In the Middle Years model the circles represent the Five Areas of Interaction (page xx). The course subjects make up the outer portion of both models. The center of each model contains the core requirements that are intended to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding.



Overview

International Baccalaureate Organization Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

What is IB

The International Baccalaureate Program is a comprehensive and challenging curriculum.

The IB program encourages students to:

- ask challenging questions
- learn how to learn
- develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture
- develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.

The IB program contains four elements: curriculum, student assessments, professional development and school evaluation.

Curriculum: Beyond teaching the necessary subjects IB emphasizes critical thinking, analysis and the interconnections between subjects. (See *The IB Learner Profile* page 11). Events being covered in History will also be explored through literature in English. The assigned reading in English comes from authors around the world, translated from many languages. Physical Education classes not only encourage fitness and healthy living but also engage the students in thinking about the mechanics of healthy activity by designing and teaching an activity. Language classes include investigation of culture, socioeconomics and geography. The CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) requirement encourages students to develop skills and gain experience outside of school that excite them and serve the greater community as a counterbalance to academic studies.

The curriculum goes through a continuous review cycle involving practicing teachers around the world.

Assessment: Students are assigned projects and given exams that will demonstrate their understanding of a subject. Randomly selected projects are sent to the IB office in Cardiff, England for review. Material from all Personal Projects, Extended Essays, and IB Tests are sent offsite for evaluation.

Professional Development: Teachers receive ongoing special training in order to teach the IB curriculum.

School Evaluation: Along with evaluations made by reviewing materials as noted under Assessments, and the school is visited every 5 years by representatives from IB.

The IB curriculum prepares students for college.

IB is recognized by colleges and universities worldwide as a comprehensive and rigorous academic curriculum and many institutions award course credits for performance on the Higher Level IB Exams.

The particulars of the IB curriculum—the format and types of research, reports and essays assigned, the classroom seminars, and the IB Exams—are similar in form to many universities and colleges. MLHS IB alumni report that while college course work is still challenging they seem to have an easier time adjusting to college work than their peers who have not participated in an IB program.

Student work is assessed against consistent, referenced criteria, not against the work of other students.

Whether an IB student goes on to college or university or not he/she has completed a program of education that emphasizes high academic standards, international mindedness and has developed learning skills that will last a lifetime.

The IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB program is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

- **Inquirers:** They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.
- **Knowledgeable:** They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.
- **Thinkers:** They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.
- **Communicators:** They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.
- **Principled:** They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.
- **Open-minded:** They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.
- **Caring:** They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.
- **Risk-takers:** They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and

strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

- **Balanced:** They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well being for themselves and others.
- **Reflective:** They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

Admission to MLSH IB Programs Grades 9-12

IB is one of several programs offered at Mira Loma and as such has a limited number of openings. Therefore students must qualify for admission to the IB program. Freshman and Sophomores are enrolled in the Middle Years Program; Juniors and Seniors are enrolled in the Diploma program.

The Middle Years and Diploma programs are distinct from each other. An MYP student is not required to enter the DP. Qualified sophomores may enter the DP without having completed the MYP certification process.

Mira Loma students who qualify based on their work in grades 9 and 10 may choose to pursue any of the IB Program options—Full Diploma, Mira Loma Associate Diploma, or IB certificates for exams successfully completed during grades 11 and 12.

Students are eligible to earn an MLHS Middle Years Certificate through successful completion of MYP coursework and assessment tasks, annual community service requirements and the Sophomore Personal Project.

IB and the State and District Graduation Requirements.

1. All of the IB courses apply towards District graduation requirements but do not fulfill the complete list of district requirements. All students must meet San Juan Unified School District graduation requirements to ensure graduation from Mira Loma High School. To receive a diploma from SJUSD, students must:
 - Pass all courses required for graduation, earning a minimum of 220 units. NOTE: Passing grades in IB History 1 (HOA) and IB History 2 (Global Studies) plus sitting for the IB History exam waives the SJUSD requirement for American Government and Economics.
 - Complete a one-year course in Visual and Performing Arts (drama, music, visual)
 - Complete two years of Physical Education
 - Pass the California State High School Exit Exam (CASHEE)
 - Currently students must also meet the following requirements:
 1. Complete one semester of Health/Driver's Education OR complete a private driver's training course AND complete Health Education
 2. Complete the Computer Competency course.
 - There is no room in the regular IB schedule to take these classes. There are options for completing these requirements and you should discuss these with the IB counselor. In addition, the District is reviewing these requirements and it is possible that they may change. Check the SJUSD's website for updates: <http://www.sanjuan.edu/>

IB and College Admission Requirements

The full-diploma IB curriculum plus our own district requirements meets or exceeds most public, private and highly selective college admission requirements. Requirements may vary for different majors and programs. It is recommended that you begin checking early on with the colleges that you are interested in for specific requirements.

Mira Loma IB Program Philosophy

Objectives

1. We want every Mira Loma IB student to take as many IB classes and tests as are appropriate given his or her background, work ethic and talent.
2. We want every student to be challenged, and no student to be overwhelmed.
3. We want IB to work for every student who chooses to challenge him or herself with IB classes and exams.
4. We want every student to find the right IB pathway for him or her

The WRONG Pathway

1. Creates an unmanageable workload for our students.
2. Can create problems with SJUSD graduation requirements.
3. Damages grade point average.
4. Can create students who are over-stressed, discouraged and, sometimes, depressed.
5. Can result in failure to obtain the diploma, to graduate from high school or both.

The RIGHT Pathway:

1. Provides academic challenges which are interesting and manageable.
2. Gives students a sense of their role in the global community.
3. Allows students to pursue the extra curricular interests which matter most to them.
4. Results in hard working, but generally happy and successful students.
5. Aids students in achieving other life goals

Certifications Available at Mira Loma High School

Middle Years

Certification Type	Certifying Body	Transfer from Churchill	Personal Project	CAS Hours
MLHS MYP	MLHS (grades 6–10)	Yes	Yes	20/yr
MLHS MYP	MLHS (grades 9–10)	No	Yes	20/yr

Diploma Years

Certification Type	Certifying Body	CAS Hours	Extended Essay	Theory of Knowledge	IB Exams
Full IB Diploma	IBO (grades 11–12)	150 total	Yes	Yes	6
MLHS Assoc. Diploma	MLHS (grades 11–12)	100 total	No	Yes	4
IB Certificate (per exam)	IBO (grades 11–12)	0	No	No	1 or more

Middle Years Program

The IB Middle Years Program (MYP) is a five-year program that spans from 6th–10th grade; although students may transfer into the program as late as 9th grade. The Churchill/Mira Loma Middle Years Program began in 1998 and is the fourth MYP to be certified in the state of California.

Philosophy

In addition to the overall International Baccalaureate philosophy, the goal of the Middle Years Program is to promote global citizenship and to insure a rigorous curriculum focused on critical thinking skills and personal reflection on the learning process.

Program Features

The IB Middle Years Program features:

- Integrated curriculum covering
 - English (Language A)
 - Second Language (Language B)
 - Math
 - Science
 - Humanities
 - The arts: Drama, Music, Visual Arts
 - Technology
 - Physical Education
- Five Areas of Interaction (ways to approach curriculum):
 - Environment
 - Health and Social Issues,
 - Learning Approaches,
 - Community Service
 - Homo Faber (Man as Maker)
- 10th grade Personal Project
- Community service

Eligibility

All IB students entering Mira Loma as freshmen or sophomores are considered Middle Years students and attend MY classes in preparation for the IB Diploma Program classes in the junior and senior years. Eligible student meet one of the following:

- students who began the MYP in 6th grade at Churchill Middle School and participated in it for all five years (three years at Churchill, two years at Mira Loma)
- incoming 9th grade students who did not have access to the Churchill IB Middle Years Program – including out-of-district students, in-district students who attended a different middle school (public or private)
- Churchill students who remained on the MYP waiting list who successfully completed the required coursework and assessments, performed the required community service hours and who successfully complete the Sophomore Personal Project will receive a Certificate.

Foreign Language Requirements

All MYP students have the option of Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Chinese or Russian beginning in their freshman year. Though MYP Certificate candidates are encouraged to continue with the foreign language they began in middle school it is not required. Be aware that while a MYP student may choose to take Russian and be assessed in this language, Mira Loma does not presently offer an IB diploma exam in Russian. All MYP Certificate candidates, whether participating in the five-year or two-year program, must be able to meet the highest-level assessment criteria in foreign language, which may be more difficult for those starting a new language in the 9th grade. It is strongly encouraged that the student takes 4 years of a foreign language to successfully complete the IB Foreign Language Exam.

Community Service

Community service is an important component of all IB programs, including the Middle Years Program. Each fall, students will receive an MYP Community Service Packet containing the requirements, procedures and forms necessary to complete the MYP Community Service requirement. MYP students must complete 20 hours of community service for a pre-approved project or organization before May 1 of each year. It is important that students keep time sheets (provided in the packet) that have supervisor signatures and descriptions of the work performed. The community service coordinator pre-approves, monitors, and signs off on student's Community Service Hours. (see Resources page 6)

Personal Project

Starting in the spring of the 9th grade, students define a topic of interest they, individually or as part of a small group, would like to explore in-depth and are assigned mentor teachers to assist them in refining, planning and producing a Personal Project to be presented in the spring of the 10th grade. The Personal Project must illustrate a student's in-depth knowledge in one of the *Areas of Interaction plus Approaches to Learning*. (see Program Features) Personal Projects can either be a research paper of approximately 2,000 to 2,500 words or a physical product (something they construct). Either format also requires a personal statement and a completed process journal—a journal kept during the course of the project which documents the process with images, schedule of work, details of failures and accomplishments, etc. Projects and papers are scored on a scale of 1 to 7. Students must earn a score of 3 to be eligible for the Middle Years Certificate. Students will be assessed on planning, development, research, application, analysis, creativity, organization, oral presentation and attitude.

Certificate Requirements

To receive the MYP Certificate, students must:

- Successfully complete all required IB Middle Years classes.
- Complete the required Community Service requirements every year they are in a Middle Years Program.
- Successfully complete and present a Personal Project in the spring of 10th grade
- Successfully complete the required assessments in each subject area.
- Register for the MYP Certificate. (See *Costs* page 8.)
- Pass all MYP courses with a C or better
-

Diploma Program

The IB Diploma Program (DP) is a 2-year program that spans grades 11 and 12.

Philosophy

The Diploma Program is designed as an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond.

Program Features

The IB Diploma Program emphasizes trans-disciplinary learning and requires students to study courses across six disciplines:

- Language A (English)
- Language B (second language)
- Social Science
- Mathematics
- Science
- The arts: Drama, Music Visual
- Plus Theory of Knowledge, CAS, Extended Essay

The IB Diploma curriculum is divided into:

Standard Level (SL) courses

1. Approximately 150 hours of classroom instruction
2. Generally one year of course work (IB Environmental Systems is a 2-year course)
3. Internal Assessment required
4. Usually two parts to the SL Exams

Higher Level (HL)

1. Approximately 200 hours of classroom instruction
2. Two years of coursework
3. Internal Assessment required
4. Usually three parts to the HL exams

Within the six subject areas, students may choose the areas in which they want to be tested at the Higher Level and at the Standard Level.

Eligibility

All IB students at Mira Loma who successfully complete the MY curriculum in the 9th and 10th grades are eligible for the Diploma Program classes in 11th and 12th grades.

Participation in the MY Certificate process is not a requirement for entering the IB Diploma Program as a junior, but participation familiarizes the student with the IB approach to learning.

Three Pathways

IB Certificate Students	Mira Loma Associate Diploma Students	IB Diploma Students
Most often these are students with one or two areas of academic passion	Associate Diploma students generally love school but have sports or music or something else they love just as much.	Diploma students are dedicated and highly organized young people whose primary focus in life is academics.

IB Certificates

To be awarded IB Certificates candidates must:

- Enroll in one or more IB classes
- Pass an HL or SL test

The IBO awards certificates to students for each Higher Level and Standard Level examination successfully completed even if the student is not a candidate for an IB Diploma. IB students who take classes but do not test will not receive certificates from IBO.

Mira Loma Associate Diploma

Some Mira Loma students choose not to meet all the requirements for the full IB Diploma but instead seek challenging coursework in selected areas. These students' academic achievements are acknowledged and are awarded an Associate Diploma by Mira Loma High School (rather than IBO). The coursework and exams are recognized by IBO). To receive the Associate Diploma, students must:

- Successfully complete the coursework for, and pass any four IB exams,
- Complete the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course,
- Complete 100 hours of Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) activities (33-1/3 hours in each category).

IB Diploma

Students who seek an IB Diploma must plan their four years at Mira Loma carefully to fulfill coursework requirements mandated by the State of California and the San Juan Unified School District, meet college entrance requirements *and* meet the requirements for an IB diploma. Ideally, Diploma candidates should complete non-IB requirements before the junior year. An IB Diploma candidate normally will take at least six courses or 60 units per year. Due to budget constraints, it is not possible for MLHS to offer more than six class periods per day. IB students, in consultation with their counselor, must determine how to fulfill the currently required second year of P.E, Health and Driver's Education classes and the Computer Competency class.

To receive the IB Diploma awarded by the IBO, students must:

- Pass examinations in at least 6 subjects: 3 Higher Level (maximum of 4) and 3 Standard Level (minimum of 2). Exams must be taken in all six subject areas: Language A

(English), Language B (second language), Individuals and Society (history), Mathematics, Science and an IB elective. During the junior year students may take no more than two Standard Level examinations.

- Write an Extended Essay of about 4,000 words in one of the six subjects areas,
- Complete the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, which explores the nature of values and the essence of truth in various disciplines, and
- Complete 150 hours of Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) activities (50 hours in each category).

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)

Often referred to as the community service requirement, the CAS component of the DP curriculum is intended to encourage each student to develop individual skills and interests, provide a well-rounded balance to the demands of academic scholarship and to challenge the student to become aware of their responsibility to contribute to their community in a meaningful way. Students are required to complete their CAS hours over two years (junior and senior year). The hours are to be evenly divided among three focus areas: Creativity, Action and Service. There is no CAS requirement for an IB Certificate

Creativity includes a wide range of artistic endeavors (art, dance, music, drama), including the creativity a student employs in designing and completing service projects.

Action involves physical activities such as sports and athletic training and also includes the physical activities required to implement creative or service projects such as building, planting or coaching.

Service is volunteer (not paid nor for school credit) community or social service, including environmental or international projects.

CAS packets are available from the CAS Coordinator. Review the packet carefully because failure to properly complete the CAS requirement including proper documentation and meeting reporting deadlines can prevent your student from being awarded an IB Diploma or MLHS Associate Diploma. CAS activities must be pre-approved and the student is responsible for keeping accurate record sheets and obtaining adult signatures for verification. Students are also required to complete a minimum of four written reflections on activities that span over 20 hours.

Extended Essay

All full IB Diploma candidates must complete a 4,000-word Extended Essay at the beginning of the second semester of their senior year. These papers are forwarded to IB examiners around the world for evaluation. The purpose of the Extended Essay is to provide candidates an opportunity to engage in an independent research project on an introductory level. Emphasis is placed on the research process, clear communication of ideas and presenting the information in a logical and coherent essay. It will take an IB student about 40 hours to prepare and write the Extended Essay. Mira Loma staff act as consulting advisers and many students find it helpful to work with other experts in their chosen research field as well. There are IB regulations defining acceptable subjects and topics for the Extended Essay, so the topic must be approved before the student begins any research. Candidates should choose their subject by the end of their junior year and begin their research during the summer between junior and senior year.

Theory of Knowledge

All full Diploma and Associate Diploma candidates must take the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course during their senior year. This interdisciplinary course on the philosophy of learning is often described as the essence of the IB curriculum. The course requires students to reflect on the origin, validity, and value of various kinds of knowledge and make comparisons between them. In other words, how do we know what we know? One major paper and one major presentation are required for the course, but only the papers by the full Diploma candidates are forwarded to IB examiners for assessment.

International Baccalaureate Testing

- IB Exams take place in the spring of 11th and 12th grades. The exams are scheduled, when possible, during the school day at La Sierra Community Center.
- IB candidates must register for exams and pay the testing fees in October prior to the spring testing. (See *Costs* page 8)
- The subject exams range from one to four hours long, depending on their format and content.
- The exams usually contain multiple-choice questions, short answer and essay sections and some exams are split into two or three parts (also referred to as papers) over several days.
- All IB exams are offered on the same days across the globe and there are no make-up exams.
- Students will not be allowed in after the test has begun, so good health and promptness are essential during exam time.
- The exams are proctored by volunteers. There are approximately 200 proctoring assignments to fill each year. A parent in charge of recruiting and coordinating proctors will begin contacting parents sometime in February or March.
- After each test, the exams are gathered and sent immediately to a predetermined location somewhere around the world where independent IB assessors will grade them.
- IB test scores range from 0 to 7, with 7 being the highest possible score (see Grading following this section. Mira Loma is proud of its excellent overall pass rate and high number of tests with scores of 6 and 7.
- Individual test results are usually available in July. Overall subject test results for Mira Loma can be accessed on the web at: <http://www.ibnet.ibo.org>, click on diploma/results/subject stats. You will need the IB student ID and password to get your scores.
- Thousands of colleges and universities around the world offer credits for qualifying scores on IB Exams Students should check with their chosen university's admissions office or registrar for details, or go to the IB website. Website: <http://www.ibo.org> click on Services/Universities

Grading

A student's examination performance in individual subjects is scored on a scale of 1–7 points with a further 3 points available based on a matrix of performance in the theory of knowledge (TOK) and the extended essay components. Students who display satisfactory levels of performance across all subject areas and achieve a minimum of 24 points (out of a possible 45) are awarded the IB diploma. All others receive a certificate of results for the subjects examined. Subjects are marked according to the following scale:

- 7 Excellent
- 6 Very good
- 5 Good
- 4 Satisfactory
- 3 Mediocre
- 2 Poor
- 1 Very poor
- N No grade (nothing submitted)

The TOK course and the extended essay are graded according to the following scale.

- A Excellent
- B Good
- C Satisfactory
- D Mediocre
- E Elementary
- N No grade

In addition the following conditions apply:

- a. Must receive at least 4 points in each Higher Level subject with the exception that a score of 3 points in one subject will be acceptable if compensated by a score of 5 or more points in another HL subject.
- b. Overall results in SL courses may not include any score of 1, nor more than one score of 2.
- c. Overall results must not include more than three scores of 3, nor more than one score of 3 if there is a score of 2 points in the SL subjects
- d. Must achieve an Elementary (E) grade or higher in either TOK or the EE.
- e. Must submit an Extended Essay
- f. Must complete TOK
- g. Must complete CAS
- h. Must not receive a 1 in any HL subject

Note: Students who have completed the requirements with only one failing condition, as set out above, but with a total score of 28 points, including any bonus points, will be awarded the diploma.

Example Diploma Scores

Complete Diploma requirements

Student A

Higher Level test scores	7, 7, 7	21 points
Standard Level tests scores	7, 7, 7	21 points
Points earned for TOK & EE	3	3 points
Maximum possible score		45 points

Student B

Higher Level test scores	6, 6, 5	17 points
Standard Level tests scores	4, 4, 5	13 points
Points earned for TOK & EE	1	1 point
Average Diploma candidate score		31 points

Student C

Higher Level test scores	5, 3, 4	12 points
Standard Level tests scores	4, 4, 4	12 points
Points earned for TOK & EE	0	0 point
A passing score (The 5 on HL compensates for the 3 on the HL)		24 points

Incomplete Diploma requirements

Student D

Higher Level test scores	5, 2, 6	13 points
Standard Level tests scores	3, 5, 6	14 points
Points earned for TOK & EE	0	0 points
		27 points

Fails to meet conditions a (HL scores), and d, and point total is under 28

Student E

Higher Level test scores	6, 5, 5	16 points
Standard Level tests scores	3, 2, 2	7 points
Points earned for TOK & EE	0	1 point
Fails to meet condition b (SL scores), and d		24 points

Student F

Higher Level test scores	7, 3, 6	16 points
Standard Level tests scores	3, 3, 3	9 points
Points earned for TOK & EE	1	1 point
Fails to meet condition c (too many scores of 3)		26 points

MLHS IB by Department

English

All students are required to take four years of English. Seniors that are IB diploma candidates take the HL test in English and as juniors they will take two Oral Examinations. Juniors are required to complete a Performance Review once a quarter. Performance Reviews require the student to attend and critique a dramatic, artistic or cultural event or venue such as a stage play, musical performance, art or history museum, Chinese New Year Festival, etc.

Core IB Subject Area	9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11th GRADE	IB Test Option	12th GRADE	IB Test Option
English (Language A)	MYP Honors English 4	MYP Honors English 5	IB English 1	Orals	IB English 2	HL

Juniors may NOT take the English SL test.

Foreign Language

The Foreign Language department is transitioning into a new class numbering system that meets the specifications of the IBO and streamlines options of classes at MLHS. Care will be taken to assure that students are placed in the correct class. If you have any questions about these changes please talk with your student's Foreign Language teacher.

Furthermore, IB language teachers recommend a "B" or better to advance to the next language level. (College/University language prerequisites require a "C" or better to satisfy college/university requirements.)

The instructor will suggest at which level the student should test

Russian 1 & 2 is offered for Russian Speakers only

Math

There are many math options to suit the needs and talents of IB students. An MYP Certificate requires completion of at least Algebra 2 by the end of the sophomore year as MYP Math Assessments are only offered for this subject.

Factors influencing the selection of math courses for the junior and senior year include student interest in mathematics, teacher recommendations, and testing options.

Note that the IB Math 1 and Math 2 courses are not sequential: a student will sit for the IB Math Studies exam upon completion of IB Math 1 or will sit for the IB Mathematics Standard Level exam (previously called IB Math Methods) upon completion of IB Math 2.

Only students who have successfully completed IB Math 3 and 4 may take the Higher Level (HL) test as seniors.

Rarely, a senior may also be qualified to take the Further Level (FL) exam, which is recorded by IB as a Standard Level exam (even though the course content is beyond Higher Level Mathematics). Thus, in some rare cases students may take two math exams in the senior year, the HL and Further Level exams.

Core IB Subject Area	9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11th GRADE	IB Test Option	12th GRADE	IB Test Option
Mathematics	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	none	IB Math 1	SL
	Geometry	Algebra 2	Precalculus	none	IB Math 1 or IB Math 2	SL
			or IB Math 1	SL	Precalculus (optional)	none
	Algebra 2	Precalculus	AP Calculus (AB Exam)	none	IB Math 1	SL
			or IB Math 1 or IB Math 2	SL	or IB Math 2 AP Calculus (AB Exam)	SL none
Precalculus	AP Calculus (AB Exam)	IB Math 3 (AP Calculus BC Exam)	none	IB Math 4	HL	
		IB Math 1 or IB Math 2	SL			

IB Math 1 = Math Studies Standard Level exam.

IB Math 2 = Mathematics Standard Level exam.

IB Math 3 = Higher Math first year

IB Math 4 = Higher Math second year and student may take the Mathematics Higher Level exam

Science

SJUSD graduation requirements mandate that a student take a year of physical science and a year of life science. This requirement can be attained in a number of ways. Please work with your counselor to assure that you will meet this requirement

Science course work is dependent on freshman math course work. Freshmen enrolled in Algebra 2 or higher may take Honors Chemistry. Freshmen enrolled in Geometry, and in some situations Algebra I, will be enrolled in Honors Biology. Either choice will still allow a student to enroll in their junior year in IB Biology, IB Ecosystems and Society, IB Physics (when offered) and IB Chemistry (when offered). The only difference is that a student will not be able to take Honors Physics, unless the student takes two science courses in one year.

Science course recommendations are done with students on a yearly basis; however, science teachers will recommend the IB science sequence that will be the best fit for each student prior to the start of their junior year. Furthermore, an A or a B grade in previous science classes is considered critical for student success.

IB Biology is a two-year course that only tests at the HL level after the second year. Environmental Systems and the soon to be implemented Ecosystems & Society class are also two-year courses because of the breadth of content, but students are tested at the SL level. Please note that the two year Environmental Systems class and the upcoming Ecosystems & Society class satisfy the SJUSD requirement for one year of physical science and one year of life science.

Extra-curricular participation in the Arcade Creek Ecological Monitoring Project is an integral part of the IB Biology, IB Physics, IB Chemistry, IB Environmental Systems, and the IB Ecosystems and Society classes. Participation in the Creek Project is mandatory and will require time outside of the school day. Students are trained by senior student leaders and are placed in teams to perform research studies in several different aspects of Arcade Creek. <http://www.arcadecreek.org/>

	9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11–12th GRADE
Math Level			
Algebra 1, Geometry	Honors Biology *	Honors Chemistry* or CP Chemistry, CP Earth Science, or CP Physics	IB Biology (HL 2 years) IB Chemistry (future offering) IB Environmental systems (SL 2 years) IB Ecosystems & Society (SL-2 years beginning in 2008-2009)
Algebra 2 or higher	Honors Chemistry*	Honors Physics, Honors Biology or CP Physics, or CP Biology	IB Physics (SL-1year)(when offered) CP Environmental Science CP Biology or Honors Biology CP Chemistry or Honors Chemistry CP Physics or Honors Physics

CP = College Prep

* Based on performance, a course move may be recommended by the department or instructor at the end of the 1st trimester

Social Science

Most IB students begin their freshman year with MYP Honors World History 4. Sophomore year students take MYP Honors US History 5. Full IB Diploma candidates may take IB History 1 (History of the Americas) and IB History 2 (Global Studies) *and* take the HL test in order to be exempt from the district's Economics and American Government requirement for graduation. HOA/Global Studies, as it is often referred to, is a two-year course. There is not an SL option at the end of one year. For the IB elective exam, many IB students choose to take IB Economics instead of an arts class. If a student doesn't take the HOA/Global Studies classes then they must take economics and American Government to fulfill graduation requirements of the SJUSD and many full IB Diploma candidates opt to do this.

Core IB Subject Area	9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11th GRADE	IB Test Option	12th GRADE	IB Test Option
Social Science	MYP Honors World History 4	MYP Honors US History 5	IB History 1 (History of the Americas)	None	IB History 2 (Global Studies)	HL
			IB Economics	SL	American Government	None
					IB Economics and American Government (if possible)*	SL Econ test
					Theory of Knowledge	

*Taking American Government taken along with IB economics in the 12th grade is dependent on 1. Room in student's schedule and 2. Whether or not there is funding for independent study. The state may not pay for Independent Study in the future. Check with counselor before considering this option.

Electives

Full Diploma candidates must take one IB test in an IB elective. The qualifying electives offered at Mira Loma are IB Art, IB Theater Art, or IB Music. In rare cases, students have tested in two foreign languages or two science disciplines instead. In these cases one of the tests will be noted as an elective exam. Keep in mind that one of the SJUSD graduation requirements and an entrance requirement to the University of California system is one year of Visual and Performing Art (VAPA). One full year of MYP Art, MYP Music or MYP Drama or the IB courses in these three areas will fulfill this requirement. Taking two different one-semester courses does not count.

All students are required to complete two years of physical education in order to graduate. Because of IB curricular requirements, only the MYP PE class taken at Mira Loma counts and this is taken during the freshman year.

SJUSD graduation requirements include successful completion of a Health class, Driver Education, and a computer literacy class. It can be challenging to incorporate these classes in an MYP/IB schedule. It may be possible to take these courses outside of the normal school day. Discuss these requirements with your counselor as early in your planning as possible.

Core IB Subject Area	9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11th GRADE	IB Test Option	12th GRADE	IB Test Option
6th Subject/Electives Visual/Performing Art		MYP Global Art MYP Drama MYP Music	IB Art IB Theater Art IB Music	SL	IB Art IB Theater Art IB Music	SL/HL
Physical Education	MYP PE	One more year needs to be taken at some point. Please see your counselor on how to fulfill the requirement				
Health/Driver Education	Please see your counselor on how to fulfill this requirement					
Computer Literacy	Please see your counselor on how to fulfill this requirement					

Appendices

District and State Testing

STAR

The state-mandated **Standard Testing and Reporting Program (STAR)** exams are given in the spring of the 9th, 10th and 11th grades. The exams are given at Mira Loma during the regular school day. The STAR testing program consists of two primary components: the California Achievement Test (CAT/6) series and the California Standards Tests (CST). Subjects covered in the tests are reading, math, science, language arts, vocabulary, social science and history. CAT/6 test scores indicate how well a student performs in comparison to their peers in the United States. The California Standards Tests evaluate how well a student does in relation to the content standards established for all California students.

Website:

General information: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/star.html>

Test results: <http://www.star.cde.ca.gov/>

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

The High School Exit Exam is aligned with the California Content Standards. There are two components to the test: language arts and math. All California students are required to pass both parts of this exam prior to graduation in order to receive a high school diploma. All students in grade 10 are required to take the CAHSEE. Students may take the exit exam during each subsequent administration until they have passed each section of the exam. The exams are given at Mira Loma during the regular school day. Website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests>

College Admission and Scholarship Testing

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). This test measures critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills. Test scores range from 20 to 80. The PSAT/NMSQT gives students first-hand practice for the SAT exam administered by the College Board. The PSAT/NMSQT also gives students a chance to qualify for the National Merit scholarship and recognition program. A student can take the exam for practice in the 9th and 10th grades, but it is the exam taken in the fall of 11th grade that is used for scholarship consideration. Applications for the PSAT are available in the counseling office and the exam is given at Mira Loma, usually in October. Website: <http://www.nationalmerit.org>

SAT

The SAT test measures critical reading, math and writing abilities. The test lasts almost four hours and consists of seven sections. The test is administered by the College Board and is offered several times a year. Many colleges require this exam for admission. Students usually take the test beginning in the spring of their 11th grade or early in 12th grade. Be aware that if the test is taken more than

once, universities have different policies regarding which score they will accept and use for admissions purposes. Before deciding to take the test in the fall of the senior year, the student should check with each university to make sure the test will meet their deadlines. The SAT registration packet is available in the counseling office, or students can register and pay online. Check the website for dates, testing locations, fees, registration deadlines and other information. It is highly recommended to register for tests as early as possible because test sites fill up quickly. Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

Mira Loma High School's College Board number is 052723.

SAT Subject Tests

The SAT subject tests are one-hour-long, single-subject tests consisting primarily of multiple-choice questions. The subject tests measure knowledge or skills in a particular subject and the ability to apply that knowledge. The UC system requires two subject tests selected from history, literature, mathematics (Math level 2 only), science, or a language other than English for admission and/or placement. Other colleges have similar requirements. Like the SAT, SAT Subject test scores range from 200 to 800. The tests are administered by the College Board. It is recommended that students take the SAT subject test as soon as possible after completing course work in a particular subject while the knowledge is still fresh, even if they are in the 9th or 10th grades. SAT subject test applications are available in the counseling office, or students can register and pay online. Check the College Board website for a list of subjects offered, dates, testing locations, fees and registration deadlines. Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

ACT Assessment

The ACT Assessment is designed to assess the high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading and science reading. ACT test scores range from 0 to 36. Many colleges accept either this test or the SAT for college admission. ACT applications are available in the counseling office, or students can register and pay online. Check the website for dates, testing locations, fees, registration deadlines and other information. Website: <http://www.act.org>

Additional Educational Opportunities

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Currently, Mira Loma offers only AP Calculus. However students may take AP exams in a variety of subjects by taking a subject in high school and doing test preparation on their own. The College Board administers these exams and currently offers exams in 33 subjects. AP exams are scored on a scale of 0 to 5, with scores of 4 and 5 usually qualifying for college credit. It is recommended that students check with the college of their choice to see what their AP policy is, what their qualifying scores are, and if they grant credit or advanced placement. Registration for the test given at Mira Loma is handled through the AP course teacher. Application and fees are usually due in March and the exams administered in May. Test results are mailed directly to the student. Refer to the College Board website for a complete listing of exams, dates, locations, subjects, fees, deadlines and other information about the AP exams. Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

Math Exams

Through the Mathematics department at Mira Loma, students may choose to participate in some optional math competitions. Mira Loma conducts the California Math League (CML) competition

six times a year, on the second Tuesday of the month. The competition takes place after school and usually lasts 30 minutes. The competition consists of 6 questions. More than 200 California schools participate in this competition. Scores can be obtained online. Website: <http://www.mathleague.com>

Mira Loma also conducts the American Mathematics Competition (AMC 12) which allows students to qualify for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME). The AMC is given in February at Mira Loma during the school day. The test is two hours long. The AIME is given in the spring at Mira Loma and is three and a half hours long. The scores are available online. Website: <http://www.unl.edu/amc>

Advanced Education Classes

Qualified high school students may take courses for enrichment at the community college level. This is a great way for students to explore new interests or to delve more deeply into a subject they enjoy. The Los Rios Community College District includes American River College, Sacramento City College, and Consumnes River College and smaller outreach centers. Many Mira Loma students have taken classes at the American River College campus nearby.

Once students have chosen a class and have its course number, they need to make an appointment with the IB counselor in the guidance office to fill out an Advanced Education form. Then they need to make an appointment with a community college counselor to fill out an application and register. In most instances they will also have to take an English or Math placement exam as a prerequisite. Remember, Advanced Ed students have the lowest priority at registration so there is always a chance they may not get the class they want. Students can pick up an Add Card at the Registrar's desk and attend the first class meeting, if there is enough room, the teacher will usually add the student. Remember, these classes are only for enrichment purposes, only under rare and extreme circumstances, with prior approval from the IB counselor, can community college credit be used to satisfy high school credit. Website: <http://www.losrios.edu/>

Summer Programs

Many colleges and universities throughout the United States offer advanced summer programs for high school students. Check with the counseling office or the college of your choice to see what is available

The International Baccalaureate Organization

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), a non-profit educational foundation based in Switzerland, offers the Diploma Program for students in the final two years of secondary school (junior and senior years of the American high school), the Middle Years Program for students in grades 6-10, and the Primary Years Program for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. As a membership organization, the IBO provides curriculum and assessment development including teacher evaluation and student examinations, teacher training and administrative seminars, electronic networking and mentoring, and other educational services to its 1855 participating schools in over 124 countries around the world. To maintain consistent standards of performance, a multinational team of IB educators and examiners headquartered in Wales continually develops curriculum materials and evaluates samples of student work from member programs. Website:

<http://www.ibo.org>

History of IB

Founded in 1968, the IBO grew out of the efforts of international schools to establish a common curriculum and university entry credentials for geographically mobile students, predominantly the children of diplomats and international business leaders. International educators were also motivated by an idealistic vision: to provide a shared academic experience emphasizing critical thinking and an exposure to a variety of viewpoints that would foster tolerance and intercultural understanding. Concentrating on the last two years of secondary school, they sought to build a comprehensive curriculum leading to a baccalaureate, a diploma awarded on the basis of passing a series of extensive exams that could be administered in any country and recognized by universities around the world. Because of its balanced curriculum and high standards of assessment, the Diploma Program has evolved from its original purpose as a service to the international community into an internationally recognized program of academic excellence available in national systems across the globe. The program was introduced to the United States in 1974. The Middle Years Program was added in 1992 and the Primary Years Program in 1997.

Why IB?

IB is more than just a rigorous set of fast-paced, advanced-level classes. Fundamentally, IB is an educational philosophy. IB classes provide an opportunity for high school students to become well educated and to utilize critical thinking skills typical of college level work. Mastery of subject material is essential, as are analysis and integration across disciplines. Critical thinking, innovation, and intercultural understanding are useful attributes that are cultivated in the IB program and which give a competitive edge to IB students' future endeavors, in today's world and global economy.

IB is a standardized curriculum taught by IB trained and mentored teachers. Whereas the content and difficulty of high school honors classes can vary greatly from school to school and teacher to teacher, all IB students around the world take the same exams on the same day. IB exams are graded by independent IB assessors and normed against students around the world. IB teachers are also evaluated, and their grading normed against IBO standards. Teachers regularly send student work to IB mentors who examine the work and the teacher's assessment of it. These mentors then provide the teacher a grade and feedback. IB teachers attend regular curriculum conferences and communicate across the globe with each other via e-mail in order to maintain and expand their high standards. The universal commitment to excellence by the IB staff is unique. Colleges and universities understand the IB curriculum and appreciate the academic rigor this course work represents. Check the IB website for more information regarding university IB diploma recognition. Website: <http://www.ibo.org/>, click on Services/Universities

IB at Mira Loma

In 1989, Mira Loma became the first high school in the Sacramento area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. The Mira Loma IB program has grown, attracting students of exceptional academic and extracurricular talent not only from the San Juan Unified School District but from the greater Sacramento area as well. From the first full IB graduating class in 1993, Mira Loma IB students have consistently maintained an exam pass rate of 93% or above, an outstanding performance among all IB programs and a tribute to the well-developed curriculum and dedicated IB teaching staff at Mira Loma.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is an intensive and challenging two-year curriculum for students in the 11th and 12th grades. All students admitted to the Mira Loma IB program as incoming freshmen are expected to take all of the required coursework in the 9th and 10th grades in preparation for participating in the Diploma Program as juniors and seniors. At the conclusion of the 10th grade, students need to determine whether they will continue on the path to the full IB Diploma. It is recommended that students consider what is best for them given their interests. Many students welcome the academic rigor, accept the demands on their time and thrive, while other equally talented students prefer to focus on subject areas that excite them. Many students choose to participate in other meaningful non-academic experiences during their high school years and that choice is respected. Recognition of participation in the IB program at Mira Loma comes from the awarding of the IB Diploma, Mira Loma Associate Diploma and IB Certificates for each examination passed.

In 1998, the San Juan Unified School District introduced the IB Middle Years Program, a comprehensive 5-year curriculum from 6th grade to 10th grade, offered at Churchill Middle School and Mira Loma. Students eligible to earn an IB Middle Years Certificate either: (1) begin the Middle Years Program in 6th grade at Churchill Middle School and participate in it for all five years; (2) do not have access to the Churchill IB Middle Years Program, including out-of-district students and in-district students who attend a different middle school (public or private); or (3) are Churchill students who remained on the MYP waiting list. Students in these three groups are eligible to earn the certificate by successfully completing the 9th and 10th grade Middle Years course work and assessments, meeting the community service requirement, and completing the Sophomore Personal Project.

MLHS IB Parents Organization

The International Baccalaureate Parents Organization (IBPO) is a non-profit corporation established to support the Diploma and Middle Year programs at Mira Loma. This parent group helps sustain the high quality of the program by providing both financial and volunteer resources to support the students, teachers, and staff.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Mira Loma International Baccalaureate Parents Organization (IBPO), a non-profit organization, is to actively assist and support the faculty, students and families of the Mira Loma IB program as well as the school community.

The IBPO provides communication, financial support and volunteer resources to encourage student participation and to maintain the program quality of the IB Middle Years and Diploma programs. IBPO values academic achievement integrated with the healthy development of the whole person.

Guiding Principles

1. **Student Access** – Promote participation in the MYP/DP courses and program.
2. **Program Quality** – Promote, support and recognize academic excellence and program leadership.
3. **Community Support and Education** – Promote an informed and supportive IB community in which students are encouraged to balance the intellectual, physical, and emotional needs necessary for healthy development and achievement.
4. **Cultural Awareness** – Foster community awareness and intercultural understanding.
5. **Academic Integrity** – Support a culture of academic integrity and responsibility of all students enrolled in IB courses.
6. **Program Promotion** – Operate within the parameters of Mira Loma High School and the San Juan Unified School District policies and procedures as well as advocate on behalf of the programs to those entities.
7. **Program Sustainability** – Develop financial resources through public and private partnerships.
8. **Organizational Review** – Perform continual review and exploration of our practices and guiding principles.

The IB program has many needs beyond those of the typical high school program. There are expenses for the IB examination process, special classroom materials not provided by the District, and information resources for students, families, and the community. Many of the resources and activities that the IB Parents Organization provides are of benefit to all Mira Loma students. Each year the IB Parents Organization raises funds and provides support as outlined in the following table.

Classroom Support	Program Support	Student Support
Supplementary textbooks and magazine subscriptions	IB Exam proctoring	Telephone list and Carpool blog
Educational software	8th grade outreach/information nights	Sample SAT exam
Art and science supplies	IB publications and website	College Sunday
Audiovisual equipment and technology upgrades	IB teacher recognition and support	IB Senior Dinner
Curriculum resources		IB Alumni Breakfast
		IB exam scholarships
		Scholarship information

To accomplish all this, the IB Parents Organization relies on fundraising and parent volunteers. A donation appeal letter is sent each fall and your tax deductible contribution can be made in monthly installments. The IBPO also participates in the school-wide Bingo fund-raiser. Parent participation, whether on an occasional or on-going basis, is crucial to the success of our many programs and activities.

The IB Parents Organization is run by a volunteer board and all parents with a student taking any IB classes are encouraged to participate in the IBPO. During the school year the IBPO hosts general meetings on specific topics of interest to IB parents. Monthly board meetings are open to all parents. Check Mat Matters or email announcements for meeting dates and times.



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