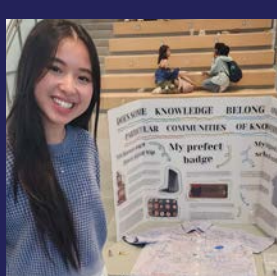
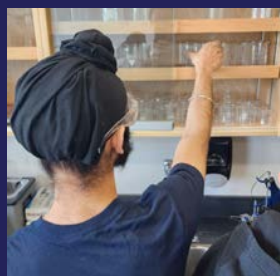




Diploma
Programme



IB Diploma Programme Handbook 2025-26

New Westminster Secondary School
IB World School



Message from our Principal and Head of School

Welcome to New Westminster Secondary School: International Baccalaureate World School

I am honoured to be the Principal and Head of School at New Westminster Secondary, where we fully embrace the love of learning in our IB Diploma Programme. The New Westminster School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

New Westminster Secondary is a remarkable and inclusive community of dedicated students, families, educators, and administrative staff members who are committed to creating a space where our community can reflect, exchange ideas, and engage in discussions. We strive to create a broad and holistic educational environment and see our students flourish. Our IB Diploma Programme (DP) is an approach to education which challenges each student to become an internationally minded, life-long learner. Our program focuses on the development of the whole child by offering a transdisciplinary, inquiry based curriculum across all subjects.

Through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum, students develop the skills of deep inquiry, thematic connection and global perspective to prepare and thrive in a rapidly changing and unpredictable world. We believe that educational innovation is the most powerful way in which we can equip students to become catalysts for change and leaders in crafting the world of tomorrow. Our mission is to develop lifelong learners and support our students to learn and become thinkers, doers, and natural leaders.

New Westminster Secondary celebrates and values all members for who they are. Identity, culture and relationships are upheld as core constructs. We actively work upon our practice in diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), and indigenous understanding and reconciliation. We also value the social and emotional growth of our students with opportunities to develop the IB Learner Profile. We are extremely fortunate that we are connected to a wonderful diversity of people, cultures, and rich history.

We are constantly developing and growing as an educational institution through professional development and curriculum revision, and we cordially invite you to visit our school and see these principles in action.

Ms. Susana Quan
IB Diploma Programme Head of School



Message from our Coordinator

Welcome to the IB at New Westminster Secondary School!

Our IB Diploma Programme aims to embrace the philosophy of 'IB for All' where there are pathways to a diploma for all students. If you are interested in the experimental sciences, social sciences, humanities, social justice, or environmentalism – there are exciting options that can shape your final two years of secondary education.

IB is also exceptional preparation for post-secondary studies. The curriculum is comprehensive and engaging, focusing on methods and skills that you will encounter in your future studies. Universities recognize and embrace the benefits of an IB education and shape their admissions policies to reflect how well prepared IB students are for post-secondary. IB students are knowledgeable in diverse academic subjects, learn time-management to balance their studies, and to contribute to their community – something that Universities highly value in students as indicators of continued success. Our teachers at NWSS are regularly trained in IB practices, and many have graduate degrees in the fields they teach. Our philosophy is to make sure you are not only challenged in your classes, but also supported through your studies every step of the way through our inclusive approaches to teaching and learning.

At its heart, IB aims to develop well-rounded students that are internationally minded and ready to take on our shared challenges. We will work together to nurture your passions, challenge you, and inspire you as you look towards the future.

I look forward to meeting you, and please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Mr. Pawel Korczyk
IB Diploma Programme Coordinator



What is an IB Education?

The IB 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 programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

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

Preparation for University

Recognized by universities around the world, the IB Diploma Programme prepares students for post-secondary studies through one of the most rigorous and prestigious high school academic curricula. IB Diploma Programme courses are designed to provide students opportunities to learn in their subjects using methods reflecting those used by disciplines at the university level.

Universities widely recognize how well IB prepares students for post-secondary study, and often offer favourable admission policies for IB students, as well as university credits for successful diploma completion and/or courses completed at the Higher Level (HL).

In June 2022, IB published a study carried out with UBC and U of T that found IB students are more prepared for post-secondary, achieve higher grades in university courses, and are far more likely to complete their degrees, participate in coop programs, and win awards.

Davies, S., & Guppy, N. (2022). *Comparing university outcomes of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme graduates to their peers in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada*. International Baccalaureate Organization.



"IB taught me time management of extracurriculars with academics, citations and organization, writing papers, but most importantly knowing how to bounce back from failure."

Bridget Li, IB Class of 2023
McGill, Political Science and Biochemistry



"Beyond the material studied, IB helped me condition my mind for the stress of university life and taught me how to manage my time so that I can excel in my studies."

Sohan Sadeque, IB Class of 2024
UBC, Science



IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes 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.

As IB learners we strive to be:

INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

The IB Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma is a two-year program for students in grades 11 and 12. Courses begin in the grade 11 year and exams are written in May of grade 12. Students that complete the IB Diploma take 6 courses from 5 subject groups, as well as the core elements of the Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).

IB Diploma courses are taken at either the **Standard Level (SL)** or **Higher Level (HL)**. Higher level courses go deeper into the subject, and require additional assessments.

At NWSS, we practice the principle of **IB For All**, where there are pathways to a diploma that match up to a variety of interests in the humanities and sciences.



Earning the IB Diploma

To complete the IB Diploma, students must complete one course from groups 1-5, plus an additional course from groups 3, 4, or 6. These 6 courses must contain 3-4 HL options. Students must also complete the three core requirements (TOK, EE, CAS).

Group 1: English
English Literature HL
English Language and Literature SL

Group 2: Language Acquisition
French B HL (French Immersion)
French B SL
Chinese B SL
Spanish Ab Initio
Language A Self-Study

Group 3: Individuals and Societies
Global Politics HL/SL
Psychology HL/SL
Environmental Systems & Societies HL/SL

Group 4: Sciences
Biology HL/SL
Chemistry HL/SL
Physics HL/SL
Environmental Systems & Societies HL/SL

Group 5: Mathematics
Analysis and Approaches HL/SL
Applications and Interpretation HL/SL

Group 6 (Option): Arts
Visual Arts SL

Students can also enroll in the partial IB Course program, where they can take IB courses combined with regular BC curriculum courses, with the potential of earning university credit for HL courses. Students in the course program need to work with their counselor to ensure they meet graduation requirements.

Suggested grade 9-10 courses for anticipated IB students

Grade 9 or 10
Research in Motion 9
Grade 10
Socials 10 + IDS Socials 10
English 10 + IDS English 10
Math 10 + IDS Math 10
Science 10 + IDS Science 10
French 10 + IDS French 10

Math AA HL/SL and AI HL

Pre-Requisite:

Pre-Calculus 11

Physics Pre-Requisite:

Physics 11

French B SL Pre-Requisite:

French 10

French Immersion Dual Dogwood:

Sciences Humaines 11

Sample Pathways to a Diploma

Social Justice Focus	Applied Science Focus
English Literature HL	English Literature HL
Any Language Option	Any Language Option
Global Politics HL	ESS HL/SL
ESS HL/SL	Chemistry SL/HL
Psychology or Visual Arts	Physics HL
Math AI SL	Math AA or AI HL

Environmentalism Focus	Social Science Focus
English Lit HL or L&L SL	English Lit HL or L&L SL
Any Language Option	Any Language Option
ESS HL/SL	Global Politics HL
Global Politics HL	Psychology HL
Biology or Visual Arts	Biology HL/SL or ESS HL/SL
Any Math Option	Math AI HL/SL

Pharmaceutical Science Focus	Commerce Focus
English Literature HL	English Lit HL or L&L SL
Any Language Option	Any Language Option
Psychology or Global Politics SL	Global Politics HL
Biology HL	Psychology HL/SL or ESS HL/SL
Chemistry HL	Chemistry or Physics SL
Math AA HL/SL or Math AI HL	Math AA HL/SL or Math AI HL

Be sure to double-check university admission requirements during your course planning process.

Dual Dogwood + IB Diploma

Students who successfully complete French Immersion courses in grades 9 and 10, Sciences Humaines 11, and **French B Higher Level** may be eligible for both the Dual Dogwood diploma and the IB Diploma. Please make sure to check with your counselor to ensure all requirements of the dual dogwood are met.

Considerations When Selecting Courses

Students should keep in mind the importance of a **balanced** approach when selecting courses. Diploma students should take at least one HL course in a subject where the HL Z block takes place in grade 11 (ESS, English or Global Politics).

When selecting other HL options, students should also keep in mind their skills, interests, and potentially recommendations from their subject teachers. HL math courses are especially difficult in IB.

Students should also carefully consider and review university admissions requirements for IB courses. Universities regularly update their admissions policies based on IB's continuing changes and updates.



"University, as of now at least, is so much easier than high school and the IB has prepared me for all of the written work (and absolutely more) for the work I now need to do. Now that I'm doing something I am passionate about, I can apply my time management skills effectively because of my drive to learn and grow which was fostered by the IB's demanding workload that forced me to learn how to handle large amounts of work."

Angus Silva, IB Class of 2023
Capilano University, Performing Arts

Sample Course Program Pairings

Pairings depend on enrollment. Not all options will be available every year. 2 Course Pairings also available.

Environmentalism Focus	Applied Science Focus
Visual Arts SL	Math AA HL/SL
ESS HL	Physics HL
English Literature HL	English Literature HL or Language
Global Politics HL	Chemistry HL/SL
Humanities Focus	Bio-Chem Focus
English Literature HL	Biology HL
Any Language Option	Chemistry HL
Visual Arts SL	Math A and A HL/SL
ESS HL/SL or Global Politics HL	English Literature HL or Language



GROUP 1:

Studies in Language and Literature

The course descriptions in this booklet are based on the information found in the subject briefs on the IB website. For more details on the courses and assessment information for individual courses, visit the subject brief page by using the QR code to the right or following the link below:

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/support-students-transition-to-higher-education/course-selection-guidance/#dp-subject-briefs>



Language A: Literature HL

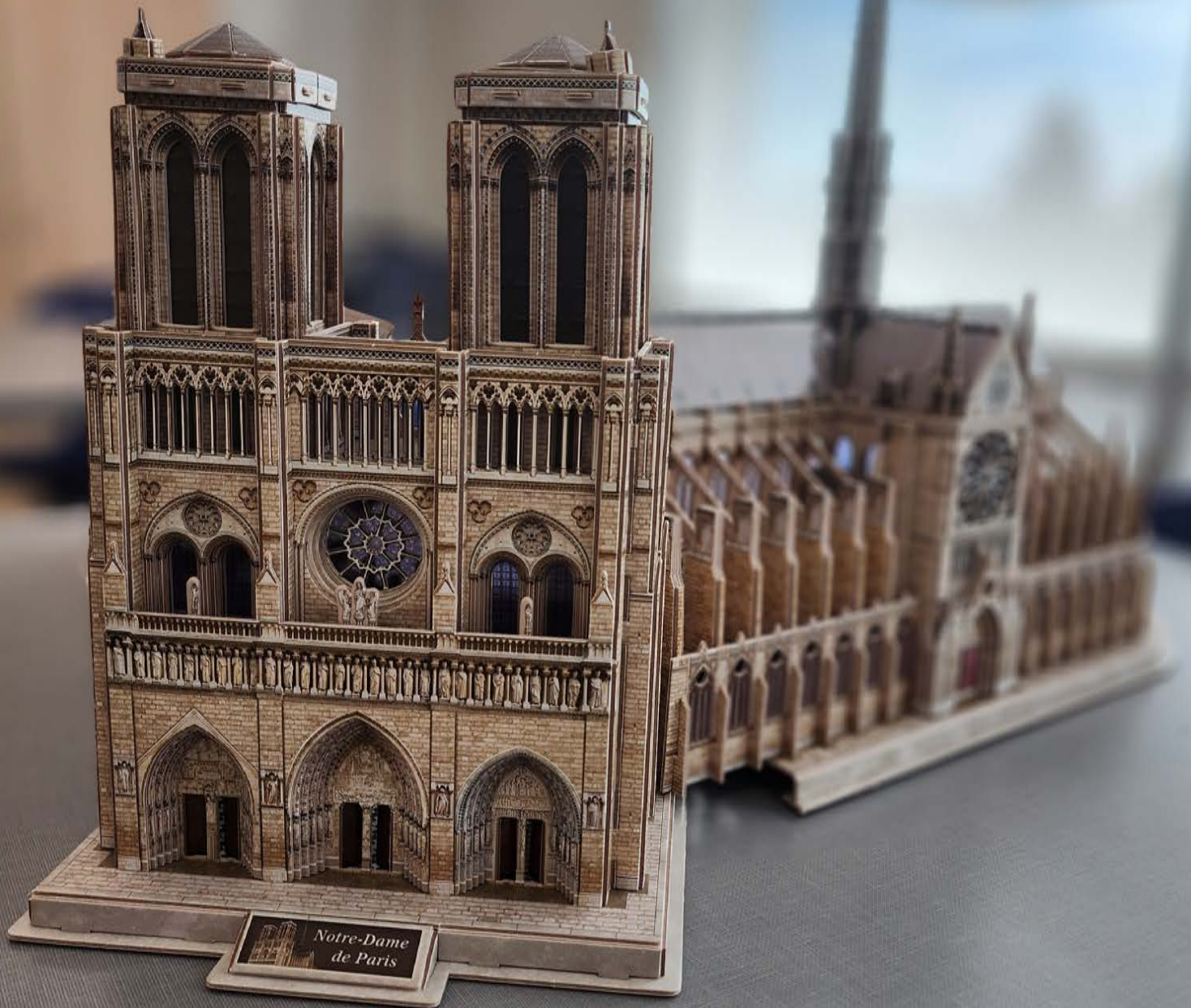
This course explores literature in both local and global contexts. The focus of IB English is the study and appreciation of literary achievements of our culture and the cultures of other societies. Students will develop skills in literary criticism, writing, and oral presentation through a study of texts in translation, poetry, novels, drama, and non-fiction texts written in English. Students connect the literature they study to global issues and to the areas of exploration of readers, writers and texts; time and space; and intertextuality. **Completion of the course in grade 12 satisfies the BC Indigenous graduation credit requirement.**

Language A: Language and Literature SL

This course explores not only literature, but also how the English language is used in a variety of different contexts, including, but not limited to, nonfiction, journalism, advertising, and film. Over the course of the two years in the course, students will explore global, local, and indigenous texts. Students connect the works they study to global issues and to the areas of exploration of readers, writers and texts; time and space; and intertextuality. **Completion of the course in grade 12 satisfies the BC Indigenous graduation credit requirement.**

Language A: School-Supported Self-Taught

Only open to IB Diploma students, the Language A: SSST program allows students to use a language they are proficient in as part of their IB Diploma. Students who take this course will create a reading list using selections from IB's prescribed list, and complete the self study over two years using techniques learned in the English Language A course. **Successful completion of the self-study will exempt students from the Group 2 Language requirement.**



GROUP 2:

Language Acquisition

Language B: French or Mandarin SL

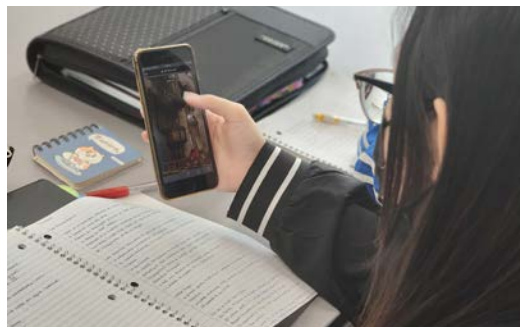
The Language B course aims to develop international-mindedness in students through the study of the French or Mandarin language, culture, and ideas. Language B looks at the context of French or Mandarin speakers around the world and the importance of French or Mandarin in our contemporary global society. Students will continue to learn to read and respond in the language in both oral and written formats. The Language B SL course is for students who have experience in language instruction at lower levels or appropriate intermediate language ability from other contexts.

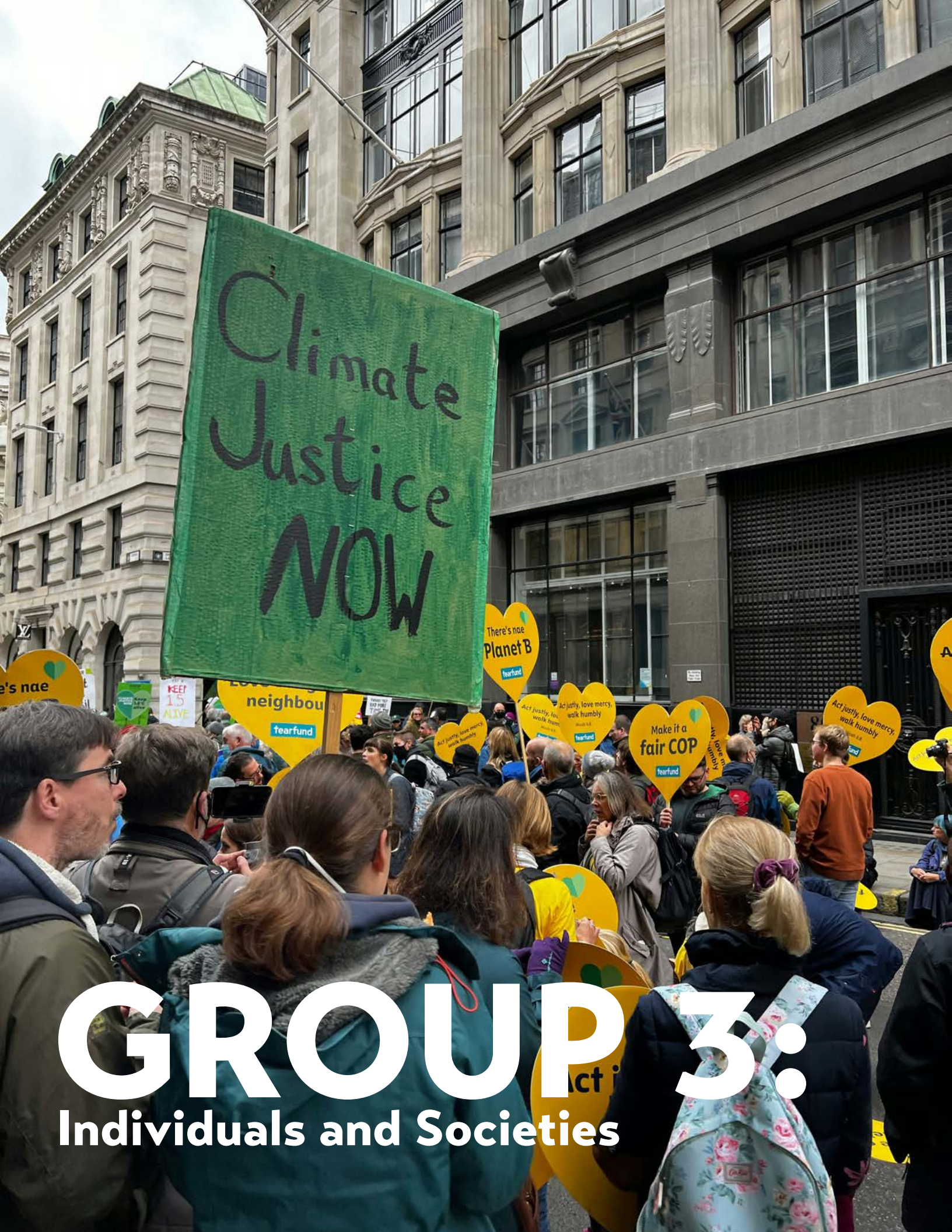
Language B: French HL

French B HL focuses on similar concepts to the SL course, but gives students the opportunity to go deeper into the understanding of French language and culture. More emphasis is placed on developing the ease of responding both orally and in written format in the French language. **The French B HL course forms the basis of the French Immersion dual dogwood diploma option**, and is only appropriate for students who are coming from the French Immersion program.

Spanish Ab Initio SL

Offered at SL only, Spanish ab initio is a language acquisition course designed for students who are new to Spanish and have no previous experience learning the language. Students will learn to read and communicate the language both orally and in writing. There is also a strong focus on cultural understanding of the context of Spanish speakers around the world.





GROUP 3:

Individuals and Societies

Global Politics HL / SL

This course explores various political issues and their impact on us through various levels - from the local and community level, all the way to the international and global levels. Global politics is also a course about power and the extent to which actors at various levels have the ability to influence us, and students are challenged to think about how they can make a positive impact on their community. Core themes in the course include the study of international relations, human rights, peace, conflict, and development.

Psychology HL / SL

IB Psychology gives students a broad understanding of the subject and its major theoretical approaches. At both levels, the course guides students through the study of human behaviour focusing on the biological, cognitive, and socio-cultural perspectives. Additionally, IB Psychology HL students study two of four and SL students one of four optional psychology topics: abnormal, developmental, health, and human relations. This course introduces students to qualitative and quantitative research methods and to probability and statistics. The awareness of ethical issues in research and an emphasis on culture as it applies to human behaviour permeate IB Psychology. **Psychology does not satisfy the BC Social Studies 11/12 Graduation requirement.**

Environmental Systems and Societies HL / SL

ESS is an interdisciplinary course focused on the environment that combines methods from both the sciences and humanities. It is grounded in the scientific aspects of the study of the environment, while also looking at how our impact on it has affected societies around the world. Students will understand environmental issues at both the global and local levels. Students will also learn about environmental value systems and the role they play in our understanding of environmental issues. **ESS can be used to satisfy either the group 3 or 4 requirement. (Or both)**



"In many of my first year courses, I'm recognizing much of the same materials that I learned in the later parts of IB courses. In addition, general time management, critical thinking and prioritization are skills I learned in IB that I use regularly in university."

Amy Vurdela, IB Class of 2023
University of Victoria, Engineering



GROUP 4:

Sciences

Biology HL / SL

IB Biology 11 is a survey of all the human body systems including a dissection of the fetal pig. The course ends with the study of ecology. IB Biology 12 begins with the biochemistry of micro molecules, metabolic pathways and the roles of DNA in protein synthesis, genetics, and evolution. The course ends with the IB examinations.

Chemistry HL / SL

IB Chemistry curriculum arms students with academic theoretical knowledge along with practical and investigation skills, giving them an insight into the analysis, collaboration, and communication that occurs in the global scientific community. Topics include: Measurement and Stoichiometry, Atomic Theory and Periodicity, Bonding and Energetics, Kinetics and Equilibrium, Acid-Base chemistry, Redox processes, and Organic chemistry at the core, along with Biochemistry as the chosen option.

Physics HL / SL

The objectives of IB Physics will concentrate on the laws of physics, experimental skills, and the social and historical aspects of physics as an evolving body of human knowledge about nature. Students will also experience the real-world applications of physics through undertaking experimentation and practical work. **Physics 11 is a pre-requisite for IB Physics.**

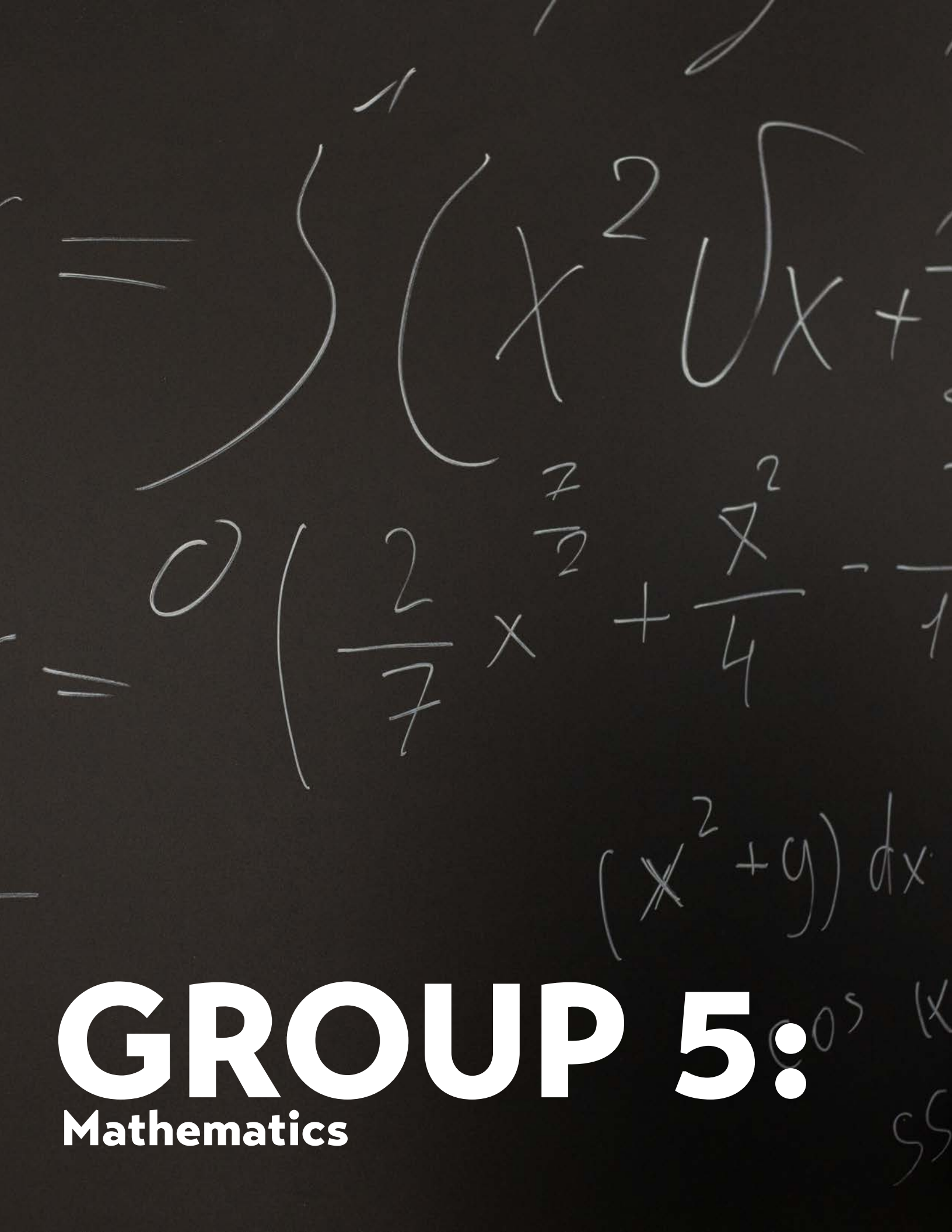
Environmental Systems and Societies HL / SL

ESS is an interdisciplinary course focused on the environment that combines methods from both the sciences and humanities. It is grounded in the scientific aspects of the study of the environment, while also looking at how our impact on it has affected societies around the world. Students will understand environmental issues at both the global and local levels. Students will also learn about environmental value systems and the role they play in our understanding of environmental issues. **ESS can be used to satisfy either the group 3 or 4 requirement. (Or both)**



"IB helped to develop my time management skills. It also taught me to think outside the box when approaching problems."

Palmer Welters, IB Class of 2024
UBC, Science

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface resembling a chalkboard. It is covered with various handwritten mathematical expressions in a light, chalk-like color. At the top, there is a large expression:
$$= \left(x^2 \sqrt{x} + \dots \right)$$
 Below this, there is another expression:
$$= \left(\frac{2}{7} x^{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{7^2}{4} - \frac{1}{1} \right)$$
 Further down, on the right side, there is an integral expression:
$$(x^2 + y) dx$$
 In the bottom right corner, there are some faint, partially visible expressions like $\cos(x)$ and SS . The main title 'GROUP 5:' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, and the word 'Mathematics' is written below it in a smaller, bold, white font.

GROUP 5:

Mathematics

Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL / SL

The Analysis and Approaches course is for students interested in the theoretical foundations of mathematics with deep analytical understanding. Students learn to solve complex abstract problems, through an in-depth study of calculus, number theory, geometry, and trigonometry. At the HL level, students further delve into calculus, trigonometry, and mathematical proofs. This course is designed for students seeking post-secondary studies in mathematics, the experimental sciences and engineering. **Pre-Calculus 11 is a pre-requisite for Math AA HL and SL.**

Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL / SL

The Applications and Interpretation course looks at how math is used in an evolving data-driven world. Students are challenged to solve real world problems through a greater focus on statistics, probability, functions, and mathematical modelling. In this course, students will also learn how to work with and communicate mathematical concepts through technology. The SL course is designed for students interested in pursuing post-secondary studies in the arts and humanities, while the HL option will satisfy application into many University business and science programs. Please double-check university websites for the most up-to-date entrance requirements. **Pre-Calculus 11 is required for students taking Math AI HL.**





GROUP 6:

Arts

Visual Arts SL

Visual arts are a core part of our lives, and they help us consider, reflect on, and appreciate the world around us. The IB Visual Arts course challenges students to develop their skills in analysing and understanding different forms of art and its use and impact in the world. Students will also develop their technical and conceptual skills across a minimum of two distinct art forms (2D, 3D and/or digital art). By the end of the two year course, students will gain an appreciation of art through a comparative study of the works of two different artists. Students will also complete a processes portfolio and sketchbook, in preparation for a final, curated art exhibition of their work. Some experience in visual arts prior to enrolling is recommended, but not required.

With two years to focus on and develop individual portfolios, this course is strongly recommended for students interested in pursuing post-secondary studies in visual arts.



"I'm not going to lie, the two years you spend in IB are extremely difficult but, I feel quite prepared for undergrad life. IB has taught me how to deal with an overwhelming amount of course material, to study effectively and manage time well."

Ana Maletic, IB Class of 2023
McMaster, Physical and Chemical Sciences



DP CORE



Theory of Knowledge

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course plays a special role in the Diploma Programme by providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the knowledge they learn in their subjects. In this way, the main focus of TOK is not on students acquiring new knowledge but on helping students to reflect on, and put into perspective, what they already know. Students think about themselves as knowers, and learn to understand the role and value of different kinds of knowledge in the world around them.

Extended Essay

The extended essay is a mandatory requirement for students completing the full IB diploma. The EE is an independent and self-directed task that allows students to explore in-depth an area of their interest. With help from an EE supervisor from one of their subject groups, students work on developing an inquiry question that they will answer in an essay written over both their grade 11 and 12 years.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

The CAS program challenges students to think outside of the classroom and to work on bettering themselves and the community. For the creativity component of CAS, students are tasked with developing new skills and interests. The activity requirement challenges students to ensure they set themselves up for health and wellbeing. Service aims to foster a spirit of giving back to the community and volunteering. To complete CAS, students must regularly log their CAS activities and work towards a larger CAS project.



"The rigour of the International Baccalaureate program taught me how to balance my workload and stay disciplined. Over the two years, I made lifelong friends and memories that wouldn't have been possible without the IB."

Ashley An, IB Class of 2024
UBC, Science

Application Process and Timelines

Application Requirements

As spaces in the IB programme are limited, preference for admission will be based on a combination of factors. While academic ability is one important aspect of IB, students who are ultimately successful in IB have strong intrinsic motivation, demonstrate resiliency, and reflect the IB learner profile. Applicants should demonstrate these qualities throughout the application process. Academically, we recommend a B average in academic courses, and a minimum score of 3 on the grade 10 literacy assessment. All applications will be considered.

Application packages can be found in the IB Office (room 3118), the main office with the IB Secretary, Ms. Michelle Sherwood, or online on the NWSS IB website.

Required Application Documents
IB Application Questionnaire
Full IB Diploma OR Partial IB Course Selection Page
Signed Parent/Caregiver Form
Grade 9 Final Semester 1 and Semester 2 Report Cards
Most Recent Grade 10 Report Card

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to IB Coordinator, Pawel Korczyk, by email at pkorczyk@sd40.bc.ca

2025-26 Diploma Programme Fees

Exam Fees:

\$123 USD per exam (for both Diploma and Courses)

Diploma and Courses students taking 3+ exams pay a \$500 deposit in grade 11, and remainder in grade 12 (appx. \$550 for Diploma students)

Program Fees (2024-25):

Full IB Diploma: Grade 11: \$150 fee. Grade 12: \$200 fee. (Projected increase of \$25/year)

Partial IB Courses: Grade 11: \$50 / course. Grade 12: \$50 / course.

Fees support annual IB World School membership fee, and specific IB resources and online tools.

If families need to discuss financial need, they are welcome to contact our Principal, Susana Quan

Applications are due January 31st, 2025

10 Reasons



why the IB Diploma Programme (DP) is ideal preparation for university

1



It increases academic opportunity

Research* shows that DP graduates are much more likely to be enrolled at top higher education institutions than entrants holding other qualifications.

2



IB students care about more than just results

Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally and ethically as well as intellectually.

3



It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner

For example, the extended essay requires independent research through an in-depth study.

6



The IB encourages critical thinking

Learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, generate ideas and consider new perspectives.

5



Graduates are globally minded

Language classes encourage an international mindset, key for increasingly globalized societies.

4



It's an international qualification

The DP is recognized globally by universities and employers.

7



DP students have proven time management skills

Take good study habits and strong time management to further education and the working world.

9



Subjects are not taught in isolation

Theory of knowledge (TOK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.

10



It encourages breadth and depth of learning

You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

8



It assesses more than examination techniques

Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.



International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

*Based on IB research - www.ibo.org/research

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New Westminster Secondary School

IB World School

www.nwss.ca



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Math Photo by Monstera

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