

IB Diploma Courses at John F. Kennedy High School

IB English:

IB English is a two year course in which students read novels, poetry, plays, and nonfiction prose both from English language writers and in translation from other languages. Students work towards mastery of critical reading and writing skills. Students complete three internal assessments (a presentation, a paper, and an oral analysis) as well as external assessments at the end of the class.

IB History:

IB History is a two year course in which students study history from the Enlightenment to the end of the Cold War (1750-1992). Students use a variety of primary and secondary texts to develop the ability to evaluate documents independently. Students work to build original perspectives on history. Students complete two internal assessments (a presentation and a research paper) as well as external assessments at the end of the class.

World Languages:

Students at Kennedy have a choice of **Spanish**, **French**, and **Italian**, and have the choice of whether to study Spanish and French at SL or HL. Italian can only be taken at SL. It should be noted that students who are not pursuing a complete diploma are advised to test for a language at HL (level 5 or 6), since many schools do not accept SL credit for languages that are not part of a diploma program. Students complete two oral internal assessments and one written external assessment.

Experimental Sciences:

Kennedy offers three experimental sciences: **Biology** (HL, a two-year class); **Chemistry** (SL, a one-year class); and **Physics** (SL, a one-year class). **Sports, Exercise, and Health Science** (SL, a one-year class) will be offered starting in 2014-2015. All science classes focus on experimental methodology and students apply their understanding of scientific procedures to complete three independent lab experiments as internal assessments and a written external assessment.

Mathematics:

Students have multiple pathways for math depending on when they complete the requirements for Algebra 2. Upon completion of that requirement, students can opt to take the two-year sequence of **IB Pre-Calculus and IB Math SL**, or they can take the one-year **IB Math Studies**.

Electives:

IB Theater focus on performance and critical response, and covers theory from a variety of cultures and time periods. Students complete a portfolio with recordings and critical writing. The class can be taken for one year at SL or for two years at SL or HL.

IB Visual Art covers art in a variety of media, and students keep a multimedia journal of the creative process. Students submit their journal and a portfolio of their work. The class can be taken for one year at SL or for two years at SL or HL.

IB Film Studies involves both creating films and critically responding to them in a variety of genres. Students submit an oral analysis of a film, a portfolio, and digital copies of films produced in the class. The course can be taken for two years at SL or HL.

IB Integrated Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) focuses on the impact of media and technology on society. Students develop a technology-based project with real-world applications which is submitted in portfolio format, and also take external assessments. The class can be taken for one year at SL.

IB Business and Management is an in-depth look at economics and entrepreneurship and students build portfolios based on real-world applications and also take external assessments. The course can be taken for one year at SL.

IB Diploma Core Requirements (for full diploma students only):

Theory of Knowledge is a two-year class in which students learn to build critical arguments based on philosophy, ethics, and reasoning skills. It is designed to intersect with all of the other diploma classes. Students write a philosophical argument paper and present a project on a contemporary knowledge issue.

The Extended Essay is a 4,000 word (15 page) essay on a topic of the student's choice. Working with a faculty mentor, students explore subjects of interest to them in the form of a college-level research paper.

Community, Action, Service (CAS) hours are intended to ensure that students are well-rounded socially and emotionally, not just academically. Students earn CAS hours for participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities as well as community service and a broad variety of learning experiences.