



**The Elgin High School Gifted and Talented/International
Baccalaureate Academy Quick Reference Curriculum Guide**



Quick Reference Academy Requirements

The first two years (9th and 10th grade) in the Academy program at Elgin High School will prepare the students for the rigors of the International Baccalaureate coursework. The program for these two years was developed locally as the foundational courses of the EHS Gifted and Talented Academy (the first name of the academy at EHS) and the courses still serve as the foundation for the most academically challenging coursework preparing students for success in the Diploma Programme.

The students in the Academy grades 9 and 10 cohort are together in their core courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies). Teachers have received professional development in Gifted and Talented Education and/or IB Training which allows for teachers to integrate the characteristics of the IB Learner Profile and the Approaches to Teaching and Learning into their lessons and classroom culture.

The second two years (11th and 12th grade) in the Academy program at Elgin High School incorporate the International Baccalaureate coursework. The students have the option to decide to complete the Full IB Diploma or they can enroll in **at least 2 IB courses** (IB English A: Literature HL is required) as well as enroll in Honors/AP courses in Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies in order **to maintain their Academy status** (noted on transcripts, diploma, and a letter provided to colleges in applications) – see course selection tables for options. Academy non-Diploma-seeking students who earn successful scores on end of course exams will be awarded a “Certificate of Mastery” which is recognized by colleges and universities around the world for college credit. Full Diploma students are eligible for more recognition by Colleges and Universities both in the US and Abroad.

Common to 9th – 12th grade Academy Requirements

Students will take accelerated (Honors/AP/IB) coursework in the 4 Core Academic content areas – English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Student success in these accelerated courses is the desired goal. We will notify parents/guardians and students at various points throughout the year if students are not being successful in their classes. Success is defined as earning a C or better in the course. If students are not being successful, letters will be sent home and students will need to make a plan for improvement which will be shared with parents/guardians, teachers, counselors, and administration so that all parties are aware of student struggles and can provide resources for assistance. To this end, it is important to understand that given the rigor of the courses and the level of engagement with the content required, students will be assigned homework and it is the expectation that students will complete the required readings/work in anticipation of the next day’s classes. Preparation is key to knowing when learning has occurred as well as when there are gaps in knowledge that may need help to fill.

AP Courses and IB Courses

All courses labeled as AP will have an end of course exam. All AP courses are 1 year in length and the exam will occur in May of the year the course is completed. Students do not have to sit for the exam but it is encouraged. The only way for students to earn college credit for AP courses is to score a 3 or better on the exam. All AP exams are scored on a 0-5 scale.

All courses labeled as IB will have an end of course exam as well as Internal Examinations. Each course will have 3-4 required exam components to demonstrate student proficiency in the course. The only way for students to earn college credit for IB courses is to score a 4 or better on the exam. All IB exams are scored on a 0-7 scale. All IB courses take 2 academic years to complete and the exams take place in April/May of the end of the second year (12th grade).

* Students do not have to take a language in 9th or 10th grade, but in 11th grade students would most likely be prepared to take the ab initio language acquisition course unless the student can demonstrate language proficiency which would make them eligible for a language acquisition course beyond the ab initio. Students who are FULL Diploma Candidates must take courses in Groups 1-6 (can take a double Group 4 or double Group 3 instead of a Group 6)

**These courses are required Academy courses and cannot be substituted. Math placement is dependent on student readiness.

Philosophical Center of the IB Diploma Programme

IB Learner Profile

A set of learning characteristics and outcomes designed for fostering a 21st century education.

The IB Learner Profile states students should be:

Inquirers - Have a natural curiosity and learn to acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. Actively enjoy learning and this learning will be sustained throughout life.

Knowledgeable - Explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. Acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers - Exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators - Understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. Willing to work in collaboration with others.

Principled - Act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups, and communities. Take responsibility for actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-Minded - Understand and appreciate personal culture and personal history, open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. Seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and willing to grow from the experience.

Caring - Show empathy, compassion, and respect toward the needs and feelings of others. Have a personal commitment to service and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-Takers - Approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas, and strategies. Brave and articulate in defending beliefs.

Balanced - Understand the importance of intellectual, physical, and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for the self and others.

Reflective - Give thoughtful consideration to personal learning and experience. Able to assess and understand personal strengths and limitations in order to support personal learning and development.

Approaches to Teaching and Learning

Deliberate attitudes, skills, and strategies that are infused throughout IB teaching and learning environments.

Thinking Skills - The ability to engage in creative and critical thinking

Communication Skills - The ability to read, write and use language to communicate and gather information

Social Skills - The ability to collaborate

Self-Management Skills - The ability to personally set and meet expectations and reflect on personal progress

Research Skills - The ability to find, evaluate, and effectively use credible information and media to facilitate being a life-long learner



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EHS Gifted and Talented/International Baccalaureate Academy Full Diploma Course Sequence

IB Curriculum Area	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Group 1 - English	Gifted World Literature**	Gifted American Literature**	IB English Literature Year 1**	IB English Literature Year 2**
Group 1 – Spanish (language proficiency must be demonstrated)			IB Spanish Literature Year 1	IB Spanish Literature Year 2
Group 2 - Language Acquisition	Recommended to take: Spanish French German Japanese	Recommended to take: Spanish French German Japanese	Dependent on Preparation IB Spanish ab initio Year 1 IB French ab initio Year 1 IB Spanish B Year 1 IB French B Year 1	Dependent on Preparation IB Spanish ab initio Year 2 IB French ab initio Year 2 IB Spanish B Year 2 IB French B Year 2
Group 3 - Social Studies**	AP Human Geography**	AP United States History**	IB Global Politics Year 1 Or IB Social and Cultural Anthropology Year 1	IB Global Politics Year 2 Or IB Social and Cultural Anthropology Year 2
Group 4 – Sciences**	Gifted Scientific Inquiry	AP Biology	IB Chemistry Year 1 Or IB Physics Year 1	IB Chemistry Year 2 Or IB Physics Year 2
Group 5 – Mathematics** High School Math classes taken in middle school count as high school math credits	Honors Geometry Or Honors Algebra 2 Students can enter at a lower level of mathematics but may need additional courses (summer school) to acquire the necessary skills for the IB Mathematics course in the Junior and Senior years	Honors Algebra 2 OR Honors Pre-Calculus Or AP Statistics	IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches Year 1	IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches Year 2
Group 6 - Fine Arts/Elective	Students should choose an elective of interest to them.	Students should choose an elective of interest to them.	Students <u>must</u> select one of the following: IB Music Year 1 IB Visual Arts Year 1 IB Environmental Systems and Societies Year 1 (2 nd Group 4) IB Social Studies (2 nd Group 3)	Students <u>must</u> select one of the following: IB Music Year 2 IB Visual Arts Year 2 IB Environmental Systems and Societies Year 2 (2 nd Group 4) IB Social Studies (2 nd Group 3)
TOK			TOK Semester 1	TOK Semester 2
Other Requirements	PE (Full Year)	PE – 1 semester, Health 1 semester	CAS Experience and Extended Essay, AP Gov/Civics and AP Macro/Econ PE may be taken as an independent study OR students are eligible for a PE waiver due to academic needs.	

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EHS Gifted and Talented/International Baccalaureate Academy Non-Full Diploma Course Sequence

IB Curriculum Area	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Group 1 - English	Gifted World Literature**	Gifted American Literature**	IB English Literature Year 1**	IB English Literature Year 2**
Group 1 – Spanish (language proficiency must be demonstrated)			IB Spanish Literature Year 1	IB Spanish Literature Year 2
Group 2 - Language Acquisition*	Recommended to take: Spanish French German Japanese	Recommended to take: Spanish French German Japanese	Dependent on Preparation IB Spanish ab initio Year 1, IB Spanish B Year 1, AP Spanish Literature, AP Spanish Language, Dual Credit Spanish, IB French B Year 1, German, Japanese	Dependent on Preparation IB Spanish ab initio Year 1, IB Spanish B Year 2, AP Spanish Literature, AP Spanish Language, Dual Credit Spanish, IB French B Year 2, German, Japanese
Group 3 - Social Studies**	AP Human Geography**	AP United States History**	Can Choose From: IB Global Politics Year 1 IB Social and Cultural Anthropology Year 1 AP European History AP World History AP Psychology	AP Government & AP Macroeconomics** IB Global Politics Year 1 IB Social and Cultural Anthropology Year 1 AP European History AP World History AP Psychology
Group 4 – Sciences**	Gifted Scientific Inquiry	AP Biology	IB Chemistry Year 1 IB Physics Year 1 AP Chemistry AP Physics AP Environmental Science	IB Chemistry Year 2 IB Physics Year 2 AP Chemistry AP Physics AP Environmental Science
Group 5 – Mathematics** High School Math classes taken in middle school count as high school math credits	Honors Geometry Or Honors Algebra 2 Students can enter at a lower level of mathematics but may need additional courses (summer school) to acquire the necessary skills for the IB Mathematics course in the Junior and Senior years	Honors Algebra 2 OR Honors Pre-Calculus Or AP Statistics	IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches Year 1 Honors Pre-Calculus AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Dual Credit Calculus	IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches Year 2 AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Dual Credit Calculus
Group 6 - Fine Arts/Elective	Students should choose an elective of interest to them.	Students should choose an elective of interest to them.	An elective of interest – or can choose: IB Music Year 1 IB Visual Arts Year 1 IB Environmental Systems and Societies Year 1 (2 nd Group 4) IB Social Studies (2 nd Group 3)	An elective of interest – or can choose: IB Music Year 2 IB Visual Arts Year 2 IB Environmental Systems and Societies Year 2 (2 nd Group 4) IB Social Studies (2 nd Group 3)
Other Requirements	PE (full year)	PE (1 semester) & Health (1 semester)	PE (full year)	PE (full year)

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