

# THE QUESTION:

## ‘TO IB OR NOT IB?’



Information  
about the  
International  
Baccalaureate  
Program  
2025-2026

The mission of Allen D. Nease High School is to inspire all students to be globally minded and socially responsible life-long learners by providing a rigorous and differentiated curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment.

Allen D. Nease High School  
[www-nhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ib/](http://www-nhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ib/)



The IB Class of 2024 enjoying their final IB social on the Nease football field. Pizza, music, laughter and socializing outside of the classroom are what makes our academy more than a program, but a family.

# THE ANSWERS:

### How does the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) differ from the Advanced Placement Program (AP)?

Both offer college-level courses yet differ extensively in approach. AP provides students with the opportunity to select individual courses while IB provides a comprehensive curriculum of college-level work. AP as a set of classes gives more flexibility in scheduling. IB pays attention to the whole student including service, leadership, art, music, film, the spoken language, foreign language, and extended writing requirements. AP courses represent a national standard of excellence; IB represents an international standard of excellence. Both programs rely on externally generated and assessed exams; however, the AP exams are based on in-depth knowledge of specific concepts within a given subject area, while the IB exams are based on a broad, general understanding of concepts and fundamental themes. AP exams place particular emphasis on multiple-choice questions. By comparison, IB courses place more emphasis on critical thinking and analysis. IB assessments involve more writing, investigation, oral work, projects, and labs. Also, final marks in IB reflect combined assessment by the classroom teacher and international examiners.

### Can IB students participate in extra-curricular activities?

Yes, IB students are actively involved and participate in all extra-curricular activities including sports, music, art and service. They provide leadership in many of these areas.

### What middle school courses provide preparation for the IB Program?

Algebra 1 Honors; High School courses at the MS level

### Do IB courses carry additional weighting?

Yes. Nease Pre-IB courses receive honors weighting (+ 0.5) and IB courses receive the same weighting as Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses (+ 1.0).

**NEASE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS** actively balance a demanding academic program with service, athletic, leadership and social activities, and are recognized for their energy and enthusiasm. The Nease IB program was established in 1996 and is recognized as one of the most successful programs in the state, with 1,830 Nease IB graduates in 27 years.

What AP courses are included in the IB Program? AP World History (9th), AP US Government & AP Language (10th), and AP Literature & AP Science (11<sup>th</sup>). IB students also can take AP exams in some IB courses, including English, History and Math. Students may also take AP math courses as well as AP electives in addition to their IB courses.

Can my child earn college credit with IB exams? Absolutely. Go to [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) for IB recognition policies by North American colleges and universities. Most colleges and universities also have this information on their websites. In addition, IB students may receive credit for AP tests they have taken (see above).

Is IB a four-year program? Yes, in essence it is. The required Nease Pre-IB instruction is a two-year program, and the IB Diploma program, itself, is a two-year program.

### How does the IB diploma differ from the Florida High School Diploma?

The IB diploma is awarded by an external agency, is more global in scope, and signifies a more integrated curriculum than the traditional diploma. The IB Organization awards its diploma to students who perform successfully on the six external examinations and fulfill all other requirements of the program at an authorized IB world school, such as Nease High School. IB students complete all regular diploma requirements except HOPE, Performing Arts, World History and Economics and a virtual class.

How much work does a student have to do in the IB Program? The program is designed to provide a rigorous, broad-based liberal arts curriculum; therefore, the workload will be significantly more than standard curriculum, yet the majority of Nease IB students are actively involved in school, community, and social activities. During the junior and senior years, each IB student must participate in a self-designed creativity, action and service program. Also required in the IB program is the completion of a 4,000-word extended essay of original thought and research.

What type of student should consider the IB Program? Highly motivated, college bound students who are serious about acquiring the skills for success in higher education are the best candidates for this rigorous program. Students are well-rounded and are strong in many subjects, not just one particular subject.

Does my child have to be gifted to succeed in the IB Program? No, however he/she must be highly motivated and have a pronounced desire to be in the program.

If my child drops out of Nease Pre-IB or IB, can he/she stay at Nease if it is not his/her zoned school? Students must stay in the program for the full semester. Thereafter, the student must return to the home zoned school.

**APPLICATION INFO:** Go to the SJC website at:  
[academies.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/](http://academies.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/)

All applications must be completed online beginning January 6, 2025 and no later than 5:00pm January 24, 2025. Teacher recommendations are also required.

## NEASE IB STUDENT PROFILE Awards, Honors & Achievements

- Nat'l Merit Finalists (2024-4, 2023-16; 2022-8)
- Nat'l Semi-Merit Finalists (2025-11; 2024-5; 2023-17)
- Nat'l Merit Commended Students (2024-15; 2023-20, 2022-12; 2021-8)
- Nat'l Achievement Scholar Semifinalists
- Nat'l Hispanic Recognized Students
- AP Scholars w/ Distinction (2024-182; 2023-167; 2022-144)
- AP Scholars w/ Honor (2024-38; 2023-37; 2022-39)
- ACT and SAT Perfect Scores (2025, 2023, 2022)
- University of Florida Lombardi Scholars
- International Exchange Program Participants
- Bryan Cameron Education Foundation Recipients
- Coolidge Scholarship Recipient
- Athletic Full Scholarship Recipients
- National, state & regional science and math competitions award winners
- Members of winning High-Q Academic Teams
- Florida Sunshine State Scholar Recipients
- Members of Nease's ranked Naval JROTC
- Jacksonville Youth Symphony Orchestra & All-State Band & Choir members
- Performing & fine arts competitions award winners
- Miss Nease winners
- All-County Athletes; Championship Team members and Individual Winners
- Ambassadors of Youth leadership programs
- Joe Berg Scholars
- Eagle Scout & Girl Scout Gold Award winners
- Many leadership positions in school organizations

### Assessment Data

IB tests passed: 94% in 2024; 96% avg. of last 5 yrs.  
IB Diplomas: 95% in 2024; 96% avg. of last 5 yrs.  
AP tests passed: 88% in 2024; 86% avg. of last 5 yrs.

### IB Class of 2024 Profile

Avg. SAT scores: 1400 (RW 700, M 700)  
Avg. ACT score: 30 (composite)  
Avg. GPA: 4.35 (weighted)  
Accepted to: over 102 different colleges  
Attending 4 year colleges: 98% at 23 different schools  
Florida Bright Futures Scholarships: 97%  
Merit & Athletic Scholarships: over \$3 million

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs. Missy Kennedy, IB Coordinator  
Allen D. Nease High School  
10550 Ray Road  
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081  
Phone: 904-547-8309 Fax: 904-547-8328  
Email: [missy.kennedy@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:missy.kennedy@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Allen D. Nease High School- International Baccalaureate (IB) Course Sequence  
2025-2026

IB Curriculum Area	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>Group 1- English</b>	Pre-IB English 1	AP English Language (Pre-IB)	AP English Literature (IB)	IB English 4
<b>Group 2 – World Language Spanish</b> High school WL courses taken in middle school may count as high school elective credits.	Pre-IB Spanish 1 or Pre-IB Spanish 2	Pre-IB Spanish 2 → IB Spanish 3	IB Spanish 3 → IB Spanish 4 (SL)	IB Spanish 4
<b>Group 3 – History</b>	AP World History (Pre-IB)	Pre-IB Government & AP Government	AP U.S. History (IB)	IB History of America
<b>Group 4 – Science</b> High school science courses taken in middle school count as high school science credits.  Students will take the same science over a two-year period in 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade.	Pre-IB Biology or Pre-IB Chemistry (if Biology in middle school)	Pre-IB Chemistry or Pre-IB Physics	AP Biology (IB) or AP Chemistry (IB) or AP Physics B (IB)	IB Biology 3 or IB Chemistry 3 or IB Physics 3
<b>Group 5 - Mathematics</b> High school math courses taken in middle school count as high school math credits.	Geometry Honors (Pre-IB) or Algebra 2 Honors (Pre-IB) (if Geometry in middle school)	Algebra 2 Honors or Prob./Stat. Honors or AP Statistics and AP Pre-Calculus (Pre-IB)	IB Apps. & Interpretation 1 or IB Analysis & Approaches 1 or AP Calculus AB (IB)	IB Apps. & Interpretation 2 (SL) IB Apps & Interpretation 3 (HL) or IB Analysis & Approaches 2 (SL) or IB Analysis & Approaches 3 (HL)
<b>Group 6 – Elective</b>  Some group 6 subject courses are completed during 11 <sup>th</sup> grade. Some courses have required pre-requisites, and some continue into 12 <sup>th</sup> grade.  **Junior Year Group 6 subjects are offered based upon availability and number of students. It is important students list more than one option on their course request sheet.	Students who might be interested in the following group 6 subjects should take the appropriate electives as pre-requisites:  <u>Possible Pre-requisites for</u> IB Visual Art: Pre-IB Art 1 IB Film Studies: Theatre, Cinema, & Film Production IB Psychology: none IB Computer Sci: Foundations of Programming H and/or Robotics Honors IB Business Mgn: Business & Entre. Principles Honors IB Science: Anatomy/Phys Honors (Need 2 electives)	Students who might be interested in the following group 6 subjects should take the appropriate electives as pre-requisites:  <u>Possible Pre-requisites for</u> IB Visual Art: AP Art History or Pre-IB Art 2 IB Film Studies: Film 3 Honors IB Psychology: AP Psychology IB Computer Sci: AP Comp Principles IB Business Mgn: Accounting Apps H IB Science: Pre-IB Physics (Need 2 electives)	**Students <u>must</u> select 1 of the following:  IB Visual Art 2 IB Film Studies 2 IB Psychology 2 AP Computer Science A (IB) IB Business Management 2 IB 2 <sup>nd</sup> Science (Group 4)	The following group 6 subjects <u>must</u> be taken over a two-year period: (11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> )  IB Visual Art 3 (SL & HL) IB Computer Science 3 (SL & HL) IB Business Mgn 3 (SL & HL) <u>IB 2<sup>nd</sup> Science (SL &amp; HL)</u>  The following group 6 subjects have the <u>option</u> to continue studying at the higher level:  IB Psychology 3 (HL) IB Film Studies 3 (HL)
<b>TOK</b>			TOK 1	TOK 2
<b>Other Requirements</b>			CAS Experience & Extended Essay	



QR Code for Teacher Recommendation



Everything you Wanted to Know about IB



The Question: "To IB or Not IB"



IB Parent, Student, Alumni Panel via Teams

## Important Dates for First-time Students Considering Nease IB

- Wed. December 11** High School Showcase at WGV
- Mon. January 6** Academy Registration opens online (8AM)
- Wed. January 22** Academy Night at Nease (6pm)
- Thurs. January 23** IB Parent, Student, Alumni Panel (TEAMS 6pm)
- Tues. January 24** All Teacher Recs due to Mrs. Kennedy
- Tues. January 24** Online Applications Due by 5pm

## 3 Steps to Apply to Nease IB by JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>

- 1. Apply Online:** Go to SJCS D Academy website and follow instructions under Apply Now- New Student Registration. (If zone to a SJC school, but not attending currently, pre-register at your zoned school.)
- 2. Distribute teacher recommendations:** Print the teacher recommendation form from the Nease IB website & distribute to your 4 core academic teachers (ELA, Math, Science & History) in order for them to submit to Missy Kennedy by January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 3. Any private, home school or new student to SJCS D should submit report cards** (7<sup>th</sup> grade final & 8<sup>th</sup> grade January) **and standardized test scores** to Missy Kennedy via email by January 24<sup>th</sup>.