ACADEMIC CHOICES AT THE END OF 2nde/10th GRADE: IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM 2023

Q&A of the February 1, 2023 Presentation

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Details available in the recording and the slides of the presentation.

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- ❑ How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?
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INTRODUCTION: WHY DO THE IB DP AT ROCHAMBEAU?

As we will see later on, the IB DP is not a program of the French Ministry. It is neither an American program.

Rochambeau chose to start offering an IB program with the DP (Diploma Program) in 1ère/11th grade and Terminale/12th grade in 2021. The idea was to fully realize our identity as a French and international school in the US. With the IB Program and the French Program, our students now have a choice and the opportunity to find at Rochambeau the program that suits them best.

Our IB DP sets itself apart from programs offered at other schools in the area with its truly bilingual nature as subjects are taught in English and in French (see Question 5 below).

Q1. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR US TO CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

- ❑ **When do we have to make a decision?**
- ❑ **How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?**

❑ When do we have to make a decision?

The IB DP can be an option for you if your child is currently in **2nde/10th grade** as the program starts in 1ère/11th grade.

If your child *IS* currently enrolled at Rochambeau:

- You do not have to make a choice at the time of re-enrollment.
- You will receive by email a "*Fiche de voeux provisoires*" (Google form) before the conseils de classe of the second trimester (March). On this form, you will be able to select either the French Program or the IB DP. This will not be a definitive choice.
- Before the conseils de classe of the third and last trimester (June), you will receive the last "*Fiche de voeux définitifs*" on which you will be able to confirm or change your choice.

If your child *IS NOT* enrolled at Rochambeau:

- You will be asked to express an interest for either the French Program or the IB DP. Since the two programs do not entail the same level of fluency in English and French, we want to best advise you as soon as you start the application process..
- You will be able to confirm or revise your choice before the beginning of the summer.

❑ How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?

You can

- watch the recordings of our presentations,
- visit our school website and the IBO website to find more information about the IB DP
- Attend an online information session with Mme Gaultier and Mrs. Percy (dates to be published)
- Email your questions and/or schedule a meeting with either Mme Gaultier, Mrs. Percy or M. Vanhille.

Q2. WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)?

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❑ What is the IB?

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❑ Classic French Bac, SIA, IB… What are the different programs offered at Rochambeau?

The **IB Program** and the **French Program** are two different programs accredited, supervised and assessed by two different organizations (respectively the **IBO** and the **French Ministry of Education**).

- **At Rochambeau, the FRENCH PROGRAM goes from Kindergarten to *Terminale* and the French *Baccalauréat*.**
- It includes the ***SIA*** *(Section Internationale Américaine)* and the *BFI (Baccalauréat Français International)* a bilingual (or trilingual) and bicultural version of the classic French curriculum with added hours in English and History/Geography (taught bilingually) from *6ème* to *Terminale.*

- **Starting in Sept. 2023, our IB PROGRAM will go from 3ème to Terminale (9th-12th grade).**
- It currently starts in 11th grade (equiv. *1ère*) as we offer the IB Diploma Program or **DP**. The DP is a two-year program (equiv. *1ère* & *Terminale*) that prepares students for the exams of the IB Diploma.
- In Sept. 2023, we are expanding the IB Program to the IB **MYP** that will be offered in 9th and 10th grades (equiv. *3ème* & *2nde*).

❑ What is the IB?

Founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland, the **International Baccalaureate Organization** is an independent, not-for-profit foundation. At its inception, the organization brought together educators from around the world with the aim to create an international program of education with no bias towards any particular national system and **that would develop truly internationally-minded young people through inquiry; conceptual, multilingual and intercultural studies; collaboration, service, and action.**

At the core of the IB philosophy are the 10 attributes of the learner profile, a set of learning outcomes the program aims to develop in all IB students: inquirers; knowledgeable; thinkers; communicators; principled; open-minded; caring; risk-taker; balanced; reflective.

The IB offers four high-quality and challenging educational programs for a worldwide community of schools and students aged 3 to 19 : the Primary Years Program (PYP); the Middle Years Program (MYP); the Diploma Program (DP), and the Career-related Program (CP). Rochambeau is an authorized school for the DP. In September 2023, it will start offering two years of the MYP in 3ème/9th grade and 2nde/10th grade while it pursues the IBO authorization for this program.

Rochambeau has been an IB World School since September 2021 when it started offering the IB Diploma Program (DP) in 1ère/11th grade and Terminale/12th grade.

We currently have 37 IB students in two classes of the DP - one 1ère/11th grade class and one Terminale/12th grade class. 20 teachers teach in the program.
By becoming an IB school, Rochambeau has joined a network of 5,600 IB world schools located in 160 countries.

While Rochambeau offers an IB Program as another choice for our students, it remains

accredited by the French Ministry of Education for its French Program, which remains unchanged. Tuition fees are the same regardless of the program families and students choose.

❑ What is the IB Diploma Program?

Corresponding to the last two years of high school (the French *1ère* and *Terminale*), the DP is an assessed program at the end of which students can be awarded the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate. See Question 4 below for details about the program organization and curriculum.

Q3. AT THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT DIPLOMA(S) WILL MY CHILD BE AWARDED?

- ❑ **What diplomas are awarded at Rochambeau?**
- ❑ **Can one choose the French Program in 1ère/11th grade and enroll in the IB DP in Terminale/12th grade? Can one do the IB DP in 1ère/11th grade and choose the French *Baccalauréat* in Terminale/12th grade?**
- ❑ **Do IB DP courses qualify for the High School Diploma?**
- ❑ **What about university recognition?**

❑ What diplomas are awarded at Rochambeau?

At Rochambeau, students are awarded a diploma depending on their choice of **either the IB DP or the French *Baccalauréat* program** and whether they meet all the diploma's qualification requirements:

- ❖ Upon completion of the 1ère/11th grade and Terminale/12th grade **IB DP** and success on the final exams, students can be awarded the **DIPLOMA OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE** (see Question 7 below for details about exam assessment in the IB DP).

- Upon completion of the **FRENCH PROGRAM** 1ère and Terminale and success on the exams, students can be awarded the **BACCALAURÉAT FRANÇAIS** (BF) or the **BACCALAURÉAT FRANÇAIS INTERNATIONAL** (BFI). The BFI is awarded to students who have chosen to enroll in the BFI section at the end of 2nde (more information in the Q&A of the French Baccalauréat presentation).

❑ Can one choose the French Program in 1ère/11th grade and enroll in the IB DP in Terminale/12th grade? Can one do the IB DP in 1ère/11th grade and choose the French *Baccalauréat* in Terminale/12th grade?

Rochambeau's goal with having two programs families can choose from - the French Program & the IB Program - is to help you and your children find the curriculum, learning style, and languages that best suit your child.

Although changes are possible at any other stage of a student's course of studies, **it is NOT possible** to go from the IB DP to the French program or from the French program to the IB DP **after the end of the first month of 1ère/11th grade**. This is because both the IB Diploma and the French Baccalauréat are prepared over the course of two years and require formal registration of students to the exams early on.

❑ Do IB DP courses qualify for the High School Diploma?

Whatever program students choose at Rochambeau, **they qualify for the US/Maryland High School Diploma**. Courses in all programs meet the requirements and allow students to get the credits they need.

If you join Rochambeau after 4ème, you might miss some credits. We will direct you to Mme Bessaha, our Registrar, who will tell you what credits your child needs and how to make up for them: bessahad@rochambeau.org

❑ What about university recognition?

The IB Diploma recognizes students' level of achievement and completion of the challenging IB DP. **It opens the doors of universities worldwide.** The DP is internationally recognized as representing one of the highest standards in university preparatory education. Thousands of colleges and universities have recognition policies on how they weigh it in admissions, advanced standing, college credit and scholarships.

However, each university, regardless of the diploma, has specific admission criteria. It is important to check with your university counselors.

Q4. WHAT IS THE IB DP CURRICULUM?

- ❑ **What subjects are offered? Are all subjects mandatory?**
- ❑ **Are there electives?**
- ❑ **What will an IB DP schedule look like? How much work will the IB represent for a student?**

❑ What subjects are offered? Are all subjects mandatory?

The IB Diploma Program curriculum aims to be holistic, internationally-minded, comprehensive, and multilingual.
To be so, the DP centers on the DP core and organizes teaching and learning through 6 subject groups.

THE CORE
Three components make up the core and are studied alongside and across individual subjects and throughout the two years of the DP: Theory of Knowledge (TOK); Creativity, Action, Service (CAS); and the Extended Essay (EE).

A SELECTION OF 6 COURSES
Upon acceptance in the program, and before the beginning of Year 1 (1ère/11th grade), students choose a course from within each subject group for a total of 6 courses in:

- Group 1 | Language and Literature (their Language A or best language)
- Group 2 | Language Acquisition (their Language B or second language). At Rochambeau, students have either two languages A - English and French – or English as their Language A and French as their Language B.
- Group 3 | Individuals and Societies (this is the group for humanities and social studies)
- Group 4 | Sciences
- Group 5 | Math
- Group 6 | Arts or an alternative (for instance, at Rochambeau, you can take Film or another science in addition to the one selected in Group 4).

To better fit their strengths, interests, and future projects, each student chooses 3 courses at the standard level and three courses at the higher level. Standard and Higher levels share a core curriculum to which the higher level adds breadth, depth, and more complex concepts.

You can find the detail of the course offering in each group on slide #17 of the presentation and here on the school website.

❑ Are there electives?

Unlike in the French Program, there are no electives in the IB DP (no US Math, Latin or Theater or Cinema):

- US Math is not necessary in the DP as the IB DP Math curriculum goes beyond these elements (see below Question 6.).
- Film or Visual Arts can be chosen as a course in Group 6 for the Arts.
- Latin, however, is not offered in the DP.

❑ What will an IB DP schedule look like? How much work will the IB DP represent for a student?

In 1ère/11th grade, the total number of class hours is 29-31 hours with 28-30 hours of subject classes and 1 hour of Vie de classe/Advisory.
In Terminale/12th grade, the total number of hours is 26 hours with 25 hours of subject classes and 1 hour of Vie de classe/Advisory.

Like all IB programs, the DP emphasizes service and independent work and includes a student's extended essay and service requirements. IB students have fewer hours of class than other programs, but they have a lot of reading, research and research paper-writing to do outside of the classroom:

- The **Internal Assessments**: One piece of research or production conducted in each of a student's 6 subjects over the course of the two years of the DP. Although the internal assessments are done during the school year, they are not continued assessments. IA grades are determined by the teachers and then sent to the IB who moderates them and counts them toward a student's final exam score (IAs represent 30 to 40% of the exam score). As these are exam grades that are released by the IB after the exams, they are not included in the trimester averages.
- The **Extended Essay (EE)**: An independent and self-directed piece of research finishing with a 4,000-word paper.
- **CAS (Creativity, Action, Service)**: A collection of enjoyable & challenging experiences determined by students to extend their abilities in the areas of creativity, action, and service. These experiences include a minimum of 150 hours of service.

IN CONCLUSION: The IB DP is very demanding in terms of independent study, reflection & service.

Q5. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF LANGUAGES IN THE IB DP?

- ❑ **How do students choose languages?**
- ❑ **Are there admission criteria in languages? What is the expected level of mastery of English? French?**

❑ How do students choose languages?

All IB language courses aim to develop students skills in listening, writing, speaking, and reading.

The IB DP offers two types of language courses to suit a student's language profile:

- **Language & Literature courses ("Language A"):** focus on critical, creative, personal approaches to studying and analyzing literary and non-literary texts (in a student's best or second best language).
- **Language Acquisition courses ("Language B"):** aim to develop comfort and autonomy, and knowledge of the culture (in a student's second best or another language).

At Rochambeau, every DP student will study **at least 2 languages:**

- ➢ **Either 2 languages A (English and French)**
- ➢ **Or 1 language A (English) and 1 language B (French).**

For each language, students can choose either the standard or the higher level.

Spanish can be studied as an additional language if selected in Group 6 (as an alternative to an art course).

Language learning also happens through other subjects as some subjects - the majority - are taught in English and others in French. Depending on a student's selection of courses:

- ❖ 56 to 90% of instruction is done in English
- ❖ 10-44% in French.

See the detail on slides #19 and 20 of the presentation.

THE IB BILINGUAL AND ADVANCED BILINGUAL DIPLOMAS

- ❖ **The IB Bilingual Diploma** is a version of the IB Diploma. It is awarded to candidates who demonstrate language proficiency in two different languages.
  There are two different ways to obtain a Bilingual Diploma:
  - ➢ Completion of **two languages from group 1** (language A subjects) scoring a **3** or

higher in both: **ENG A + FR A**

- ➢ **OR** Completion of **one of the subjects from group 3 or 4** in a language that is not the same as the group 1 language, scoring a **3** or higher in both the group 1 language and the group 3 or 4 subject:
  = ENG A + BIOLOGY OR HISTORY
  = FR A + GloPo OR ECON OR PHY

- ❖ **The IB Advanced Bilingual Diploma** started as a pilot program at three French schools in North America and was officialized in 2018. It is another version of the IB Diploma and the result of the collaboration between the IBO and the Mission Laïque Française.
  To be eligible, students must:
  - ➢ Study **two languages from group 1** (language A subjects) scoring a **4** or higher in both.
  - ➢ AND Study **at least one subject from group 3, 4, 5 or 6** in **each** of the group 1 languages, scoring no grades below **4** in all subjects:
    = ENG A + FR A + HISTORY OR BIOLOGY OR VISUAL ARTS

❑ Are there admission criteria in languages? What is the expected level of mastery of English? French?

The IB DP is open to all students.

If your child is already enrolled at Rochambeau:

- ❖ English: your child's English teacher will be consulted. The IB DP being taught primarily in English, applicants need to be proficient in English to join the program.
- ❖ French: we will help you decide between French A and French B depending on your child's language profile (years living with the French language; years studying in a French program; French spoken at home or not; plans for future studies, etc.).

If your child is *not* enrolled at Rochambeau:

- ❖ English: The IB DP being taught primarily in English, applicants need to be proficient in English to join the program. We will ask you to provide transcripts and a letter from your child's English teacher (as an indication, students should have an English level of at least B2 or equivalent, which translates into a letter grade equivalent to a B for US students in a Standard/Honors English level class). We can also organize an assessment by one of our IB English teachers.
- ❖ French: we will recommend a placement for your child in either French A and French B depending on her/his/their language profile (years living with the French language; years studying in a French program; French spoken at home or not; plans for future studies, etc.) and an assessment by one of our IB French teachers.

Q6. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MATH & SCIENCE IN THE IB DP?

- ❑ **What is the Math offering and level of Math?**
- ❑ **How many & which sciences can a student take?**

❑ What is the Math offering and level of Math?

As a Group 5 subject, Math is mandatory for all in the IB DP. The IB DP offers a choice between two Math courses that students can choose at the standard and/or higher level:

- ❖ Math AA – Analysis and Approaches, SL & HL
  - ➢ Emphasis on algebraic methods
  - ➢ Develop strong skills in mathematical thinking
  - ➢ Real and abstract mathematical problem solving
  - ➢ For students interested in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences, and some economics.

- ❖ Math AI – Applications & Interpretation, SL
  - ➢ Emphasis on modeling and statistics
  - ➢ Develops strong skills in applying mathematics to the real-world
  - ➢ Real mathematical problem solving using technology
  - ➢ For students interested in social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, statistics, business, engineering, some economics, psychology and design.

Please be advised that whatever course a student chooses to take, IB Math remains a very challenging curriculum.
Want to more? See this guide for a more detailed presentation of both curricula.

❑ How many & which sciences can a student take?

In the IB DP, sciences courses are organized as follows:

- ❖ Students **must** take **one** science course: either Biology in French or Physics in English (either at the standard level or at the higher level).
- ❖ They **can** take **a second** science as their 6th IB DP subject (if they do not choose an art or a Spanish course). The science we offer is Chemistry (SL or HL).

See diagram on slide #26 of the presentation.

Q7. HOW IS THE IB DIPLOMA AWARDED?

- ❑ **How many exams do IB students sit?**
- ❑ **What is an internal assessment?**

❑ How many exams do IB students sit?

There is no continued assessment in the IB DP (meaning that the grades awarded during the school year and reported on the report cards and transcripts do not count toward the students' final exam scores).

To be awarded the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate, students must complete all requirements:

- ❖ Requirements in Creativity, Action & Service (**CAS**).
- ❖ Completion of Theory of Knowledge (**ToK**) assignments, including the ToK essay.
- ❖ Completion of the Extended Essay (**EE**): An independent and self-directed piece of research finishing with a 4,000-word paper.
- ❖ **External assessments:** depending on the subject, 2 to 3 seated exams (that the IB calls "papers") in each of a student's 6 courses (except in the Arts that are assessed differently). Exams are taken in May of Year 2 of the DP (Terminale/12th Grade). These are graded by examiners from the IB Organization. External assessment accounts for 60 to 70% of the students' final scores.
- ❖ **Internal assessments (IAs):** 1 piece of research or production conducted in each of a student's 6 subjects over the course of the two years of the DP. Although the internal assessments are done during the school year, they are not continued assessments. IA grades are determined by the teachers and then sent to the IB who moderates them and counts them toward a student's final exam score. IAs represent 30 to 40% of the students' final exam scores. As these are exam grades that are released by the IB after the exams, they are not included in the trimester averages.

IB subjects are graded on a 1- 7 scale with 7 being the highest score.

To qualify for the award of the IB **Diploma**, a student must receive a minimum combined score of 24 points across 6 subjects with at least 12 points from higher level subjects and a minimum of 9 points from standard level subjects.
A maximum of 3 points are also awarded for ToK and the EE, bringing the maximum total to 45 points.

CONCLUSION

- ❑ **How to choose?**
- ❑ **Is the IB DP for my child?**

❑ How to choose?

- ❖ **INQUIRE** about courses offered in each track (content, programs, expectations, grading, exams...)
- ❖ **DISCUSS** with your teachers, your guidance counselors, juniors and seniors
- ❖ **REFLECT** on your plans for the future, but also your profile and your academic results.

❑ Is the IB DP for my child?

The IB DP might be for you if your child:

- Is fluent in English and prefers to study in this language.
- Enjoys project-based learning.
- Is organized, has a strong work ethic, and enjoys independent work
- Collaborates and likes to work in a team.
- Is curious about world issues.
- Is a critical thinker who asks “how” and “why” questions rather than “what”.

There is no wrong choice in terms of program quality, program recognition, or university acceptance. Both the French Baccalauréat and the IB Diploma Program are rigorous programs of education that lead, at the end of Grade 12, to excellent and recognized diplomas.
We are here to help you determine which program will best suit your child.