

Beginning in the fall of 2007, the Brooklyn Friends Upper School has offered high achieving juniors and seniors the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, a rigorous pre-university curriculum known worldwide for excellence in academic preparation. In an increasingly global world, the IB program at BFS challenges students to think critically, to research deeply, and to develop internationally-minded perspectives on a broad range of issues.

A demanding and time-intensive program, the IB covers a wide range of disciplines and has stood the test of time since 1968 for some half-million students in 119 countries.

IB diploma students at Brooklyn Friends study six subjects over a two-year period: English, history, mathematics, a second language, laboratory science, and the arts. They take a

required interdisciplinary course, Theory of Knowledge; participate in 150 hours of creative, physical, and service activities; and write an original research paper of 4,000-words, known as the extended essay.

The IB program has earned a reputation for rigorous assessment, giving IB diploma holders access to the world's leading universities. IB graduates are ready to debate real-world issues from an international perspective and to provide leadership and support in the local and global community. They are prepared to ask challenging questions, know how to research a topic in depth, and learn how to express informed opinions. They have a strong sense of their own culture and identity as well as the ability to communicate in two or more languages with people who have different perspectives.

THE IB LEARNER PROFILE

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers They develop their natural curiosity, acquiring the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

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

Communicators They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Balanced They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.



Open-minded They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Reflective They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

The IB Diploma Program is widely recognized for its high academic standards. Assessment takes place over two years, with final examinations in each discipline. External examinations and assessments are issued by the IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization) and are complemented by internal assessments, which are administered by Brooklyn Friends School and moderated by the IBO.

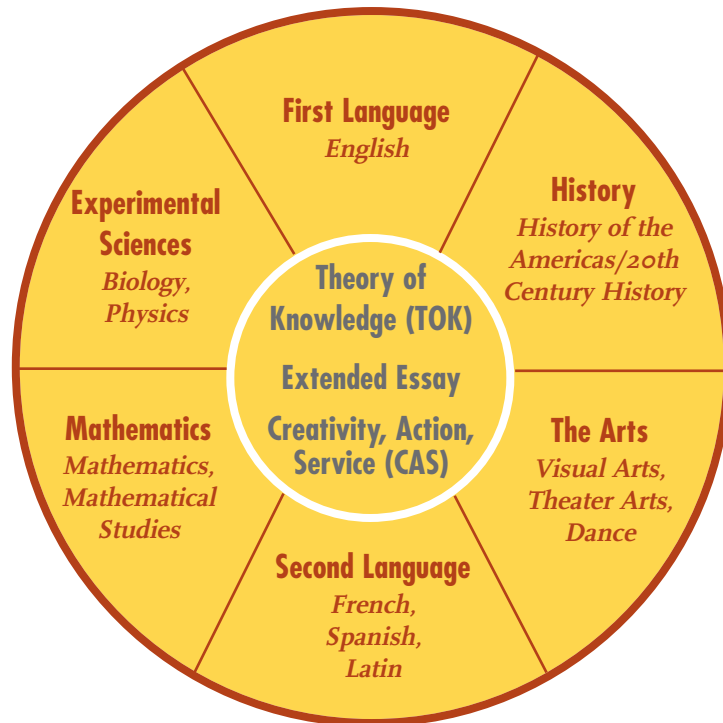
Subjects are scored on a 1 to 7 scale with a further three points for Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. Students who display good levels of performance across all six subjects and receive a minimum of 24 points are awarded the IB Diploma. Many colleges and universities offer advanced standing or credit to students with high scores on the IB assessments.

Students who intend to study for the IB Diploma should have a love of learning and a dedicated approach to study. Current Brooklyn Friends students may apply to be part of the diploma program in the spring semester of their tenth grade year. The process includes an essay written by student and parent, a student and parent interview with the BFS IB Coordinator, and a teacher recommendation. Acceptance is decided by the Upper School Head and the IB Coordinator, with input from all Upper School faculty.

The IB Diploma is highly regarded as an admissions credential to universities throughout the world because of its academic rigor, focus on critical thinking, and the research and writing skills it fosters.



THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA CURRICULUM



As illustrated in the diagram above, six subject groups comprise the IB curriculum. Diploma students study one italicized course option from each group.

IB Diploma students also complete all three core components as shown in the center of the diagram. Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay and Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) are central to the philosophy of the IB Diploma Program.

Application for admission to Brooklyn Friends School should be made early in the fall for the following September. Application procedures and forms are on the school website: www.brooklynfriends.org.



THINK

COMMUNICATE



INQUIRE



REFLECT



CARE



TAKE RISKS

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HEARTS SINCE 1867

