



High School Course Guide 2015-2016

• Greetings

Students and Parents,

We have carefully structured a curriculum to ensure a smooth transition from Middle School to High School. Although we are a small school, we attempt to provide a broad range of options to cater to students' interests and abilities.

All students who meet the graduation requirements described in this course guide will earn an ICS High School diploma. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme provides excellent course offerings for students seeking the best preparation for admission to colleges and universities worldwide. Most students will attempt the full IB Diploma, while the rest will study one or more IB courses.

Regardless of their path through our curriculum and courses, it is our hope that all ICS students will be prepared for success beyond our walls, and will have the character, skills and attitudes that will empower them to contribute to their future communities and our world.

This course guide is meant to assist students and parents in their discussions with counselors and teachers in choosing appropriate programs of study.

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ICS Mission Statement

The International Community School of Addis Ababa, accredited in the United States, develops the talents and intellects of a multicultural student body using learner-centered, holistic instructional methods, empowering each student to contribute in an evolving world.

Adopted by the ICS Board of Governors, Spring 2006

Philosophy Statement

We of the International Community School promote an interactive, holistic learning environment, which encourages freedom of inquiry, initiative, creativity and academic achievement. Emphasis is placed on providing students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to face the challenges of the future. We teach respect for the richness and diversity of individuals, cultures and spiritual beliefs. We build self-esteem and sustain self-discipline, and above all, we cultivate and celebrate a passion for learning. Within a dynamic multicultural environment, we acknowledge our responsibility to and involvement with the global community.

IB Learner Profile

Learners in an IB World School strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Courageous
- Balanced
- Reflective

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High School Program Overview

The ICS High School Program is designed to:

- Offer courses that meet entry requirements to a broad range of colleges and universities around the world. Successful ICS students will be well prepared for the demands of post-secondary education.
- Support all students in attaining their educational goals. A wide range of course offerings and emphasis on differentiated teaching strategies ensure that all students are supported to achieving their potential. However, only limited EAL and special needs support is available.
- Provide learning opportunities that support the development of independent learners and the IB Learner Profile.

The transition from Middle to High School demands that students take increasing responsibility for their personal learning. Good time management skills and personal reflection on teacher feedback are important pillars for academic success. High school assignments will often require students to develop timelines and completion strategies that will provide balance to their daily workload.

Planning a Course of Study

In grades 11 and 12 students may choose one of three paths through our program of studies:

- Path A: ICS High School Diploma
- Path B: ICS Diploma with IB Courses
- Path C: Full IB Diploma

Upon successful completion of grade 12, all students will be awarded the ICS High School Diploma. Students who successfully undertake the full IB Diploma Program (*Path C*) will receive the IB Diploma and the ICS High School Diploma. Students who choose to study a combination of IB courses and other ICS courses (*Path B*) will earn the ICS High School Diploma with IB courses that may earn advanced placement and/or credit at colleges and universities.

We feel that all students will benefit from the challenge of the IB Diploma Program, either as individual IB courses or the full IB Diploma.

High School Graduation Requirements

Listed below are the graduation requirements for the ICS High School Diploma. These are minimum requirements that must be successfully completed before an ICS High School Diploma can be awarded. Colleges and universities have their own admission standards, and most demand evidence of high levels of achievement with an emphasis on a rigorous course of study. A student who only meets the minimum requirements may find their college choices are limited. Students will decide, with the guidance of school counselors and faculty, and the help of parents, what is best for them based on their goals and aspirations beyond high school.

All courses meet the same amount of time per week, but some courses run for one semester and other courses run for the entire year. A half (0.5) credit is awarded for each semester of a high school course when the student has earned a passing grade of D- or better.

Subject Areas	Credits Required
English	4
Mathematics	3
Humanities	3
Sciences	3
Languages other than English	2
Physical Education	2
Arts	1
Technology (embedded in curriculum)	.5
Other/ Elective Courses	7.5
Total credits required for ICS Diploma	26

Details about ICS's credit requirements, grade requirements, CAS requirements and any potential waivers to graduation requirements are explained in more detail in the High School Student/Parent Handbook.

It is important to read course descriptions and to select courses that will fulfill graduation requirements and meet individual needs. Some courses are required and will be assigned automatically. Other courses are considered electives.

Some courses listed in this guide may be changed or canceled if there is insufficient student interest or if teachers cannot be assigned.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

The IB Diploma Program is recognized as the flagship of the high school academic program. Students in grades 11 and 12 are encouraged to participate in the IB Program, which challenges students to master content knowledge and to acquire advanced critical thinking skills. Students are expected to use their creativity, to be actively involved in community service, to demonstrate proficiency in conducting independent research, and to be *reflective* through a balanced interdisciplinary approach to learning.

The IB Diploma Requirements

Over the course of two years, Diploma candidates must complete the following:

- One course in each of six Groups
- A course in Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- The Extended Essay (A four thousand-word independent research project with an ICS supervisor.
- An individualized program of learning achieved through creativity, action and service (CAS) activities in grades 11-12

- Group 1: First Language (A),
- Group 2: Language Acquisition
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies
- Group 4: Sciences
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: The Arts and Electives

Three subjects must be taken at a Higher Level (HL) and three should be taken at Standard Level (SL).

Students should choose their HL courses based on their strengths and interests. Humanities-oriented students may take English and History HL classes, whereas a future engineer might want to take Math and Science HL classes.

One course, Environmental Systems and Societies SL, is designated as both Group 3 and Group 4; it meets the requirement for both Groups.

For their Group 6 course, IB Diploma Candidates can choose IB Visual Arts or a second course from Groups 1–4. Some students have opted for a third language, or Geography SL. Students interested in engineering typically take Chemistry with Physics as their Group 6 elective, and students interested in medicine as a career are advised to take Chemistry with Biology as their elective, with one of them at the Higher Level.

Why Take IB Courses or “Do the Diploma?”

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is a well-respected two-year university preparatory program which is based not on the curriculum of a single country but which combines the best elements of many national curricula. The IBDP contains features common to US high school curricula, English A-Levels and the French Baccalaureate, to name a few educational systems. The IB Diploma Program is offered by more than 2,300 schools in 142 countries. Students who meet the requirements of the program receive an internationally recognized IB Diploma. Although recognition varies from country to country, the Diploma in most cases assures students’ access to universities worldwide and university course credit or sophomore status at many North American colleges.

Who Should Take IB Courses?

Well-motivated students are encouraged to complete the full IB Diploma. Depending on the university, the breadth and rigor of the IB Diploma is favorably considered for applicants who have taken advantage of it. In the United States, college admissions committees tend to regard IB Diploma graduates as a “class apart.”

For non-US bound students, successful completion of the IB Diploma can open doors to university systems (for example, European or Asian), which do not recognize ICS’s US-style high school diploma. US-bound students who are not ready to meet all the requirements of the full IB Diploma may take some IB courses and sit for the exams. Higher Level (HL) courses may be considered the equivalent of a first-year university course. Depending on the coursework and grade, students may earn university credit and academic scholarships for their work in high school.

Students who take IB courses are expected to complete *all* coursework including internal IB assessments, regardless of whether they take the IB exam or not.

Online IB Courses (through Pamoja Education)

ICS students may pursue IB learning opportunities online through Pamoja Education courses, developed with and fully approved by the IB Organization, enabling students to qualify for the IB Diploma.

All Pamoja education online IB courses are:

- delivered over two years
- developed and taught by experienced IB teachers who have been specially trained in online pedagogy
- subject to the IB’s rigorous online course approval standards
- designed to ensure students master the curriculum and develop 21st century learning skills
- offered in classes of 10 to 25 students from around the world, providing a highly interactive and truly international online IB experience
- fully recognized in fulfillment of IB Diploma requirements or as individual IB courses.

- To view more information about Pamoja education online courses, please click [here](#).

English 9 (Compulsory)

Grade 9 English provides students with an introduction to genre, including the novel, short stories, poetry, and drama, Greek Mythology and the essay. Students write for different audiences and purposes, producing research, descriptive, analytical and creative papers. Students will learn peer- and self-editing to improve their writing process. Regular vocabulary and grammar exercises are part of this class. In addition to class novels and works, students will choose supplementary pleasure reading books throughout the year. Throughout the course, students will work creatively, cooperatively and independently on a variety of activities designed to enhance intellectual and emotional growth.

English 10 (Compulsory)

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9

In this course students will read, analyze, and respond to multicultural literature in order to identify its unique and unifying aspects of character, theme, conflict, archetype, and imagery. Students will enhance their understanding and appreciation of the literature through cooperative projects, dramatic presentations, inter-disciplinary study, writing translations and student-based teaching seminars. Developing skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary development, oral communication, and writing will be emphasized. Writing of all types will be encouraged, including narrative, research, exposition and literary analysis.

IB English Language and Literature G11, Year 1

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10

This is the first year of the two-year college preparatory English program. This course will give students from a wide variety of linguistic backgrounds the opportunity to reach a high level of competence in English and to develop their linguistic skills through the study of a wide range of texts. It also seeks to promote an appreciation of the wealth and subtleties of the English language, in comparison with other languages and cultures, and to facilitate the clear expression of ideas. Students will develop their powers of expression in both written and oral communication through critical reading and analysis of literary and nonliterary texts. Successful completion of the course will prepare students for the IB **Language and Literature** exam and assessments during grades 11-12.

IB English A Literature G11, Year 1

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10

This is the first year of the two-year IB English A Literature course. Students will develop critical reading skills through the in-depth literary study of texts in English and in translation. Students will be assessed using the IB oral and written assessment criteria and given much practice in developing reasoned arguments in written and oral form. Analytical literary essays and oral presentations will form a major part of the course, along with a variety of other learning activities. Students will complete their IB Individual Oral Presentation and a first draft of the Literary Essay by the end of the year.

Creative Writing I/II – Grades 9-12

- Semester courses

Students will explore a variety of creative writing genres including poetry, fantasy, fiction, etc., and the class will produce a literary magazine at the end of each semester. Students who enroll for Creative Writing II will focus on playwriting (monologs and 10-minute plays) and scriptwriting with the goal of having a performance or viewing of one of their works at the end of the semester. Both courses will encourage students to pursue online and print publication. Students may take either or both courses.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

- Grade Levels: 9–10
- Teacher Recommendation

Our Secondary English as an Additional Language (EAL) program offers intensive but limited support in English for speakers of other languages. It includes listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and visually representing with particular emphasis on pronunciation, comprehension and academic vocabulary. The goal is to increase academic language proficiency so that students can participate to a greater degree in their regular English grade level.

Amharic Literature Grades 9–10

- Prerequisite: Teacher approval

This course, for native Amharic speakers only, covers different literary genres, including the novel, short stories, poetry and drama. Students will write for different audiences, including literary essays and research-based essays. Vocabulary and grammar work is expected, and students will be expected to read for pleasure beyond the requirements of the course. This course will prepare students to enter the IB Amharic A Literature course in grades 11–12.

IB Amharic A Literature G11, Year 1

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Amharic Literature 9-10 or equivalent

For competent students of Amharic literature, this is the first year of the two-year IB literature course. Students will develop critical reading skills through the in-depth study of literary texts in Amharic, including four translated “World Literature” texts. Students will be assessed using the IB oral and written criteria. Two formal IB assessments, the Individual Oral Presentation and a written World Lit assignment, will be completed.

IB Amharic A Literature G12, Year 2 (SL or HL)

- Prerequisite: IB Amharic A Literature in Grade 11

This is the second year of the two-year IB course. Students will develop critical reading skills through the in-depth study of literary texts in Amharic, including four translated “World Literature” texts. Students will be assessed using the IB oral and written criteria. Two formal IB assessments, the Individual Oral Presentation and a written World Lit assignment, will be completed.

• World Languages (IB Group 2)

French 1 or Spanish 1

- Grade Level: 7–10

Students learn the fundamentals of the target language through the five basic components of communication: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing. The textbook is supplemented by games, oral presentations, and other individual and class activities. Oral expression is greatly emphasized. Students will also learn about Spanish or French culture and that of other Latin or francophone countries.

French 2 or Spanish 2

- Grade Level: 8–10
- Prerequisite for Spanish 2: Completion of HS Spanish 1 or teacher approval.
- Prerequisite for French 2: Completion of HS French 1, completion of the two-year Middle School French program, or teacher approval.

Students will learn basic vocabulary and grammar structures. There will be reading and writing, but the main focus will be on oral expression; therefore, students should be prepared to speak mostly Spanish or French in the classroom. This course includes the study of some literature adapted to this level.

French 3 or Spanish 3

- Grade Level: 9–12
- Prerequisite for Spanish 3: Successful completion of Spanish 2 or teacher approval
- Prerequisite for French 3: Successful completion of French 2 or teacher approval

Students will review basic vocabulary and grammar structures, and learn intermediate vocabulary and grammar structures. More focus will be put on reading and writing at this level, although oral expression will still be emphasized. Students should be prepared to speak only Spanish or French in the classroom. This course includes the study of literature adapted to this level.

Advanced French 9–11

This course is designed for francophone students to develop their academic writing and critical reading in French.

French 4 / IB French B, Year 1

- Grade Level: 10–12

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 3 or approval of teacher

This course is taken as French 4 by grade 10 students and as IB French B Year 1 by grade 11 students. It introduces the formal study of Francophone literary works. Students will be exposed to an appreciable amount of French culture and history through the study of the lives and philosophies of selected authors. It continues basic language instruction, with overall grammar review throughout the year. It is a critical course for any student wishing to continue in French, and particularly for IB diploma candidates wishing to study French as their Group 2 “Language B.”

French 5 / IB French B SL, Year 2

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 4

This course is for students in grade 11 or 12 who have successfully completed French 4, and who are working on the IB Diploma. Depending on their proficiency in the language, students will pursue the SL or HL course, both of which require two years of study. The student may elect to do the SL level course in grade 11; the HL course is only available to grade 12 students. Students will work with advanced vocabulary and grammar structures. Advanced reading and writing techniques will be practiced, with focus on analytical thought.

IB French B HL G12, Year 2

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB French 4 or teacher recommendation

This course is for students fluent in French and requires writing, speaking, and the study of French literature. Students will continue to refine their critical reading skills through the in-depth study and discussion of additional texts and cultural topics. IB assessments are conducted early in the year, followed by the student's Individual Oral which is recorded in February. Preparation and practice for the two May IB Examination papers will take place throughout the year.

IB Spanish *ab initio* 11 SL

- Two year program

Students learn the fundamentals of the language through the five basic components of communication: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing.

IB Spanish *ab initio* 12 SL

- Prerequisite: Completion of IB *ab initio* Year 1

Students will learn basic and intermediate vocabulary and grammar structures. There will be reading and writing, but the main focus will be on oral expression; therefore, students should be prepared to speak only the

target language in the classroom. This course includes the study of some literature adapted to this level. IB internal assessments will form a major portion of the grade. Students will be prepared for the *ab initio* Standard Level (SL) examination at the end of Year Two.

IB French or Spanish Ab Initio, Year 1 and Year 2

Spanish and French ab initio courses are designed for language learners who have 0-2 years of academic learning in the target language. They are designed to be followed in for two years in Grades 11-12.

The main focus of the courses is on the acquisition of language required for purposes and situations that are usual in everyday social interaction. Spanish and French Language ab initio courses are only available at Standard Level (SL).

These courses aim to develop in students a variety of linguistic skills and a basic awareness of the culture(s) using the language.

Three themes are covered: Individual and Society, Leisure and Work, Urban and Rural environment

Mother Tongue Languages and Literature

ICS High School students may be able to study their mother tongue with a qualified tutor paid by the family. Please speak to the HS Counselor and/or the IBDP Coordinator if you would like to explore this option, either as an IB course or in grades 9-10. Under certain circumstances, this may qualify a student to earn a bilingual IB Diploma.

Modern World History Grade 9 (Compulsory)

The study of world history offers the student multiple opportunities to develop critical thinking, writing and public speaking skills. The students will develop skills to interpret evidence that at times can offer little, and at other times is overwhelming. Their ability to evaluate multiple competing resources from diverse media and the analytical ability to determine the qualities that make a good resource from different media will be covered. The subject matter covered includes the roles of the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, World War I and World War II in the development of today's world.

United States History (G 10-12)

- Semester
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Modern World History 9

This semester course begins with a brief overview of the discovery, exploration, and colonial settlement of America. Important historical events surrounding the struggle for freedom and democracy will be emphasized, including the Enlightenment, the Revolutionary War, drafting of the Constitution, and resultant expansion and reform. The Civil War and Reconstruction Period will be examined, including the experience of minorities and African Americans in particular. Relationships and developmental parallels between the US and Africa will be explored, especially those relevant to our host country, Ethiopia.

Introduction to African History (G 10-12)

- Semester
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Modern World History 9

This semester course begins with a review of the geography of Africa and a summary of its ancient and medieval history of kingdoms and civilizations. Important topics are the African slave trades, the Islamization and Arabization of North Africa, state formation and consolidation in the 19th century, the partitioning of and resultant "scramble for Africa," European colonial rule, making thematic links to more contemporary history, looking at the rise of African nationalism and struggle for independence, pan-Africanism, the post-independence politics of African states, and the future of democracy, human rights, and socio-economic development in Africa.

Introduction to Economics (G10-12)

- Semester course

This course focuses on how people, businesses, and governments choose to use resources, and the theoretical principles involved in describing

these interactions. Assessments will require students to gather, sort, and evaluate appropriate evidence to answer questions, as well as to organize and express ideas and information in multiple formats.

Introduction to Psychology (G10-12)

- Semester course

This course focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Emphasis will be placed on research methods, stages in childhood and adolescence, how the brain works, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Assessments will require students to gather, sort, and evaluate appropriate evidence to answer questions, as well as to organize and express ideas and information in multiple formats.

Introduction to Business (G10-12)

- Semester course

This course will introduce students to what a business is, how it operates, and how it is managed. Students will learn about the forms of ownership and the processes used in production and marketing, finance, personnel and management in business operations. Assessments will require students to gather, sort, and evaluate appropriate evidence to answer questions, as well as to organize and express ideas and information in multiple formats.

Anthropology (G9-12)

- Semester course

Anthropology is the study of humans. This course focuses on cultural, or social, anthropology, the subfield that describes, analyzes, interprets, and explains social and cultural similarities and differences. It is an elective class that allows the student to explore the human sciences. The course is designed to develop skills and habits valuable to a life long learner; teamwork, time management, problem solving and evaluation of resources. Assessments will require students to gather, sort, and evaluate appropriate evidence to answer questions, as well as to organize and express ideas and information in multiple formats.

Global Issues, Leadership and Action (G9-12)

- Semester course

Great leaders are not born: they have to learn and develop the skills necessary to inspire, manage, and motivate other people. They have to know how to speak confidently to large groups, communicate clearly and effectively, understand others' feelings and points of view, identify and adapt to others' strengths and weaknesses, and manage groups of people to help them be cohesive and goal-directed. "GILA" will give students practical experience in developing these skills and more. Through active

and engaging experiences, students will learn and practice new skills, becoming more self-confident, self-aware and self-sufficient.

Introduction to Geography (G9-12)

- Semester course

This is a general course in both physical and human geography, with the first quarter concentrating on the elements of the earth and subjects such as volcanoes, earthquakes, and weathering/erosion, and how they affect populations. The second quarter is concerned with why populations live where they do, and how they adapt to the natural environment, including population growth, migration, and health issues. Students who take this course in grades 9 or 10 will better be prepared to take IB Geography.

Trial Law & Advocacy (G 9-12)

- Semester course

In this course students learn how a real-life litigator prepares and executes a trial. Each student will be working from a trial packet that includes the facts of the case, witness statements, and documentary evidence or exhibits. In addition, students will learn basic rules of evidence and courtroom procedure; they will also get an appreciation for the rule and practice of law. The course culminates with a mock trial competition in which student-attorneys will try the case before a judge and jury. The course is not only designed to give students a meaningful glance at the legal profession but it serves to enhance public speaking, oral advocacy, and problem solving skills that will in turn help ICS produce confident, creative, quick-witted and expressive students.

IB Contemporary World History (G11-12SL)

- Two year program
- Prerequisite: teacher approval

IB Contemporary World History is a topical *introduction in depth* to some of the major events and political institutions that have shaped the twentieth century world. The themes of the rise and rule of single party states and Cold War diplomacy will be stressed. Students will gain detailed knowledge of "communism in crisis," which looks into the challenges faced by Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and China from the mid 1970's through the end of the Cold War.

IB Contemporary World/African History (G11-12 HL)

- Two year program
- Prerequisite: Grade 10 history

Higher Level IB History students cover the entire Contemporary World History course, along with the HL option focusing on Africa. Our selected period of African history is approximately 1884–2000. Although the political history of Africa is the main focus, emphasis is also given to Africa’s economic, social and cultural history. Our study will focus on pre-colonial states and resistance to colonialism in Eastern and central Africa. We will also examine the period of European imperialism in Africa in depth.

IB Geography (G11–12 SL or HL)

- Two year program
- Prerequisite: Grade 10 history or equivalent

Contemporary geography explains trends and developments in societies that are caused by the interactions between individuals, societies, and the physical environment. Geography also investigates the way people adapt to change and helps to evaluate management strategies associated with such change. The course integrates both physical and human geography, thus allowing the student to understand methodologies used both in the scientific and socio-economic spheres. Part of the coursework and IB assessment will be practical field experiences in the Addis Ababa area and other parts of Ethiopia. Over the two years, students will be prepared for the SL or HL IB exam.

“Project X”

Project X is an elective, semester-long course where students learn about the learning process by selecting a personal project that they design and engage in both independently and with the support of a learning “coach”. This course challenges student to identify a subject and issue they wish to learn about, design a methodology for how to conduct their learning, and finally demonstrate their achievement through reflection and presentation. Students will have the opportunity to explore local and online resources to create and engage in their own learning goals. They will receive taught support from the teacher on the learning process, will be challenged to reflect upon their activities and will demonstrate understanding throughout the semester.

IB Theory of Knowledge (G11–12)

The goal of IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is to encourage students to reflect critically on the knowledge and experience they gain both in and out of the classroom. It also asks students to question

the bases of knowledge as well as to consider subjective and ideological biases. Lastly, TOK asks the student to develop a personal approach of thought and opinion based on his/her analysis and synthesis of evidence that can be conveyed in a rational line of development.

TOK begins in the first semester in grade 11 and continues in Semester 1 of grade 12 ((3 semesters) TOK is required for all ICS students in Grade 11 and 12.

Biology Grade 9 (Compulsory)

Biology is the study of life. The goal of this one-year conceptual and laboratory-based course is to understand and explore the science of living things. Students will study the nature and make-up of life and its processes. The biology of microorganisms, animals, and plants will be studied. Students will gain an appreciation of the diversity of life and the complexity of genetics and ecological relationships. One focus for this course is the week-long trip to the Bale Mountains. Students will gather data from a variety of habitats and (hopefully) see the rare endemic Ethiopian wolf.

Chemistry

Chemistry links the forces of physics to our existence in the world that comes alive in biology. Everything, from the sun burning to the melting of a frozen ice cream cone, falls within the realm of chemistry. Students actively investigate how atoms naturally rearrange themselves and also how mankind is able to mimic this and re-engineer matter in order to create materials of strength for structural buildings, key electrical parts for the functioning of computers, and materials that are now being used by medical doctors as temporary substitutes for human organs and/or tissue. This course is a must for any student who seeks a career in health-care, engineering or a science-related field, yet it also offers a better understanding of our evolving world for those students who desire to become involved as contributing citizens.

Physics

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra

Physics is the most basic of all the sciences. We study the nature of fundamental things such as motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light and composition of atoms. The ideas of physics are fundamental to the other sciences. One can understand biology and chemistry much better if one first understands physics. This one-year introductory course focuses on the conceptual knowledge about the rules of the physical world, and teaches how the equations of physics reveal the connections in nature. This course is a prerequisite for any student intending to enroll in the IB Physics course.

Environmental Science (G 9–12)

Our topics will include understanding ecosystems as the basic units of the natural world, human population, renewable resources and energy, pollution and its prevention, and working toward a sustainable future. The course will provide students with opportunities to explore environmental science concepts in the classroom, laboratory and in the field. The class will review case studies from all over the world, designing experiments and models to solve water problems, and field studies in local environments.

Wildlife conservation explores the scientific study of Earth's biodiversity, with the aim of protecting species. In this course, students will explore the reasons for protecting species, as well as the impact of different types of conservation projects. The summary project will involve investigating local conservation projects (such as the Born Free Foundation) and developing a plan for a future conservation project.

IB Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) Grades 11–12(SL only)

- Two year program

As a transdisciplinary subject, environmental systems and societies is designed to combine the techniques and knowledge associated with Group 4 (the experimental sciences) with those associated with Group 3 (individuals and societies). By choosing to study a transdisciplinary course such as ESS as part of their IB Diploma, students are able to satisfy the requirements for both Groups 3 and 4 of the hexagon, thus allowing them to choose another subject from any hexagon group (including another Group 3 or 4 subjects).

The Environmental Systems and Societies course is offered at the Standard Level only. The prime intent of this course is to provide students with a coherent perspective of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies. This perspective will enable them to adopt an informed personal response to the wide range of pressing environmental issues that they will inevitably come to face, rather than a purely journalistic appreciation of environmental issues.

IB Biology Year 1

- Prerequisite: Biology 9 or 10

This is an advanced biology course that will prepare students to complete the IB HL or SL course as a senior. IB core topics that are covered in the first year include cells, biochemistry, genetics, ecology and evolution, and human physiology. Students will be offered many opportunities to reinforce and expand on their laboratory skills and experimental design. There will be three internal assessments in the form of written lab work to add to a portfolio that will be evaluated at the end of Year two. Students will participate in the IB Group 4 project, which includes ten hours of researching, investigating, and collaborating in a group centered on a common theme.

IB Chemistry Year 1

- Prerequisite: Chemistry 9 or 10

This study of chemistry provides students with a more detailed comprehension of the world in which they live and also themselves as well—of the cosmic evolution of elements from their natural rearrangement into gases, streams of water and pockets of natural minerals, to their formation into proteins (enzymes), then DNA, and ultimately into living organisms. Chemical laws, rules and many other tools are more fully applied to allow students to synthetically manipulate matter. This course is designed for students who may wish to major in chemistry, engineering or any health-related field in college and/or pursue its application to any other anticipated occupation that may require a strong science background. Topics include atomic theory, periodicity, bonding, states of matter, equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction, and organic chemistry.

IB Physics Year 1

- Prerequisite: Physics 9 or 10 and Algebra 2

Students will learn a more detailed comprehension of the physical world. Concepts include mechanics, thermodynamics, oscillations and waves, electric currents, and fields and forces. An in-depth study of the concepts accompanied with experimental work is involved. This course is extremely important for any student interested in working as an engineer and/or other science-related fields.

IB Biology G12, Year 2 (SL or HL)

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB Biology Y1

Students taking the higher level (HL) course will broaden their understanding of nucleic acids and proteins, cell respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, and human physiology. This course will also introduce plant science and extend into areas of ecology and evolution. The standard level (SL) course will extend into the areas of ecology and evolution, and provide ample time for a thorough review before examinations. Both grade 12 courses will involve a field trip that focuses on Ethiopian ecosystems and require two additional internal assessment lab write-ups.

IB Chemistry G12, Year 2 (SL or HL)

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB Chemistry Y1

After successfully completing IB Chemistry Year 1, students may follow either the SL or HL course, pending the teacher's recommendation and approvals. These courses will expand upon atomic structure, quantitative chemistry, periodicity, bonding, energetic, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, electrochemistry, organic chemistry, measurements and data processing. Optional topics include analytical chemistry, human biochemistry,

industry and technology, medicines and drugs, environmental chemistry and food chemistry. Students who complete either course (HL or SL) will have a competitive advantage in their pursuit of majors related to engineering, industrial businesses and/or the field of health care.

IB Physics G12, Year 2 (SL or HL)

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of IB Physics Y1

The second year of IB Physics provides more details about the physical world, through the concepts of atomic and nuclear physics as well as energy, power, and climate change. Optional topics include optics, relativity, astrophysics, communications and digital technology. This course is extremely important for any student interested in working as an engineer and/or science-related field.

Mathematics (IB Group 5)

Please see the ICS Math Course flowchart as you plan a sequence in mathematics that will help you achieve your university goals and plans.

Pre-Algebra (G 8–9)

- Prerequisite: Recommendation by mathematics teacher

This course is for students who need to strengthen basic math skills to prepare for the abstract nature of algebra. Students will further develop their math skills as well as complete an overview of most of the topics covered in Algebra 1. The graphic display calculator will be explored as a tool to check and support their work. Grade 8 students successfully completing this course will be recommended for Algebra 1.

Algebra 1 (G 8–12)

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra

This course covers the language of algebra, factoring, linear and quadratic equations, linear and quadratic graphs, systems of equations, inequalities, exponents, probability and data analysis. Problem-solving applications are stressed throughout. Grade 8 students completing this course will continue to Geometry. Students in grade 9 or 10 may proceed to Algebra 2/ Trigonometry, with teacher recommendation.

Algebra/Geometry (G9)

This is an integrated course designed to include the key elements from both the previous “Algebra 1” and “Geometry” courses. Students will study solving and graphing linear equations, systems of linear equations, exponential functions, quadratics (graphing and solving), and applications of Pythagoras’ Theorem, trigonometry in right-angled triangles and applications of perimeter, similar triangles, polygons, circles, area and volume formulae. In addition to this they will study units on Data-handling and Probability. This subject will be available at varying levels of complexity so that all students are working at an appropriate level.

Math Topics (G10)

This is an integrated course, with a strong emphasis on understanding the links between areas of mathematics and being able to combine skills and knowledge to solve complex real-life problems. Students will study applications of linear equations and graphs, efficient use of formulae, probability and expectation of combined events, presentation and analysis of data and statistics, problem-solving involving systems of equations, quadratic functions (further graphing and solving), trigonometry, geometry in 2- and 3- dimensions and financial applications of exponential functions. Students should end the course

well-prepared for the IB Maths Studies course. Exceptional performance may give a student the option of SL Mathematics. Throughout the course students will learn to use a GDC (Graphic Display Calculator) efficiently, studying various techniques for solving problems and analyzing data. **They are expected to purchase one for use in class and at home.**

Algebra 2 / Trigonometry (G 10)

- Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra/Geometry or equivalent
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

This course is a requirement for all students intending to study IB SL or IB HL Mathematics in grades 11 and 12. The course continues to build on the concepts and skills mastered in Algebra I, and expands on these ideas with in-depth investigations of functions and on the study of functions. Linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric functions and their various applications are studied symbolically, graphically and numerically. Problem solving and presentation skills will be further developed through both traditional methods and the use of the graphic display calculator and mathematical software.

Advanced Mathematics (G10)

- Prerequisite: Algebra 2/Trigonometry and teacher recommendation
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

This course extends the concepts studied in Algebra 2 Trigonometry, and is primarily designed for those students who have finished this prerequisite course earlier than their peers. Students completing this course will go on to study IB HL Mathematics in grades 11 and 12. Students enrolled in Advanced Mathematics should have solid algebraic skills, a working knowledge of linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions, and a willingness to work hard. Throughout the course, the graphic display calculator and software packages are used to present alternate ways to solve problems and visualize mathematical concepts. Problem solving and presentation skills are a focus of the course.

IB HL Mathematics (G 11–12) (two year course)

- Prerequisite: Strong grades in Algebra 2 trigonometry and teacher recommendation
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

IB higher Level Mathematics is a challenging two year program intended for those with very good mathematical ability. The majority of students studying IB HL Mathematics will be expecting to include mathematics as a major component of their university studies either as a subject in its own right, or within subjects such as physics, engineering or technology. The six core topics cover over the two year course include: Algebra, Functions, Trigonometry, Vectors, Statistics and Probability, and Calculus. As well, students will be

required to study one of the following option topics in depth: Statistics and Probability, Sets and Relations and Groups, Calculus, or Discrete Mathematics. Students will also complete an extended exploration in mathematics in order to fulfill the internal assessment requirements of the program.

IB Mathematical Studies Grades 11–12 SL (two year course)

- Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry
- A graphic display calculator is required for this course.

This is a two year course. Math Studies introduces important mathematical concepts and applications through the development of mathematical techniques. This course is designed to build confidence and encourage an appreciation of mathematics in students who do not anticipate a need for math in their further studies. This course contains a broad range of math topics including further studies in numbers and algebra, sets and logic, functions, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability, financial mathematics and differential calculus. The course has a practical approach. Part of the internal assessment is a math project that constitutes 20% of the final IB grade.

IB SL Mathematics (G11 and 12)

This is a two-year course intended for students with a strong mathematical background who expect to go on to study subjects that have a significant mathematical content. The course covers topics including linear and quadratic algebra, sequences and series, logarithms and exponents, functions, trigonometry, binomial expansions, probability, statistics and calculus. As part of the course, all students will complete a “Mathematical Exploration” counting towards 20% of their final grade.

Arts

skill in a chosen media. A portfolio and research workbook is required which serves to document the creative process. Art portfolios from this course may also be used to help the IB Coordinator and art teacher determine if a student is eligible for the IB Visual Arts course.

IB Visual Arts G11, Year 1 SL

- Prerequisite: Recommendation by IB Visual Arts teacher

Grade 11 students may begin the first year of a rigorous two-year program of study and art production, leading to the Standard or Higher Level IB Visual Arts in Year 2. Students in IB Year 1 will explore different media and techniques. The course includes opportunities both for structured learning of the principles and elements of design and for wide-ranging personal research of a more experimental nature. Please ask for more information about IB Visual Arts syllabus.

IB Visual Arts G12, Year 2 SL or HL

- Prerequisite: Recommendation by IB Visual Arts teacher

This course is the second year of a rigorous two-year program of study and art production, and will prepare students to complete the SL or HL Visual Arts examination in April. During the final year of the course, students will follow their own artistic journey rather than respond to teacher-provided assignments. The focus is on personal interpretation and individual artistic statements. The experience for SL and HL students is basically the same, except that HL students are expected to produce more work.

New Media

- Semester course

A balance of practice and theory, fine art and commercial production, the course offers a focus on graphic design, digital photography, video and sound production. Crossing the boundaries of art, science and technology, this course helps students develop a truly unique twenty-first century perspective. Student learning will be assessed using the five ICS Visual Arts standards.

Intro to 3D Art

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester Course

Students will explore a variety of different 3- dimensional art forms, including ceramic sculpture through hand building and wheel work, while learning about a range of ceramic artistic traditions. Students will also be able to explore wood and mixed-media sculpture and will be encouraged to push their creativity with recycled objects.

Visual Arts 1 & 2 Grades 9–10

- One or two semesters

This course is for students who want to improve their art skills and concentrate on the elements and principles of art. Media used are drawing, painting, collage, print-making, sculpture, computer design and photography. Students at this level are given the freedom to concentrate on developing their

Print-making

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester Course

Printmaking is the art of producing multiples images. Students will learn to use printmaking techniques to create a series of original or identical images produced from a plate or block. Materials from drawing, painting and printmaking can also be combined to create new art forms. Students will be acquainted with the history of printmaking and view work by artists from various cultures and time periods as they develop an experimental approach to their projects.

Painting

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester Course

Students will use design principles to explore and experiment with variety of painting techniques and historical approaches to painting, using watercolor, acrylic, and oil paints. Painting is a problem-solving course dealing with form, color, line, and texture (figurative and abstract). Through the use of the world outside the classroom, models, drawings, photographs, and imagination, students will interpret and express the painter's world.

Photography and Film

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester Course

Students will learn to see the world through a lens and to think using the language of still and moving images and effects. The first quarter will focus on the still image, including a history of photography, light, focus, and special effects including digitally altered imagery. The course will then introduces the moving image; include processes and techniques for storyboarding, editing, and cinematography. Conceptual development will be emphasized, including how techniques can be employed for desired effects. The students will produce a portfolio of still and video works.

Choir

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Prerequisite: singing or piano experience preferred

This vocal ensemble performs **several** times a year. Attendance at all performances is required to receive full credit for the class. Through a wide range of musical styles, students will explore the concepts of vocalization, tone production, vowel and consonant sounds while developing singing, sight singing techniques and posture. Travel opportunities to the annual TAISM Festival of Choirs will also be available to interested Choir members.

Band

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Prerequisite: 3 or 4 years playing experience.

Concert band is a full year course for students who desire to become advanced players. Attendance at all performances is required in order to receive full credit for the class. Students will continue their study of music theory, history, and performance and musicianship skills. Students will continue to refine their tone production, intonation, balance and blend with other players in the ensemble. Students will have the opportunity to audition to join AMIS High School Honor Band Festivals every few years in rotation with the middle school honor band festivals, should their audition tapes be accepted.

Drama

- Grade Levels: 9–12
- Semester Course

Students will develop an understanding of and appreciation for Theatre Arts as a performance art form. We will use IB standards and benchmarks including performance skills, world theatre studies, practical play analysis and theatre production. Being assessed through projects, performances, and readings, students will learn about different aspects of theater production, including acting, scriptwriting, directing, set design and stage production. Students will develop teamwork and collaboration skills, creativity and critical thinking. Students will be expected to take part in ensembles, in-class readings, improvisations and scenes, and will attend out-of-class performances whenever possible.

Technology

Topics in Computer Science

- Grade Levels: 9–12 • Semester Course

A broad overview of topics including hardware, software, networks, systems programming, web design, etc. Students will gain a good foundation for further study in Computer Science or specialized practical study (programming, web development, etc.).

Computer Applications Development

- Grade Levels: 9–12 • Semester Course

An overview of web design (HTML), generalized programming, and mobile app development. Students will learn a development language or tool and create an individualized project.

Computer Science Grades 9–12

- Semester course

In Computer Science, students will learn to solve problems by using computers to create applications and solutions. It is a creative course, where students will create unique, ingenious solutions to problems. It is a logical and scientific course where students will carefully plan their work and analyze possible and real consequences of their decisions. Students will learn to write programs to tell computers what to do, create games and interactive multimedia projects, and understand how computers and computer networks work and are organized.

Physical Education

Physical Education & Health 9/10 (One Year Each)

- Grade Levels: Required in grades 9 and 10

PE & Health is offered to prepare students for a life of activity, social interaction and physical well-being. The improvement of students' coordination, endurance, strength and ability will be encouraged through participation in various physical activities: track and field, volleyball, soccer, basketball, badminton, tennis, table tennis, softball, hockey, gymnastics and physical fitness training. Finally, students will demonstrate cooperation, sportsmanship, teamwork, and sensitivity to individual differences in abilities.

Our Health curriculum will be folded into our PE courses, to provide more elective course selection for grades 9 and 10. Students will have four short health units per year in both grades 9 and 10. The health curriculum is designed so that the students will be able to gain a better insight into the nature and function of their bodies, their environment, and the intricate relationship between the two. Through self-assessment, peer coaching, research and real life connections, students will be able to gain a better idea of how their health affects their lives. The topics discussed will include: healthy life components, stress, fitness, weight control, nutrition, sleep, drugs, sexuality, first aid, diseases including HIV/AIDS, and more.

Other Courses

This course provides support in a small group setting for students struggling with study skills or academic classes, or for students diagnosed with a specific learning difference. Students receive specific assistance to support their learning needs.

Senior Sampler G12

- Required in semester 2

Grade 12 students will examine the elements of a successful and happy post-ICS life, including technology expectations, personal finance, and taking advantage of social and intellectual opportunities at college. In addition, students will complete their final CAS reflections on the learning outcomes they have achieved for themselves in their individual CAS activities during grades 11-12.

Independent Study Grades 9–12

- Prerequisite: Counselor and Principal approval

Students may need to enroll in independent study in a subject area due to the unusual circumstances related to their special needs, unavoidable conflict in scheduling a course required for graduation, or other circumstances. Special consideration may be given to students in such cases. Consultation between the counselor, teacher, the student, parents and administration will need to occur prior to making arrangements for a course in independent studies. All independent study courses will be supervised either in a supervised study room or another appropriate location. Independent Study will be graded on a Pass (“P” for credit) or Fail (“F” for no credit) basis unless a specific grading contract has been developed and approved.

High School Learning Support Grades 9–12

- Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and assessment

ICS math course flowchart

4 year course options

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English and Amharic <i>(English is required for all students)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 9 (Compulsory) Amharic Literature Creative Writing I/II English as an Additional Language (EAL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 10 (Compulsory) Amharic Literature Creative Writing I/II English as an Additional Language (EAL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB English A Language and Literature G11 Y1 IB English A Literature G11, Y1 IB Amharic A Literature G11, Y1 Creative Writing I/II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB English Language and Literature Gr. 12 Y2 SL/HL IB English Literature G12, Y2 SL/HL IB Amharic A Literature , Y2 SL/HL Creative Writing I/II
Humanities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern World History 9 (Compulsory) Intro to Geography Global Issues, Leadership and Actions Anthropology Trial Law and Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 10 Intro to African History 10 Intro to Business Intro to Economics Intro to Psychology Intro to Geography Global Issues, Leadership and Actions Anthropology Trial Law and Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 10 Intro to African History 10 Intro to Economics Intro to Psychology Intro to Business Intro to Geography IB Contemporary World History SL IB Contemporary World History HL IB Geography SL/HL IB TOK Anthropology Trial Law and Advocacy Global Issues and Leadership Pamoja online IB Economics Pamoja online IB Business and Management SL Pamoja online IB Psychology SL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 10 Intro to African History 10 Intro to Economics Intro to Psychology Intro to Business Intro to Geography IB Contemporary History SL IB Contemporary World History HL IB Afr. History HL IB Geography SL/HL IB TOK Anthropology Trial Law and Advocacy Global Issues and Leadership Pamoja online IB Economics Pamoja online IB Business and Management SL Pamoja online IB Psychology SL
Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology 9 (Compulsory) Physics Chemistry Environmental Science Wildlife Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry Physics Environmental Science Wildlife Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Biology Y1 IB Chemistry Y1 IB Physics Y1 Environmental Science IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Biology G12 Y2 SL/HL IB Chemistry G12 Y2 SL/HL IB Physics G12 Y2 SL/HL Environmental Science IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL Physics
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra/Geometry Algebra/Geometry Extended Algebra II / Trig Advanced Mathematics HS Math Topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra II / Trig Advanced Mathematics HS Math Topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Math Studies SL IB HL Mathematics IB SL Mathematics Algebra 2 / Trig Advanced Mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Math Studies SL IB Mathematics SL IB SL Mathematics IB HL Mathematics Advanced Mathematics
Modern Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French 1 French 2 Advanced French Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Mother Tongue Language and Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French 2 French 3 French 4 Advanced French Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Mother Tongue Language and Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Spanish <i>ab initio</i> 11 SL IB French <i>ab initio</i> 11 SL IB French B Y1 Advanced French French 4 French 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Spanish <i>ab initio</i> 12 SL IB French <i>ab initio</i> 12 SL IB French B SL Y2 IB French B HL G12 Y2 French 4
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual Arts Drama New Media Choir Band Intro to 3D Art Print-making Painting Photography and Film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual Arts Drama New Media Choir Band Intro to 3D Art Print-making Painting Photography and Film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Visual Arts G11 Y1 SL Visual Arts Choir Band Drama Visual Arts 1 New Media Intro to 3D Art Print-making Painting Photography and Film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Visual Arts G12 Y2 SL/HL Visual Arts Choir Band Drama Visual Arts 2 New Media Intro to 3D Art Print-making Painting Photography and Film
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education and Health 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical. Education and Health 10 		
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics in Computer Science Computer Applications Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics in Computer Science Computer Applications Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics in Computer Science Computer Applications Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics in Computer Science Computer Applications Development

Other Courses	•High School Learning Support •Independent Study	•Project X High School Learning Support •Independent Study	•High School Learning Support •Independent Study •Elementary Tutor •Grade 11 Seminar	•High School Learning Support •Independent Study •Elementary Tutor •Senior Sampler
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