

Curriculum Guide 2006

Academic philosophy & policy
KIS High School



KODAIKANAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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KIS... over 100 years in global education

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KIS High School Academic Philosophy

KIS Graduation Goals

Kodaikanal International School believes that graduating students should demonstrate:

Thinking, knowledge and understanding by:

- Acquiring core knowledge in the areas of mathematics, physical and life sciences literature, social studies and religious studies
- Applying knowledge and understanding to identify and address complex problems
- Justifying one's views and actions with reasonable, intelligible arguments

Skills and work habits necessary for learning by:

- Using techniques, tools and technology in a wide variety of situations
- Marshalling time and resources to accomplish goals, both individually and as part of a team
- Valuing the process as much as the product of one's work

Communication skills by:

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking effectively in at least two languages

Skill in developing and maintaining well being by:

- Developing and expressing oneself creatively and imaginatively
- Being sensitive to aesthetic quality in the arts and in one's own work

Attitudes and social interaction conducive to peaceful, purposeful and joyful living by:

- Thinking and acting independently
- Living with and for others
- Demonstrating empathy and respect for others
- Taking responsibility for one's own actions
- Demonstrating an understanding of and concern for the environment
- Understanding structures that perpetuate injustice, violence and oppression in society between societies, between nations, religions and cultures and to perceive one's own place within these structures

KIS High School Academic Policy

Introduction

KIS High School offers a challenging academic program. Emphasis is laid on holistic student development and individual attention provides the supports necessary to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs of all students. KIS academic program integrates US based high school curriculum with international curriculum provided by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and therefore offers dual certification for college and university entry world wide.

1. KIS High School Diploma has been US accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Universities, Philadelphia (MSA) since 1968 and has been recognized by the Association of Indian Universities since 1981 allowing KIS graduates direct entry to Indian universities (+2 secondary education).
2. KIS has been offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program since 1976 and was the first IB World school and international school in India, as well as among the first 20 schools in the world to take on this exciting program.

1. KIS High School Diploma: Grades 9 to 12

High School Diploma credits are accumulated over 4 years (Grades 9 - 12). Middle School students

taking the IBO Middle Years Program (Grades 6 - 9) start acquiring credits during Grade 9 which are then transferred to High School at the beginning of Grade 10. The table below shows the credit requirements in various subject areas.

The minimum total credits required to receive KIS High School Diploma is 235 with a minimum of 60 credits required per year.

Students select required courses in consultation with KIS High School / IB Diploma Coordinator, Guidance Counsellor and their advisors. Credits are given for passing courses and students are required to have a total of 235 credits (plus PE credits and community service hours) to graduate and receive KIS High School Diploma. Please note that many credits are subject-specific within the total 235.

Credit Requirements:

English	40
Mathematics	30
Science	30
Second Language	30
Social Studies	30
Religious Education	15
Computer Studies	2.5
Fine & Practical Arts	10
Health	7.5
Electives*	40
Total:	235

Plus:

- 3 Physical Education credits for each semester enrolled at KIS
- Community Service requirements.

*Elective refers to any credits earned above the subject specific requirements.

Credit Transfer Policy

1. Students who transfer to KIS in Grades 9 - 11 are given 30 transfer credits per semester for work done in their previous schools:

English	5
Mathematics	5
Second Language	5
Science	5
Social Studies	5
Electives	5

2. Transfer students are not required to make up required courses from previous years. For example, a student coming into Grade 10 does not need to take Grade 9 Religious Education RE and so needs only 10 RE credits to graduate*).

*Fine & Practical Arts (FAPA) credits for transfer students joining KIS in:

Grade 9	10.0 FAPA credits
Grade 10	7.5 FAPA credits
Grade 11	5.0 FAPA credits
Grade 12	2.5 FAPA credits

*Religious Education (RE) credits for transfer students joining KIS in:

Grade 9	15.0 RE credits
Grade 10	10.0 RE credits
Grades 11 & 12	5.0 RE credits (for KIS High School Diploma) 2.5 RE credits (for IB Diploma)

4. Computer Credits:

Incoming transfer students who have sufficient computer literacy skills may test out of the required PC Applications course. Students will receive 2.5 Computer credits for successfully passing the competency test at 80%. See “Technology” for a definition of the competency skills required for graduation and the details of the competency test.

Requirements that are waived reduce the credits needed in the category as well as total credits for graduation, for example students joining KIS High School in:

Grade 10	222.5 credits + Physical Education
Grade 11	215.0 credits + Physical Education
Grade 12	212.5 credits + Physical Education

KIS Middle School students who have successfully completed the Middle School computer program with a grade 5 or higher are not required to take the PC Applications course.

Required Courses

Each grade of this program has compulsory courses indicated as follows:

Grade 10	English Mathematics Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Environmental Science (maximum of 3 - cannot take Biology and Environmental Science together) Second Language Social Studies 10 Physical Education World Religions (1 semester) Social Experience Fine & Practical Arts Electives
Grade 11	English Mathematics Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Environmental Science (maximum of 3 - cannot take Biology and Environmental Science together) Second Language Social Studies Physical Education Religious Education (2 semesters in Grade 11 or 12) Social Experience Health (1 semesters in Grade 11 or 12) Fine & Practical Arts Electives

Grade 12 English
 Physical Education
 Social Experience
 Fine & Practical Arts
 Electives
 Any compulsory courses postponed from Grade 11

*NOTE: All students must take at least 5 five-credit courses, for a total of 25 credits

We recommend that students planning to compete by merit for seats in Indian engineering and medical colleges plan to take tutorials following graduation from Kodaikanal International School to prepare for entrance exams. They may not have time for these tutorials during their senior year.

Grading

Academic progress is internally assessed and letter grades are given based on the following marking scheme and with following weighting:

- Quarter (40%)
- + Quarter (40%)
- + Exam (20%)
- = Semester grade

Letter Grade	Grade Points*	Percentage Range
A+	4.0	97 - 100
A	4.0	93 - 96
A-	3.7	90 - 92
B+	3.3	87 - 89
B	3.0	83 - 86
B-	2.7	80 - 82
C+	2.3	77 - 79
C	2.0	73 - 76
C-	1.7	70 - 72
D+	1.3	67 - 69
D	1.0	63 - 66
D-	0.7	60 - 62
F	0.0	0 - 59

*GPA = Grade Points x Credits per course ÷ Total Credits

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program



Introduction

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program (DP) is an academically challenging two year pre-university course, designed to facilitate the mobility of students and to promote international understanding. It leads to either the IB Diploma or IB Certificates in separate subjects. The full Diploma Program (DP) is rigorous, comprehensive and designed to provide students with a balanced holistic education in preparation for tertiary study in colleges and universities around the world. Examination papers are set by international experts and marked externally.

International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Mission Statement:

Through comprehensive and balanced curricula coupled with challenging assessments, the International Baccalaureate Organization aims to assist schools in their endeavors to develop the individual talents of young people and teach them to relate the experience of the classroom to the realities of the world outside. Beyond intellectual rigor and high academic standards, strong emphasis is placed on the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship, to the end that IB students may become critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs, conscious of the shared humanity that binds all people while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life.

IBO and KIS

KIS has a distinguished academic history with the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) dating back 30 years.

The IBO was founded in 1968 and today works with 1745 schools in 122 countries with more than 200,000 students aged 3 - 19. The first IBO school authorizations began in 1971, five years before KIS became the first IB school and the first international school in India by adopting the IB Diploma Program in 1976.

With IBO membership and school authorization dating from 1976, KIS is the second oldest IB school in Asia and in the first 20 IBO authorized schools in the world. KIS involvement with the IBO extends from representation on the IBO Governing Council and regional committees, hosting IB conferences and designing school based pilot programs to a constant stream of qualified IB examiners on KIS staff.

KIS has a 27 year track record of internationally benchmarked IB results. Since 1978 KIS has had a 90% average IB Diploma pass rate. This compares with a 75-80% pass rate world-wide. [School Code: 0067]

Between 30% and 50% of KIS graduates earn the full IB Diploma each year.

- KIS Class of 2005 achieved a 94% pass rate
- Approximately 60% of students in Grades 11 and 12 appear for IB Diploma examinations in more than 30 subjects, consistently scoring above the worldwide average.

KIS has now joined the IBO Middle Years Program. Trial implementation of this program for Grades 6, 7 and 8 has been introduced as of July 2005. Grade 9 will be added in July 2006, followed by Grade 10 in July 2007.

IB Diploma Programs at KIS

At KIS the IB Diploma program is optional and fully integrated with KIS High School Diploma program delivered to Grades 11-12.

- All students follow an integrated academic schedule and graduate with the US accredited KIS High School Diploma.
- Students following the optional IB Diploma program graduate with IB Diplomas or Certificates in addition to KIS High School Diploma.

The IB is a rigorous program which involves studying a minimum of six subjects, three or four at higher level (HL) and three or two at standard level (SL). Students must also:

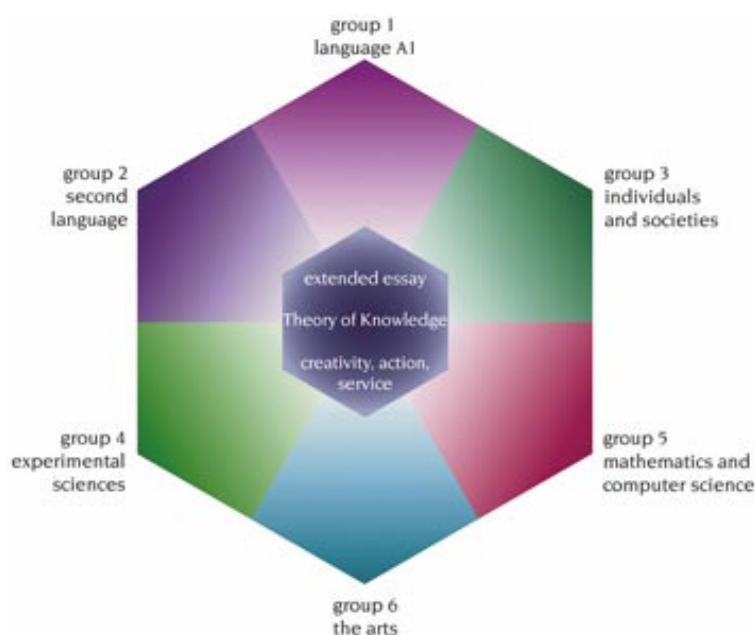
The IB Diploma is awarded for satisfactory performance in a minimum of six subjects, one chosen from each of six groups illustrated in the IB hexagon below:

- Students take one subject from each of the six groups or
- One subject from each of Groups 1-5 and a second subject from Groups 2-5
- Students must take one of the three Mathematics courses in Group 5

Students opting for IB Diploma are required to:

- Select three (maximum four) courses at IB Higher Level
- Select three (minimum two) at IB Standard Level
- Complete at least 100 hours of instruction in an inter-disciplinary course called Theory of Knowledge or TOK
- Complete an Extended Essay of 4,000 - 5,000 words involving independent research in an IB subject
- Participate in an approved 150 hour program of Creativity, Action and Service activities known as CAS

The IB Diploma hexagon below indicates the 6 subject areas from which choice of subjects are made. For more details, see the IBO web site: www.ibo.org



IB Hexagon

IB Diploma courses at KIS

KIS courses offered in each subject areas are given in the table below:

1	Language A1	English SL / HL (IB Higher Level and Standard Level) (students may study another language from the list offered by the IB as a self-study option at SL)
2	Language B / ab Initio	French SL (IB Standard Level) German SL / HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) Hindi SL / HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) Spanish ab Initio SL (IB Standard Level)
3	Study of Individuals & Societies	HL / SL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) History SL / HL Economics SL / HL Geography SL / HL Business / Management SL & HL
4	Experimental Science	Biology SL / HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) Chemistry SL / HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) Physics SL / HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) Environmental Systems SL (IB Standard Level)
5	Mathematics and Computer Science	Mathematical Studies SL (IB Standard Level) Mathematics HL (IB Higher Level) Computer Science SL/HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level)
6	The Arts	Visual Arts SL / HL (IB Standard Level and Higher Level) Music SL (IB Standard Level)