



WELCOME TO ISM HIGH SCHOOL!

PREPARING FOR GRADES 9 & 10

Welcome! As a new Grade 9 or Grade 10 student, you will have to make some well-thought-out decisions regarding the courses you would like to take. Please read the following information carefully.

Should you have questions about academic or course choices please email your counselor:

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In Grade 9, we primarily focus on the transition to High School by supporting our students in becoming more independent learners who are responsible, have strong study skills and can self-advocate. In Grade 10, we help students discover their strengths, career aspirations, and personality traits to help them prepare for their future, beginning with which courses to take in Grades 11 and 12.

What courses should I take in Grade 9?

In Grade 9, it is recommended for you to take the following courses to fulfill graduation requirements, which are also prerequisites for the majority of courses in Grades 10 through 12:

1. English 1 or English 1 Honors ([Summer Reading List](#))
2. Modern Language (appropriate level) or English for Academic Purposes 9 or Strategy Instruction
3. Geography or AP Human Geography
4. Math (appropriate level)
5. Integrated Science 1
6. Physical Education and Health
7. Fine and Performing Arts option
8. Wellness (one semester) and a Technology Elective (one semester)

What courses should I take in Grade 10?

Careful planning is needed when selecting Grade 10 courses as some Grade 11 and 12 courses have prerequisites, especially within the sciences.

1. English 2 or English 2 Honors ([Summer Homework](#))
2. Modern Language (appropriate level) or English for Academic Purposes 10 or Strategy Instruction
3. Modern World History or AP United States History
4. Math (appropriate level).
5. Integrated Science 2/Physics/Chemistry/Biology
6. Physical Education
7. Fine and Performing Arts
8. Elective (another Science, Language, Fine/Performing Arts, Technology, Social Studies, or Peer Counseling).

ISM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Credits Required for Graduation

Credits are computed in terms of hours. One credit represents at least 120 hours (two semesters) of work in one subject over the course of the school year. Students must accumulate a minimum of twenty-three (23) course credits in order to graduate from ISM. Of those twenty-three credits, seventeen (17) are to be acquired in specific academic subjects. The six (6) remaining credits may be earned in electives. In some cases, the year in which the credit is to be acquired may also be specified.

Students in Grades 9 and 10 are required to enroll in eight academic classes per year. We recommend students complete as many of their graduation requirements in Grades 9 and 10 so they have greater flexibility in course selection for Grades 11 and 12.

All students who graduate from ISM will graduate with the equivalent of an American High School Diploma. Graduation requirements are as follows:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Minimum Credits</u>	<u>Recommended Credits</u>
English	4	4
Math	2	4
Science	2	3-4
Social Studies	2	3-4
Modern Languages	2	3-4
Physical Education	2	2
Wellness	½	½
Design and Technology	½	½
Fine and Performing Arts	2	2
Electives	6	3-5
Total	23	25-30

In planning your four-year High School program, try to take advantage of a wide range of learning opportunities. Your High School academic program should provide you with specific skills and knowledge and present you with a broad perspective of the world and its possibilities. The curriculum at ISM offers courses with these two goals in mind. In order to accomplish these goals, you may choose to challenge yourself and go beyond the minimum credit requirements for graduation.

Many colleges and universities prefer students who study at least three years in each of the course subject areas, especially in the field they intend to pursue at the post-secondary level. Some majors/faculties, such as engineering and medicine, require four years of study in some subject areas. Check college and university websites for their specific requirements.

All new students are required to take a math placement test to determine which level of math they will be enrolled in. Additionally, if they plan on taking a modern language course they will need to take a language placement test to determine which course is most appropriate.

Determining which courses will be of optimum value is one of a student's most important responsibilities. This task requires you to consider both your short-term and long-range educational goals. Seek advice from parents, counselors, teachers, and program leaders and be sure to consider college and university entrance requirements.

Registration for classes is an annual responsibility which commits students to a schedule of classes for an entire school year. It is sometimes possible to make adjustments to your schedule during the first two weeks of the school year. After that, a schedule change is made only in rare circumstances.

Note: You are expected to remain in yearlong courses for both semesters. Course changes are considered the exception rather than the rule, so please plan your courses carefully.

What is the IB Diploma Program (IBDP)?

The IBDP is a rigorous and time consuming two-year program, completed in Grades 11 and 12, which is required by most European universities for admission and highly regarded by universities around the world.

Students must take three courses at Higher Level (HL), three at Standard Level (SL), and the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course. In addition, they complete the Extended Essay, which is a 4,000-word research essay on a topic of their choice.

Whether students ultimately achieve the IB Diploma is determined by exams taken in each of the six subjects at the end of Grade 12 in conjunction with relevant coursework completed throughout the two years. Each course is graded on a 7-1 scale (7 being the highest) with 45 points being the total maximum score a student can achieve from their six academic subjects along with a possible 3 bonus points from their TOK and EE grades. A minimum of 24 points are required to earn the IB Diploma.

How students perform in Grade 10 is a good indicator of whether they are suited for the IBDP. A solid foundation in subjects and strong study skills are required to successfully pursue the IBDP in Grades 11 and 12.

To learn more, visit our **ISM Counseling blog**: <https://sites.google.com/ismanila.org/ism-hs-counseling>.

What is Advanced Placement?

Since its inception in 1955, the Advanced Placement program has provided high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting. In many cases, students who participate in the program will earn college credit. The Advanced Placement program is very well established in the US and widely accepted by US colleges and universities.

At ISM, we teach AP Literature and Composition via our English Honors program as well as AP Human Geography and AP US History as options for students in our Social Studies department.

Although it can take a considerable amount of additional effort to study outside of school, ISM students have also taken the AP examinations listed below in recent years:

Academic Area	AP Examination Offered
Languages	English Literature and Composition * Chinese Language and Culture + French Language & Culture + Spanish language and Culture +
Sciences	Biology + Chemistry + Physics 1: Algebra based Physics 2: Algebra Based Environmental Science
Mathematics	Calculus AB + Calculus BC + Statistics
History & Social Sciences	US History * US Government & Politics Human Geography * European History Macroeconomics + Microeconomics + Psychology
General	Computer Science A Music Theory

* Taught classes.

+ If a student takes the appropriate IB class, a significant amount of the AP course is covered; with some additional preparation the student may be ready to take the examination.

Additional Requirement and Recommendations

- It is recommended that all Filipino citizens take the Philippine History course and earn one credit in the Filipino language for each year enrolled in the High School.
- Swimming competency is required of all students.
- Information Technology competency is required throughout the four years of High School.
- At least twenty-five hours of Service Learning are required per academic year, through ICARE and/or through activity projects during the school year. Please note that IB Diploma students will need to complete additional Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) activities.
- Feel free to use the full list of courses in our [2022-2023 Course Offerings book](#).
- Take a look at the [PREPARING FOR GRADES 11 & 12](#) guide for more information regarding the IBDP and college/university considerations.

Co-curricular Activities:

There are many different clubs, service groups, honor societies, and cultural clubs students can apply for and join. At the beginning of the year there will be a Club Expo where students can sign up for these groups. Take a look at the slides from our most recent [Club Expo!](#) Additionally, we have robust [Athletics](#), [Fine and Performing Arts](#) and [Service Learning](#) programs as well.

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