

Welcome to the International Baccalaureate at Florence High School. The International Baccalaureate (IB) is sponsored by the International Baccalaureate Organization in Cardiff, Wales, and Florence High School is authorized to deliver this program to the students of our district and the surrounding communities in Pinal County. In fact, we are the only IB-authorized school in Pinal County. IB is very similar to the Advanced Placement program administered by the College Board in that students who take AP and IB courses, and who take the corresponding AP and IB tests, may qualify for college or university credit. Unlike AP, IB is a comprehensive program. Students who are seeking the full IB Diploma take courses and sit for exams across a full spectrum of courses from English, Foreign Languages, and Mathematics to History, Laboratory Sciences, and the Arts. They also complete individual research into topics which are of interest to them and engage in various forms of community service to work for a better world.

Often we hear that IB is “hard.” I believe it is more accurate to say that IB is challenging both academically and individually. Time management is key. But as students rise to the academic challenge, and carefully prioritize, they can and do succeed in this program. Successful IB Diploma recipients have been able to study in both France and the United Kingdom. Whether a student opts to strive for the full IB Diploma, or takes a smaller assortment of IB classes, their education is richer, and they are better prepared for university and beyond.

As Coordinator of the IB Program, I view IB through many eyes. I am an IB teacher in History and Theory of Knowledge (a core course of the program), but I am also an IB parent of a current IB student and a successful IB Diploma recipient. I know how IB has opened doors for students, giving them unique opportunities they would not otherwise have. As educators, parents, and administrators, IB is a journey we make together with the students. All of us connected with IB at Florence High School are thrilled and honored to be part of that journey.

If you would like to know more about IB and the program specifically developed at Florence High School, I would be delighted to meet with you. Please feel free to contact me at 520-866-3560 x. 7028 or email me at ecallahan@fusdaz.org

Kindest Regards,

Ed Callahan—IB Coordinator