

North Star Charter High School  
International School of Business and Economics  
IB World School



## Enrollment Handbook 2009-2010

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[www.northstarcharter.org](http://www.northstarcharter.org)

**NORTH STAR HIGH SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS  
IB World School**

*Building an environment of respect, compassion, and critical thinking that inspires civic leadership.*

North Star is the Treasure Valley's first public, tuition-free school authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, starting in the fall of 2009. This significant achievement recognizes two years of effort on the part of North Star's dedicated administration, staff, and board members, who wanted to provide North Star students with a world-class education in a small school environment.

#### Guiding Values

- act with **integrity** in all we do.
- provide **leadership** as a school and as individuals.
- regard **candor** and transparency as essential in our communicating.
- **collaborate** as a team.
- focus on an accelerated K-12 academic program of **excellence**.
- take **courage** to stand up for what we believe.
- **engage** in civic leadership
- strive to continuously **improve** as a school.

#### Guiding Behaviors

- live our school values.
- collaborate across the school.
- communicate openly and with respect.
- take individual responsibility for quality academics and continuous improvement.
- Adults model good behavior and civic leadership to students and each other.

By weaving business, economics, communication and leadership skills into the fabric of education, North Star will help train and educate business, civic, and community leaders for the future. North Star's educational philosophy believes that having high expectations and an environment that encourages positive peer pressure leads to extraordinary achievement. A goal of "college readiness" will be achieved for all students regardless of their career aspirations.

#### Curriculum Standards

Curriculum standards at North Star High School surpass requirements set by the State Department of Education and the Meridian School District. North Star will participate in all testing required by the state. In addition, North Star students will complete internal assessments in each IB class as well as take examinations in each of their core courses. Support services will be provided for all students requesting it. North Star's commitment to its community is that ALL STUDENTS CAN SUCCEED, and we are

prepared to back that philosophy with the academic support each student needs to accomplish his/her goals.

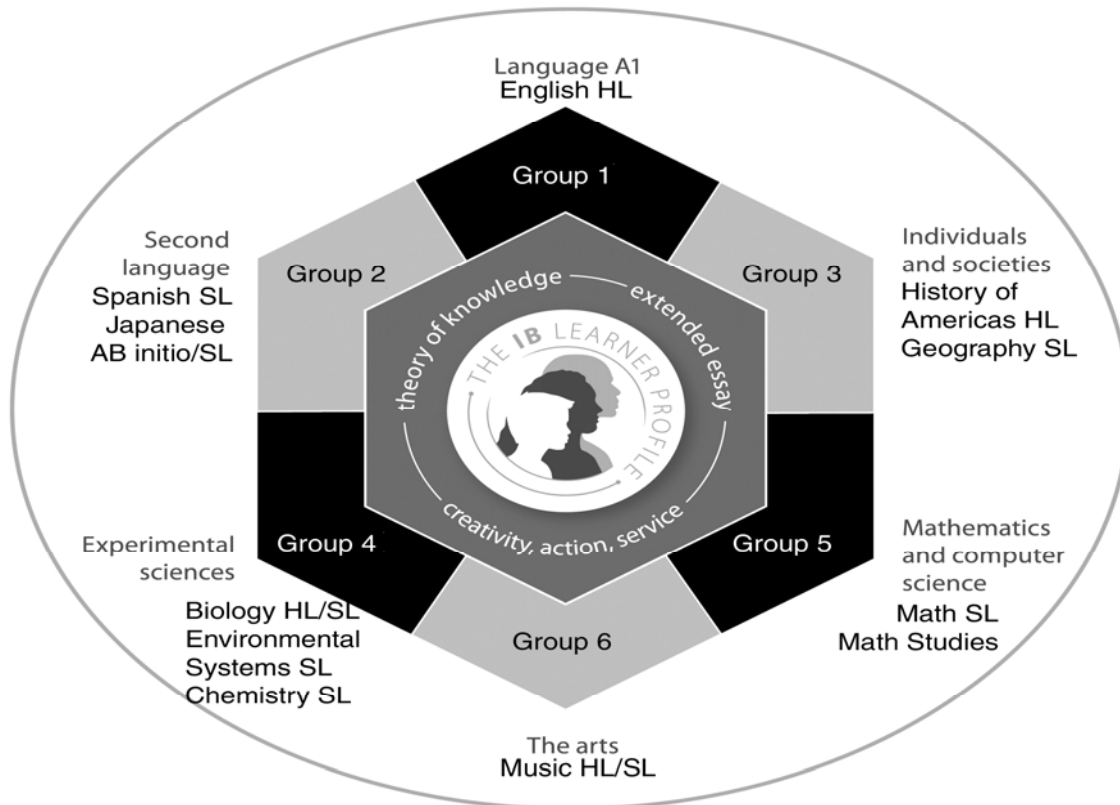
## The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. More information can be accessed at [ibo.org](http://ibo.org). Students learn more than a collection of facts. The Diploma Program prepares students for university and encourages them to:

- ask challenging questions
- learn how to learn
- develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture
- develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.

**The curriculum contains six subject groups together with a core made up of three separate parts.**

This is illustrated by a hexagon with the three parts of the core at its center.



Students study six subjects selected from the subject groups. Normally three subjects are studied at higher level (courses representing 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (courses representing 150 teaching hours).

All three parts of the core—extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, action, service—are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Program.

### **Extended Essay**

The extended essay has a prescribed limit of 4,000 words. It offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university.

### **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**

The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.

### **Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)**

Participation in the school's CAS program encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena. The requirement is 150 hours over their junior and senior year.

[For a more comprehensive description of the North Star IB program, please see the North Star Charter High School IB Handbook.](#)

\*North Star Charter School is an IB World School. North Star is a public, tuition-free school authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, starting in the fall of 2009. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that North Star believes is important for our students. Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) as IB World Schools can offer any of its three academic programs: the Primary Years Program (PYP), the Middle Years Program (MYP), or the Diploma Program. Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IBO and its programs, visit <http://www.ibo.org>.

# North Star Charter High School

## General Academic Policies

### **Activity Eligibility**

North Star Charter high school students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must satisfy two sets of requirements. In compliance with the regulation of the Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSSA), student activity eligibility requires that five credits of work be successfully completed in the semester prior to participation in an activity. In keeping with the school's tradition of fostering academic excellence, a North Star student wishing to participate, on the varsity level, in school-sponsored activities, including those not sanctioned by the IHSSA, must also maintain a 'C' (2.0) average in all classes in which they were enrolled in the semester prior to and during the months of participation.

### **Alternative Courses**

Credits earned through completion of courses may satisfy a high school graduation requirement **only if prior approval for such courses has been obtained from the principal or designee**. These courses include correspondence, summer school, evening school and Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). There are no alternative courses available for IB courses.

### **College Credits**

The International Baccalaureate Organization does not certify concurrent credit courses. Most colleges accept IB credits in the same manner that they accept Advanced Placement credits. Some universities grant sophomore standing to students who possess an IB diploma from high school. Check with the college to verify the kind and number of credits granted for IB diploma and certificate holders. Other courses at North Star will be examined as to their eligibility for concurrent credit.

### **Course Load**

North Star Charter high school students are required to register for a minimum of eight class periods each day during each of their eight semesters at the school.

### **Credit Acceptance**

Credits will generally be transferred from any accredited high school upon receipt of an official transcript. Credits for courses completed at non-accredited secondary schools or that have been completed in home school, may be transferred upon receipt of an official transcript and/or successful completion of subject-area tests administered by North Star instructional staff. Home school courses are not accepted for credit without successful completion of subject-area tests. The North Star Administration reserves the right to determine acceptance of credit for all courses, for all incoming students. Credit will only be accepted for courses taken at the high school level in an accredited high school that teaches grades 9-12.

## Graduation Requirements

To qualify for an IB diploma from North Star Charter High School, students must complete the minimum required 55 credits in the areas designated below. In addition, students must complete a 4000 word Extended Essay, complete the Theory of Knowledge class, and complete 150 hours of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).

English 9-12 (8)	IB Electives (4)
Math (8)	Electives (3)
Earth Science (2)	PE (2)
Biology (2)	Health (1)
IB Science (4)	Foreign Language (6)
Government (2)	Micro/Macro Economics (1)
World History (1)	Business Electives (4)
Speech (1)	Theory of Knowledge (2)
IB History of Americas (4)	

## Failed Courses

Students are obligated to enroll in approved summer school or night school classes, or an approved correspondence course to earn credit for courses failed during the regular school year. Exceptions to this rule may be granted when needed courses are not available through any of these programs. (Example: IB courses.) In such cases, alternate credits may be required.

## Grading System

A	4 points	90-100%
B	3 points	80-89%
C	2 points	70-79%
D	1 points	60-69%
F	0 points	0-59%

## Grade Reports/Progress Reports

Grades are issued electronically four times per semester via the PowerSchool Parentweb, <http://parentweb.northstarcharter.org/public>. In the first semester, these are identified as Quarter 1 and Semester 1. During second semester, they are identified as Quarter 3 and Semester 2. Semester grades are posted on a student's permanent record. Assignments and their grades will be updated on the PowerSchool Parentweb system at a minimum of every two weeks, by instructors, for the duration of each semester.

**PowerSchool**

PowerSchool helps your school access and maintain student, staff, and schedule information. PowerSchool is a database application that runs on a server, which is the center of your student information system. PowerSchool uses the Internet to facilitate student information management and communication among school administrators, teachers, parents, and students.

PowerSchool Parent Portal is a tool that is integrated into the PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS) that is specifically developed for parents and students. PowerSchool Parent Portal gives parents and students access to real-time information including attendance, grades and detailed assignment descriptions, school bulletins, lunch menus and even personal messages from the teacher. Everyone stays connected: Students stay on top of assignments, parents are able to participate more fully in their student's progress, and teachers can use their grade book to make decisions on what information they want to share with parents and students.

**Withdrawal from courses**

Students who withdraw from any class after the sixth school day of a semester, for any reason, will be assigned an 'F' for the class with the 'F' designation being placed on the official transcript and computed into the GPA.

## North Star High School International School of Business and Economics

Offered course work and graduation requirements: Courses listed below may vary but will remain true to the social studies/economics/financial literacy theme through all grades K-12, as well as the International Business and Economics emphasis of the high school. The methodology used to teach many courses will encompass an interdisciplinary approach. However, the integrity of all courses will not be compromised. Distinct courses will be listed on student transcripts and will adhere to district and state content standards.

### 9th Grade - Freshmen

<b>Freshmen</b>	<b>Semesters</b>	<b>Credits</b>
English 9	2	2
PE	2	2
Math	2	2
World History	1	1
*Business Electives	2	2
Earth Science	2	2
Spanish or Japanese	2	2
Elective	2	2

\*Select one per semester

Total Credits for Freshmen Year

16

15 hours of Civic Leadership/community service is required at the freshmen grade level. The time is to be divided equally between community service projects, service learning projects, and school service. Business courses reflect Programs by Junior Achievement of Idaho, Idaho Council on Economic Education curriculum materials and the International Economic Summit will be incorporated. A foreign language in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year is required.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - Sophomore

<b>Sophomore</b>	<b>Semesters</b>	<b>Credits</b>
English 10	2	2
Speech	1	1
Health	1	1
Math	2	2
American Government	2	2
*Business Electives	2	2
Biology	2	2
Electives	2	2
Spanish or Japanese	2	2

\*Select one per semester

Total Credits for Sophomore Year

16

15 hours of Civic Leadership/community service is required at the sophomore grade level. The foreign language that the student took as a freshman must also be taken this year. Business courses reflect programs by Junior Achievement of Idaho, Idaho Council on Economic Education curriculum materials, and the International Economic Summit will be incorporated.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - Juniors

<b>Junior</b>	<b>Semesters</b>	<b>Credits</b>
IB English HL	2	2
IB Math Studies or IB Math Standard Level	2	2
IB History of Americas HL	2	2
Macro/Micro Economics	1	1
Theory of Knowledge	1	1
IB Biology HL or SL OR IB Environmental Systems SL OR IB Chemistry SL	2	2
IB Music SL or HL OR IB Geography SL OR 2 <sup>nd</sup> IB Language OR 2 <sup>nd</sup> IB Science	2	2
IB Spanish ab initio or SL OR IB Japanese ab initio or SL	2	2
Elective 1	1	1
Elective 2	1	1
<b>Total Junior Year</b>		<b>16</b>

A student must select one IB class from each of the following areas: Language (first language), Foreign Language, Social Studies (IB History of Americas), Math (Math Studies or Math Standard Level), and Science (Biology, Environmental Science or Chemistry). Each student must select a 6<sup>th</sup> IB class which can include Music or an additional science or geography or a second foreign language. A total of 6 IB classes as well as Theory of Knowledge are required. Successful completion of the IB classes, including an extended essay and community service (CAS) assignments will help students to prepare for success on IB exams in order to earn an IB Diploma issued by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Seniors

<b>Senior</b>	<b>Semesters</b>	<b>Credits</b>
IB English 12	2	2
Math Studies IB or Math Standard Level IB	2	2
History of Americas IB	2	2
Theory of Knowledge	1	1
IB Biology HL or SL OR IB Environmental Systems SL OR IB Chemistry SL	2	2
IB Music SL or HL OR IB Geography SL OR 2 <sup>nd</sup> IB Language OR 2 <sup>nd</sup> IB Science	2	2
IB Spanish ab initio or SL OR IB Japanese ab initio or SL	2	2
Elective1	2	2
Elective 2	1	1
<b>Total Senior year</b>		<b>16</b>

Electives for senior year include internship, instrumental music, choir, drama, advanced speech, business classes and IB study hall.

North Star High School  
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**Business**

**Introduction to Business**

One Semester

Elective

Grade 9

This is an introductory class that will explore many aspects of business and economics. We will cover material in modules that will include: Business communication skills, presentation skills, public speaking, career exploration and employment, computer applications, business writing including letters, resume's and interview skills and more. The course will also complete the Junior Achievement Success Skills for Highly Effective Teens program. Students will have many opportunities to utilize critical thinking, problem solving and project based learning! This is a great class to begin your journey into the world of business and economics.

**Small Business Ownership/Entrepreneurship**

One Semester

Elective

Grades 9, 10, 11

Start and operate a real company in this class! This course incorporates the Junior Achievement "Company" program. As a part of this class a community representative visits our class bringing all sorts of great ideas, games, and information to help your company succeed! Students will sell stock, form a board of directors and create departments in Marketing and Sales, Human Resources, Finance, Production, Distribution, and Public Relations. Students will make all the decisions through meetings using parliamentary procedure. Students will dissolve the company at the end of the semester. Will the company be profitable enough to distribute dividend checks to the stock holders? That is our goal! Take this class and try your hand at running a small business!

**Business Marketing - Advertising and Promotional Media** One Semester

Elective

Grades 9, 10, 11

This class will cover all aspects of Business Marketing including marketing plans, marketing mix, market segmentation, demographics, the 4 P's, promotional media and advertising. What makes a company successful? What makes a commercial stick in your mind? Why are you loyal to certain brands? Ever wonder how much a 30 second commercial costs during the Super Bowl? Find out the answers to all these questions and more in this class!

**Personal Finance and Investing**

One Semester

Elective

Grades, 9, 10, 11

Would you like to learn how to become financially savvy? This class will give students a hands-on approach to everything from financial goal setting, income and expense budgeting, investing, consumer credit, checking and savings, insurance, home ownership, taxation and being a part of the workforce. We will also discuss

Financial Freedom through Smart Investing! Learn how to make good investment decisions with the Stock Market Game! Learn how to put your money to work for you!! The course will involve many opportunities to utilize critical thinking, problem solving and project based learning.

### **Economics**

One Semester

Required

Grade 11

This class will cover economic theory as students learn how fundamental decisions about the four factors of production are made, law of supply and demand, elasticity of supply and demand, Gross Domestic Product, inflation, recession, unemployment, international trade, consumer behavior, competition, monopoly, oligopoly, and monopolistic competition, resource markets, and market failures, saving, borrowing, and spending, the Federal Reserve System and the money supply, and the role of government in an open market economy.

### **International Business/Summit**

One Semester

Elective

Grades 10, 11

This class involves international trade. We will discuss problems and opportunities related to international trade, investment and foreign exchange. As we explore international trade the students have the opportunity to participate in the International Economic Summit which is a ten-week hands-on economic curriculum that is designed around the theme of internal trade and globalization. Over the course of the semester the students will serve as "Economic Advisors" to their assigned countries. They will conduct research on the economic, political and social conditions of their country and submit an economic proposal for debate at the summit. The students will create a strategic improvement plan for their country. It will be up to the students to carry out this plan at the culminating Summit competition against other high schools from the Treasure Valley.

### **Business Law and Ethics**

One Semester

Elective

Grades 10, 11

Learn the many aspects of Business Law such as citizen rights, contracts, torts, copyright and negligence. We will also learn about law through Mock Trials, simulations and film. Students will try their hand at being on the jury, being a judge or better yet, being the prosecuting attorney attempting to convince a jury with this/her compelling argument! Will you prove negligence, guilt or innocence? The judge or jury will decide! We will also discuss Business Ethics. Ever been in a tough situation and not really sure what to do? Explore different scenarios and YOU decide what makes an ethical decision.

## **Foreign Language**

### ***Japanese***

The study of Japanese in all courses will include coverage of Japanese history, geography, culture, both modern and ancient, with the study of culture being defined as the study of Japanese religions, traditional/adopted holidays, social manners/expectations, iconic roles/figures, and daily life habits.

#### **Japanese 1**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Verbal language: Learn foundational vocabulary and grammar relating to everyday student life. Vocabulary will cover topics such as greetings, classroom commands, the Japanese number/counting system, and discussions of personal background information. Sentence patterns will cover past and non-past tenses in their positive and negative forms. Students will learn to read and write fluently in the HIRAGANA and KATAKANA Japanese scripts and learn the readings and meanings of roughly 100 KANJI characters (Sino-Japanese ideograms). Students will learn to write at least 50 of the covered KANJI.

#### **Japanese 2**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Verbal language: Learn additional vocabulary and grammar relating to everyday student life. Vocabulary will cover topics such as illness, household chores, and entertainment. New sentence patterns will cover additional verb, noun, and adjectival forms as relating to relative clauses, some honorifics (highest form of polite language), desire, unwillingness, permission, and forbiddance. Students will learn the readings and meanings of roughly 100 additional KANJI characters (Sino-Japanese ideograms), and learn to write at least 100 of the KANJI covered thus far.

#### **IB Japanese Ab initio**

Four Semesters

Grade Levels: 11

This course will entail a detailed study of the Japanese language with the goal of fluency in comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in topics relating to daily student life, international studies, and international relations. The topic of international studies and relations would entail vocabulary relating to business, environmental issues, and study abroad scenarios. Written language: Over the two year program, there will be much focus on KANJI character study. Students will learn to read about 200 KANJI characters and learn to write about 200 of the characters covered. Ab initio is for students with little or no Japanese experience.

#### **IB Japanese SL (Standard Level)**

Four Semesters

Grade Levels: 11

This course will entail a detailed study of the Japanese language with the goal of fluency in comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in topics relating to daily student life, international studies, and international relations. The topic of international studies and relations would entail vocabulary relating to business, environmental issues, and study abroad scenarios.

Written language: Over the two year program, there will be much focus on KANJI character study. Students will learn to read about 500 KANJI characters and learn to write about 300 of the characters covered. The SL course is for students with 2-3 prior years of Japanese.

## **Spanish**

### **Spanish 1**

Grades: 9, 10

Two Semesters

This course, together with Spanish II, lays the academic framework for our IB Spanish program. Students will read, write, listen, and speak to develop basic Spanish skills in the following areas: the individual, education and work, town and services, and food and drink. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to express concrete thoughts in the present tense, and will be able to understand the *basic* idea of native Spanish, both spoken and written.

### **Spanish 2**

Grades: 9, 10

Two Semesters

This course continues the integrated practice of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Spanish. Students will review and recycle concepts from Spanish I as well as any elementary experience, while working to develop new skills in the following areas: leisure and travel, the environment, and health and emergencies. Upon successful completion of this class, students will feel comfortable using known vocabulary and grammar in a variety of creative ways. Students will be able to express concrete and some abstract thoughts in the present tense, past tense, and future tense. Students will practice techniques that enhance comprehension of spoken and written texts.

### **Spanish 3**

Grades: 9, 10

Two Semesters

This course emphasizes the communicative purpose of language, focusing especially on conversational skills and reading advanced texts for understanding. A variety of authentic materials will be used, especially those with high student interest and cultural significance to the countries being studied. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to communicate concrete and abstract thoughts in a wide variety of tenses, using an assortment of idiomatic expressions and registers.

### **IB Spanish ab initio**

Grades: 11

Four Semesters

This course gives students with little/no prior Spanish experience the opportunity to develop communicative language skills for the most common situations in everyday life. Topics of this class include: the individual, education and work, town and services, food and drink, leisure and travel, the environment, health and emergencies. In the second year of this course, students will take a variety of internally and externally assessed exams to demonstrate their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will be able to earn IB credit for successfully completing the course and these corresponding tests.

### **IB Spanish SL (Standard Level)**

Grade Levels: 11

Four Semesters

This course is for students with at least 2-3 prior years of Spanish study. Through practice of speaking, listening, reading and writing, students will develop advanced skills, including the abilities to state abstract thoughts with fluency and accuracy, converse in a wide variety of registers and situations, and extract

meaning from advanced texts. The course is split into four semester-long units, with thematic links to vocabulary, grammar and literature throughout. The semester topics are: reality (life and death, appearance, self-image, love, and magical realism), the encounter of cultures (Pre-Hispanic America, Early Spain, European colonization of the Americas, migration, and multiculturalism), current events in the Spanish-speaking world (practicing reading, summarizing, and dialoging skills, including formal register and letter styles), the disenfranchised (the individual in society, and how one can effect change). Upon successful completion of this course, students will feel comfortable interacting in Spanish-only environments, both informal and formal. Students will be well-prepared to use their acquired language skills in business, travel, and further academic pursuits.

## **Language Arts**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade English American Literature**

Two Semesters

High School English begins with Course places an emphasis on American Literature. Students read selections, discuss, and answer questions from the text American Experience. We will also read 3-4 novels which coincide thematically with our Freshman Government class. The class will continue to develop skills in analyzing literature, writing various essays including thematic, expository, I Search, and research. Students will write in MLA format from now on in preparation for college.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Grade English World Literature**

Two Semesters

Sophomore year will emphasize World Literature. Course will place emphasis on literature throughout the world. We will read selections, discuss and analyze text from the text World Masterpieces. We will also read novels, poems and other supplemental text emphasizing cultural diversity and awareness. This will coincide thematically with our sophomore social studies, looking at world governments and social issues that affect the global community. Students will continue to practice many writing styles, utilizing various research methods and writing in MLA format.

### **Speech Communication**

One Semester

Grade Levels: 10

Speech communication is a course intended to familiarize students with the elements of the communication process and how all of these elements affect their interactions with others. The students study each of the areas and participate in an activity that practices the newly attained information. The class also provides students with experiences in organizing their thoughts and materials in an orderly manner and effectively relaying these to an audience. Students will be taught to deliver several traditional speeches in addition to refining their delivery techniques.

### **Advanced Speech/Debate**

Grade Levels: 11, 12

One Semester

Advanced Speech/Debate is a course intended to improve the students' communication abilities in a variety of academic, social, personal, and business settings. Students will participate in a variety a speaking venues ranging from Lincoln/Douglas debate, panel discussion, and mock trial, to how to conduct a business meeting using parliamentary procedure. There will be a focus on research skills and reasoned discourse in this class.

### **Theater Arts**

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

One Semester

The theater arts class is designed as a "hands on" introduction to basic theater terminology and acting skills. Students will participate in a variety of projects such as pantomime and scene work. The class will culminate in the production of a one act play that will be presented to an audience.

## ***IB English***

The IB English program is an intensive college level study of literature and language that is taught over a period of two years. Both years are considered one course: English Language A1.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade IB English HL (Higher Level)**

Two Semesters

English IB offers juniors an introductory literature survey course that focuses on reading and writing about four literary genres: drama, poetry, short story and the novel. Students read a variety of translated world literature texts and complete a study of American literature, including Idaho and Western literature. All assignments and seminars are designed to help students develop analytical thinking skills through close reading of texts and essay writing. Students will identify concrete details and apply abstract ideas to universal themes in life and literature; drawing connections and synthesizing ideas encountered in multiple readings; researching and utilizing outside sources to support arguments; understanding literary devices; thinking critically about and experiencing the written word; and finding tools to express their own ideas.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade IB English HL (Higher Level)**

Two Semesters

IB English Grade 12 builds on Year I skills to engage seniors in an intensive examination of different genres linked by a common theme. Students will read and analyze a selection of nonfiction, dramas, novels, and poetry. In addition, students complete a detailed study, which focuses on the mastery of one particular literary genre. All of the works chosen share a common theme, and students look for similarities and differences in the way the various authors handle these themes. Through integrated inquiry study students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions and social roles. Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.

## **Mathematics**

### **Pre-Algebra**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9

Topics include review and mastery of basic mathematical operations and theory while introducing algebraic concepts including variables, equations, and inequalities, their applications and problem solving.

### **Algebra 1**

Two Semesters

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Grade Levels: 9 , 10

Topics include continued study of manipulation of variables, equations, inequalities and problem solving. Students will relate and apply algebraic concepts to geometry, statistics, data analysis, probability and discrete mathematics.

### **Geometry**

Two Semesters

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Topics include the study of plane geometrical figures and their properties, three-dimensional objects, and applications with an emphasis on reasoning skills. Review of prerequisite skills and integration of algebraic concepts is incorporated throughout the course.

### **Algebra 2**

Two Semesters

Prerequisite: Geometry

Grade Levels: 9, 10,

Topics include extensive study of the manipulation of variables, equations and inequalities; their applications. Also included is the study of relations, functions, graphs; logarithms and exponents, trigonometric functions, equations, probability, statistics, matrices, conic sections, applications and problem solving.

### **Pre-Calculus**

Two Semesters

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Grade Levels: 9, 10

This course is an extension of Algebra 2 with the emphasis in trigonometry, limits, and introductory calculus topics. All major areas covered in Algebra 2 are reinforced at a greater depth with additional applications aided by the use of calculators and computers. Other concepts covered in this course include problem solving, the complex number system, equations and inequalities, functions, sequences and series, probability and statistics, matrices, determinants and vectors, and polar and parametric functions.

**IB Mathematics Studies**

Four Semesters

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Grade Levels: 11

This is a two-year course which follows Algebra and Geometry. This class is aimed at humanities and arts students. It is a pre-calculus curriculum. Topics include number and algebra, sets, and logic, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability, functions, financial mathematics, matrices and introduction to differential calculus.

**IB Mathematics SL (Standard Level)**

Four Semesters

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Grade Levels: 11

This is a two-year calculus class. Topics include functions, circular functions and trigonometry, vector geometry, statistics and probability. Portfolio requirements include mathematical investigation, extended closed-problem solving and mathematical modeling.

## **Music**

### **Concert Choir**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

Curriculum would include basic theory, which would include note names, note values, the staff and clefs, key signatures, and simple part writing. Sight singing would be included in the theory lessons. Students would learn about two, three and four part harmony. Students would learn various styles of music which would include music from all periods of music. Students would learn proper breathing techniques and diction. A minimum of 4 concerts would be held during the year as well as attending the District III Music Festival in March.

### **Beginning Band**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

Students will learn the basics of good instrumentation in a concert band. Students will be tested in basic music knowledge, and proper instruments for each student would be selected. The students would then buy or rent instruments from several local music stores. Students wishing to play larger instruments, i.e.; baritone saxophone, bass clarinet, baritone horn, tuba, or french horn, could possibly rent from the school. The beginning band would do at least 3 public performances during the year. Students that enroll in the high school beginning band, must purchase their own instrument, or rent one from the North Star School. Students will also be responsible to purchase their own beginning band method book, and all necessary equipment like reeds, oil and mutes. Students will be graded on individual practice, (3-1/2 hours of practice per week is a minimum for an "A".) Students in the beginning band will perform at least 4 concerts per year, and when ready they may be moved to the concert band.

### **Concert Band**

Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11

Students that enroll in the high school band must have had at least one year of band, either at North Star Elementary/Middle School, or at another school. Students are expected to purchase their own instrument, or rent one from the School. Students are responsible for all necessary equipment that are needed for their instruments, ie. reeds, oil, mutes. Students enrolled in the Concert Band will perform at least 4 times per year at concerts at North Star High School. The Concert Band will also participate in the District III High School Band Festival, and Solo Festival. Students that are eligible will also participate in the State Solo Festival. Students will also be encouraged to participate in the Boise State University Honor Band, All-State Honor Band, and All-Northwest Honor Band. Grade requirements for Concert Band are a minimum of 3-1/2 hours of individual practice per week. Students will be required to play their Concert Band Music in Class for a grade. Grades are based on practice, concert attendance, and festival attendance. Students will also be evaluated on a daily basis as to classroom effort and participation in the class.

**Jazz Band**

Two Semesters

Prerequisite - Beginning Band

Grades 9, 10, 11

Students auditioning for the Jazz band must have been in the beginning, intermediate, or advanced band for at least one year. Basic instrumentation would be discussed. Students that wish to play in the Rhythm section would use School instruments that would be Electric Bass, Electric Guitar, Piano, or Drum Set. Other students playing Trumpet, Trombone, or Saxophone would provide their own instrument. Students would learn basic styles of Jazz which would include; swing, Latin, and ballads. Students would perform 4 concerts during the year, and possibly performing in the District III Jazz Festival held in December.

**Composition**

Two Semesters

Prerequisite - 2 years of experience in a music class or private lessons.

Grades 9, 10, 11

Composition is an introductory course in writing music. Students will learn the basics of music theory with an emphasis on synthesizing their knowledge into composing music. Students will compose music in a variety of musical styles for a variety of different instruments and for voice. Students will compile a portfolio of all their work.

**Guitar**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

Students enrolling in the guitar class will need to provide their own guitar. The class will cover basic construction of the guitar, tuning, and the different way the instrument is to be played. Each student will provide a basic method book selected by the instructor. Basic Music Theory, which includes, note values, note names, clef signatures, and time signatures will be taught at the beginning. Students will be taught as a group to play simple one line melodies and basic 3 and 4 note chords. The guitar class will eventually learn to play 2 and 4 part harmony music selections, selected by the Director.

**Piano Lab**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

Students enrolling in the piano lab will learn the basic fundamentals of playing the piano, including scales, chords, and reading notes. By the end of the course, the students will have a working understanding of playing the piano and will be able to play some intermediate level classical pieces. They will also receive a brief introduction to playing jazz and popular music on the piano. This class is also a great way to learn the basics of music theory.

**IB Music SL and HL (Standard and Higher Level)**

Four Semesters

Grade Levels 11

Students enrolled in Music SL and HL will learn basic forms of music from many countries in the world over the past 750 years. Students will learn the basics of notation, rests, basic rhythms, key signatures, major and minor scales, church modes, figured bass, four part writing, harmonization, voice and instrument pitch ranges, formal and contemporary chord analysis, and music score reading. Students will be responsible for writing essays on each topic and on music they have listened to. Students will learn to evaluate conductor's scores (music) and to eventually create a project that would include either a composition or essay on

a music selection. For students taking Music HL, solo or group performance is a crucial part of this course. Students may choose to enroll in a North Star music course or continue their choral/instrumental education outside of North Star.

## **Physical Education**

### **Health**

One Semester

Grade Levels: 10

Health must be viewed as a dynamic multi-dimensional measure of the quality of life rather than simply a freedom from illness. Health education focuses on knowledge, examines attitudes, and formulates lifestyle behaviors. Each student/ will maximize his/her potential for total well being through an emphasis on wellness. Health status is dependent on what an individual does every day of his/her life. Therefore, a program emphasizing skill-building activities, which explore both long and short-term behavioral consequences, is necessary.

Wellness should emphasize scientific and effective health concepts that focus on positive health habits and a balanced lifestyle. Finally, a health education program can make a difference and can influence the quality of life for this and subsequent generations.

### **Physical Education (PE)**

One or Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

Students in the physical education classes will demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns, needed to perform a variety of physical activities. They will demonstrate an understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities. Students will participate regularly in physical activity and will achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness. They will exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings. They will learn the values of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

## **Science**

### **Biology**

Two Semesters

Grade Level: 10

This course is designed to meet the needs of the State of Idaho graduation requirements and provide adequate foundation for the State ISAT exams. In addition to the mastery of biological concepts at a high school level, this course will allow the student to experience authentic science investigations, engage in relevant projects to include anatomy, cytology, genetics, ecology, evolution, botany, environmental science and general zoology. Additionally this course will provide necessary foundation for either IB Biology I and II or IB Environmental Studies I and II.

### **Earth Science**

Two Semesters

Grade Level: 9

Earth science is a 1 year course where students study the interfaces among the geosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere of our planet as well as Earth's relationship to other bodies in space. Investigations during the first semester include studies of Earth's geology, mineral resources, land use planning, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and Earth's history. Second semester studies will include the topics of energy resources, river systems, oceans, glaciers, water resources, weather, climate change, and astronomy. This course will have a large focus on current environmental concerns both locally and globally. All students will perform an individual science fair project over the course of the year and have a field trip opportunity to the observatory at Bureau Sand Dunes.

### **IB Chemistry SL (Standard Level)**

Four Semesters

Grade Levels: 11

Chemistry is an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigative skills. It is called the central science as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems. (International Baccalaureate Program Guide: Chemistry, 2007) Topics that will be covered include: atomic theory, stoichiometry, states of matter, chemical bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction and organic chemistry. Two optional topics are also required as part of the International Baccalaureate program and will be chosen from the list of available options. By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of scientific facts and concepts relating to chemistry, apply and use scientific terminology to communicate effectively, and plan, analyze and evaluate scientific investigations. A Group 4 experimental project will occur as a collaborative effort to include students in IB Chemistry, IB Environmental Studies and Biology.

**IB Biology SL and HL\*\* (Standard and Higher Level)      Four Semesters**

Grade Levels: 11

Students completing this course will be preparing for the International Baccalaureate examinations as well as for college level courses. Learning will occur through individual manipulation of experiments, class discussions, laboratory investigations, readings, activities, statistics, and analytical and creative thinking. This two year class will focus on major themes to include cytology, ecology, genetics, human health and physiology in the first year; and evolution, ecology, conservation, neurology and behavioral science in the second year. Students will demonstrate practical experimental skills and engage in deeper studies that are intended to connect biology with contemporary, local and global issues. A Group 4 experimental project will occur as a collaborative effort to include students in IB Chemistry, IB Environmental Systems and IB Biology.

**IB Environmental Systems SL \*\* (Standard Level)      Four Semesters**

Grade Levels: 11

This course is equivalent to a college-level course that investigates the systems of nature and the human ecological footprint. Successful students will be prepared to take the International Baccalaureate exams. The achievement goal is to provide students with successful concept grasp that will enable them to understand natural systems, analyze environmental problems in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach, search for solutions resolving or preventing natural or human made problems, and to apply methodologies to evaluate ecosystem success. Students will examine local and global issues and apply knowledge gained from these areas; economics, geology, biology, environmental studies, chemistry, geography.

\*\* IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization) does not allow students to take both IB Biology and IB Environmental Systems due to the fact that there is so much overlapping curriculum.

## **Social Studies**

### **Government**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

This government course addresses America's political development and institutions with an emphasis on citizenship awareness and citizen rights and responsibilities. The primary goal is to prepare and inform the student of their role as an American citizen and to encourage participation in the democratic system at the local, state and national levels. Topics will include the foundations of our government, comparative governments, the Constitution, political parties, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government, Idaho politics, community service and citizenship. This course also compares examples of political systems - ranging from democracy to monarchy and totalitarianism – from around the world.

### **World History**

One Semester

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

This world history course addresses the full scope of world history from ancient times to the modern era. Students will explore the culture, religions, technology, politics, and economy of all areas of the world paying particular interest to how different regions impacted the history of other regions as human interaction increased. In addition, students will discover the contributions of individuals as they impacted (positively and negatively) the world around them.

### **IB Geography SL (Standard Level)**

Four Semesters

Grade Levels: 11

The core theme for the two year IB Geography course covers four main topics in geographic patterns and change: populations in transition, disparities in wealth and development, patterns in environmental quality and sustainability, and patterns in resource consumption. The course goals are to enable the students to develop a global perspective and a sense of world interdependence. Two additional topics for study will be addressed in this course. The first topic, Leisure, sport and tourism, focuses on the issues that arise in this rapidly expanding global economic area. The second topic, urban environments, focuses on the environmental impacts and challenges that face urban planners including urban land use and sustainability.

### **IB History of Americas HL (Higher Level)**

Four Semesters

Grade Levels: 11

This exciting and rewarding two year course of study prepares the student for the study of history through teaching the gathering, sorting and evaluating of historical evidence, the recognizing and understanding of the historical process, their relationship to human experiences, activity and motivation, and the organization and expressing of historical ideas and information. The main theme will be the history of the Americas ( North and South America) focusing on peacemaking, peacekeeping and international relations, the causes and effects of wars, the nature of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare, and the origins, development, nature, and end of the Cold War.

## Other Classes

### **Theory of Knowledge**

Two Semesters

Grade Levels: 11

An IB course taken by all students, the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course challenges students to reflect critically on the methodologies – their strengths and weaknesses – of the six curriculum areas. TOK helps students to develop a more mature understanding about the nature of knowledge, to identify and compare different types of knowledge and ways of knowing and to develop their own judgment about what to believe and why to believe it. TOK is a journey of exploration and discovery into timeless as well as contemporary topics. Students will take this class second semester as a junior and then first semester as a senior.

### **IB Study Hall**

Grade Levels: 11, 12

One Semester

This is a class where students can take the time to work on IB related course work in a collaborative manner or a solitary environment, which ever is preferred.

# Student Four Year Planner

Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Freshmen Year</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Credits</b>	<b>Course</b>
1	English
1	Math
1	Earth Science
1	World History
1	Business Elective
1	Language
1	PE
1	Elective
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b>	
1	English
1	Math
1	Earth Science
1	Elective
1	Business Elective
1	Language
1	PE
1	Elective

<b>Sophomore Year</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Credits</b>	<b>Course</b>
1	English
1	Speech
1	Math
1	Biology
1	Government
1	Business Elective
1	Language
1	Elective
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b>	
1	English
1	Health
1	Math
1	Biology
1	Government
1	Business Elective
1	Language
1	Elective

## Business Electives

Small Business Ownership/Entrepreneurship  
 Business Marketing - Advertising and Promotional Media  
 Personal Finance and investing  
 International Business/Summit  
 Business Law and Ethics  
 Introduction to Business

## Other Electives

Piano Lab  
 Choir  
 Concert Band  
 Beginning Band  
 Jazz Band  
 Music Composition  
 Guitar  
 Theatre Arts  
 Advanced Speech/Debate

<b>Junior Year</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Credits</b>	<b>Course</b>
1	IB English
1	IB Math
1	IB Science
1	IB History of Americas
1	Economics
1	IB Language
1	IB Elective
1	Elective
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b>	
1	IB English
1	IB Math
1	IB Science
1	IB History of Americas
1	Theory of Knowledge
1	IB Language
1	IB Elective
1	Elective

<b>Senior Year</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Credits</b>	<b>Course</b>
1	IB English
1	IB Math
1	IB Science
1	IB History of Americas
1	Theory of Knowledge
1	IB Language
1	IB Elective
1	Elective
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b>	
1	IB English
1	IB Math
1	IB Science
1	IB History of Americas
1	Elective
1	IB Language
1	IB Elective
1	Elective

Business Electives

Small Business Ownership/Entrepreneurship  
 Business Marketing  
 Personal Finance and investing  
 International Business/Summit  
 Business Law and Ethics  
 Introduction to Business

Other Electives

Piano Lab  
 Choir  
 Concert Band  
 Beginning Band  
 Jazz Band  
 Music Composition  
 Guitar  
 Theatre Arts  
 Advanced Speech/Debate  
 IB Study Hall

IB Electives

IB Music HL  
 IB Music SL  
 IB Geography SL  
 IB Japanese ab initio  
 IB Japanese SL  
 IB Spanish ab initio  
 IB Spanish SL  
 IB Chemistry SL  
 IB Biology HL  
 IB Biology SL  
 IB Environmental Systems SL