



# MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL

## IB ENGLISH FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANIZATION?

- The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a global leader in international education—empowering students to take ownership of their learning and help them develop future-ready skills to thrive in a world that changes fast.
- The IB curriculum gives students distinct advantages by building their critical thinking skills, nurturing their curiosity and their ability to solve complex problems.

### WHICH GRADE LEVELS WILL TAKE IB ENGLISH IN 2024?

# 2024

- All freshman enrolled at Melbourne High School will take Florida Pre-IB English 1 in 2024



### HOW WILL IB ENGLISH BE ROLLED OUT TO STUDENTS AT MEL HIGH?

- The IB English curriculum will phase in over four years.
- 2024-2025 Freshmen will take Pre-IB English 1
- 2025-2026 Sophomores will take Pre-IB English 2
- 2026-2027 Juniors will choose one of four paths to satisfy graduation requirements for English. See the chart below.
- Students who enter Mel High after the 2024-25 school year will follow the same course progression unless they choose to take advantage of our three other accelerated course options.

MHS English	IB Diploma- Application required	Advanced Placement-Teacher recommendation required	Dual Enrollment- Application required
FL Pre IB English 1	FL Pre IB English 1	FL Pre IB English 1	FL Pre IB English 1
FL Pre IB English 2	FL Pre IB English 2	FL Pre IB English 2	FL Pre IB English 2 Or Dual Enrollment
IB Lang and Lit 1	AP Lang Comp	AP Lang Comp	IB Lang and Lit 1 Or Dual Enrollment
IB Lang and Lit 2	IB Lit HL	AP Lang Lit	IB Lang and Lit 2 Or Dual Enrollment

### DOES PRE-IB ENGLISH USE THE SAME STATE ADOPTED TEXTBOOK AS ENGLISH 1 AND ENGLISH 1 HONORS?



- The Pre-IB English Courses will use the BPS approved Savvas textbooks



## HOW IS THE IB CURRICULUM FOR 9TH GRADE ENGLISH DIFFERENT THAN WHAT MEL HIGH HAS TRADITIONALLY OFFERED?

The curriculum differs in these ways:

- Use of SAVVAS based texts PLUS students will explore a variety of additional text forms.
- IB Approaches to Learning provide a framework helping students make a conscious effort to exercise thinking skills, research skills, and communication skills.
- Student activities include collaboration and verbal communication that support the skill building necessary for success after graduation.

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## CAN I MOVE MY STUDENT INTO A LESS RIGOROUS ENGLISH COURSE?



- The Pre-IB English curriculum is manageable for students of all ability levels. This course is designed to improve the literacy of every student. Data from other IB World Schools demonstrate that all students can be successful in this course.



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## CAN STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES OR THOSE WITH IEPs OR 504s BE SUCCESSFUL? HOW WOULD THEY BE ACCOMMODATED WITH THE CURRICULUM?

- Yes. The IB text choices allow variance for ability as well as through the flexibility of IB strategies used for teaching and learning provides.
- Students with IEPs and 504s will have all accommodations met in the classroom.



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## CAN STUDENTS WHO ARE WORKING BELOW GRADE LEVEL BE SUCCESSFUL IN IB ENGLISH?

- Yes. This curriculum is delivered successfully to students of a wide range of abilities.
- The IB curriculum is a skills-based curriculum that enables students to see very clearly where their strengths are and what challenges they need to overcome.
- This way of learning helps students to be conscious of their progress and allows teachers flexibility with different texts and modes of communication, engaging them in literacy through pieces and activities that are interesting and meaningful.



## WHY WILL MEL HIGH BEGIN TEACHING ALL ENGLISH CLASSES THROUGH IB STARTING IN 2024?

- Melbourne High School has been an IB World School offering the Diploma Program since 2008. As an IB World School, we have a responsibility to all of our students to provide access to the IB curriculum while continuing to encourage those who are interested to take advantage of the full Diploma Program. We are endeavoring to better meet that mission.
- During our research we found other IB World Schools who offer IB English to all of their students have made gains in literacy that exceed district and state averages.
- IB World Schools who have transitioned to teaching English through the IB curriculum found a larger number of students engaged in the subject, interested in reading, writing, and critical thinking. This was particularly true for students who do not typically enjoy English.



## WILL MEL HIGH STILL OFFER ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH COURSES?

- Advanced Placement English Language and Composition as well as English Language and Literature will still be offered as an accelerated options for Melbourne High School students.

## IS THERE ANY DATA TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO IB ENGLISH CLASS FOR ALL STUDENTS AT MEL HIGH?



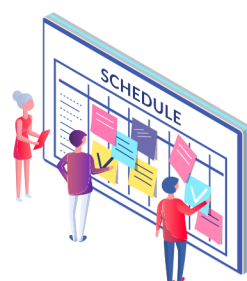
- Yes. IB World Schools throughout the United States that have transitioned to IB Language and Literature for all students consistently report state assessment scores higher than district and state averages for all demographics.



## DOES TAKING IB ENGLISH MEAN THAT MY STUDENT IS IN THE IB PROGRAM AT MEL HIGH?

- No. Taking IB English does not mean a student is in the IB Diploma or the IB Career Program. Students must elect to be in the full IB Diploma Program or IB Career Program. Melbourne High School is an IB World School which means we host two program opportunities and many of the courses offered by the International Baccalaureate.

## HOW WILL STUDENTS BE SCHEDULED INTO PRE-IB ENGLISH 1?



- Since all 9th grade students will take the same course there will be students of all levels of ability in each classroom. This is the model used by other schools who have successfully transitioned to IB English for their students.





## WHAT BENEFIT DOES MY STUDENT RECEIVE FROM TAKING THE IB ENGLISH EXAM IN THEIR SENIOR YEAR?

- Students develop critical thinking skills, a deep understanding of many text forms, and competence in effective communication. The assessment process includes internal and external components designed to evaluate language proficiency, literary analysis, and communication skills.
  - Exam scores of 4 or higher earn college credit at all Florida colleges and many out of state colleges as well.  
Scores of 4 earn credits in ENC X101 (3 credits)  
Scores of 5 through 7 earn credits ENC X101 and ENC X102 (6 credits)
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## WILL MEL HIGH TEACHERS RECEIVE TRAINING TO TEACH IB ENGLISH?

- English teachers for the FL Pre IB freshman and sophomore courses will be trained this year with additional professional development next year. Teachers who will teach the IB Language and Literature course for juniors and seniors will be IB trained in 2025 with additional professional development the following year.
  - Our reading coach, ELL teacher, media specialist, and reading support teachers will also be trained.
  - Melbourne High School is making a significant effort and investment to ensure that teachers have the professional development and support they need to in turn support positive student outcomes in these courses.
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## IF MY STUDENT DOESN'T PLAN ON GOING TO COLLEGE OR ISN'T INTERESTED IN TAKING IB COURSES, THEN WHY SHOULD THEY BE FORCED TO TAKE IB ENGLISH COURSES WHILE THEY ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

- IB courses aren't just for college bound students. They are for every student. The Language and Literature course, in particular, is good for all students regardless of their path after graduation.
  - The data shows this course promotes literacy in reading, writing, and speaking for all students. All these skills are needed for any career pursuit. Who doesn't want their student to be more literate?
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## IS MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL GOING TO DO THIS WITH SCIENCE, MATH, OR SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES ALSO?



- No. There is not another course progression that works for all students. If students decide they would like to take another IB course in junior and senior year, they are welcomed and encouraged to make that request to their guidance counselor.