

Desert Mountain High School International Baccalaureate Program School Profile 2009-2010



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Mission Statement

Desert Mountain High School fosters personal and academic growth that will enable students to contribute to the global community as lifelong learners.

School and Community

Desert Mountain High School opened in 1995. Current attendance is 2,490 students, including 610 seniors. DMHS is one of five high schools in the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) and is in the top 5% of all public high schools in the nation, according to the *Newsweek* Challenge Index. The school is consistently ranked in the top ten schools in Arizona, as measured by student performance on Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS.) The Arizona Achievement Profile designates DMHS as an "Excelling School." The school is located in northeast Scottsdale at the base of the McDowell Mountains. The campus complex encompasses two full city blocks. Facilities include the joint use Scottsdale Palomino Library, four computer laboratories, a 1200 seat auditorium, a fully functional green house, multiple high tech science labs, a college and career center and extensive athletic facilities. Students typically take six 53 minute classes during a standard academic school day. DMHS offers additional classes both before and after the normal school day, enhancing course selection opportunities and schedule flexibility for students. The academic year consists of 180 days divided into two semesters.

Accreditation

The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools accredits Desert Mountain High School. As a member of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, DMHS complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

The International Baccalaureate Program at Desert Mountain High School

Desert Mountain High School became an IB World School in 1998. As SUSD's premier magnet program, the DMHS IB Program draws from a student population of 27,000 and five large district high schools. Through an SUSD open enrollment program, many metropolitan Phoenix students come to DMHS,

specifically to join the IB Program. The Program welcomes a significant number of international families from Europe and Asia. The 2009-2010 Pre-Diploma and IB Diploma Programs enroll approximately 350 students. **All students in the DMHS IB Program are Full Diploma Candidates.** This solidifies the commitment the students must make to the program. The percentage of IB Diplomas awarded to DMHS IB Seniors consistently surpasses the national and world average percentages for IB Member Schools. The community strongly supports DMHS and the IB Program. As a volunteer organization, the International Baccalaureate Parent Association (IBPA) works to enhance the IB Program, foster communication between faculty and families and to build lasting community bonds among parents of many diverse nationalities. Currently, the DMHS IB program is ranked 39th in the nation according to US News and World Report, based on the program's success in helping students achieve their IB diploma.

DMHS IB Curriculum

A student who is a Diploma Candidate is taking the most rigorous coursework and schedule that Desert Mountain has to offer. IB students are engaged in multi-disciplinary studies which are taught from a global perspective. Strong emphasis is placed on student collaboration, critical thinking, written analysis and oral presentation. In preparation for the rigors of IB Diploma Candidacy, Pre-Diploma freshmen and sophomores take specialized Honors classes in English, World and American History and World Languages. During the two year program, DMHS IB juniors and seniors are required to take six subject group classes and to successfully complete the three core components of the IB program: Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and the Extended Essay (EE).

Six IB Subject Group Classes

Three of the six subject group classes must be Higher Level (HL) classes. HL classes span both junior and senior years and require the students to do a formal assessment in their second year of study. The other three subject areas must be taken at the Standard Level (SL) course designation. SL courses are one year courses that are equally rigorous in nature but require the students to test at the end of that year of study. DMHS awards Honors credit for both Higher Level and Standard Level classes. All six subject group classes culminate with authentic internal assessments which are graded by the on-site IB teacher and/or external examinations that are scored internationally by the IBO. Types of authentic IB assessment forms include, but are not limited to: essays, oral presentations, oral analysis and commentary, scientific labs, portfolios and written exams. Unique to DMHS, the IB Program simultaneously prepares students in Higher Level Math to take the AP BC Calculus exam.

Junior and Senior IB Diploma Subject Group Classes Offered at DMHS		
Group 1	Language A1	English HL
Group 2	Language B	French SL, Spanish SL
Group 3	Individuals and Society	History HL Psychology SL, Economics SL
Group 4	Experimental Sciences	Biology HL, Chemistry HL Biology SL, Chemistry SL, Physics SL
Group 5	Mathematics/Computer Science	Mathematics HL Mathematics SL, Mathematics Studies SL, Computer Science SL
Group 6	The Arts	Visual Arts SL, Music SL, Theater SL

Three Core IB Requirements

Students draw upon the full IB curriculum experience throughout the successful completion of the three core requirements: **the Extended Essay (EE), Creativity, Action and Service (CAS), and Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**. Diploma Candidates begin work on a 4000 word Extended Essay (EE) in March of junior year and complete original research, independently, during the summer between junior and senior years. Each student selects a mentor who guides them during this process. DMHS IB faculty conducts an Extended Essay Workshop in June following junior year, to enhance preparation for EE completion, November of senior year. IB also requires students to complete 150 Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) hours and to prepare written reflections regarding the meaning of those activities. The IB regards the Theory of Knowledge class as a capstone of the program. The students reflect on what knowledge is and different ways of knowing and learning. TOK is offered as a senior Honors elective to the whole school population.

Additional Academic Opportunities for DMHS IB Students

The IB Program coexists in a school with a full offering of AP and Honors classes. It is not unusual for IB students to augment their required IB curriculum with additional IB, AP or Honors electives. American Government and Economics, which are both graduation requirements, are each one semester classes that many students take as a seventh class during zero hour at the Honors or AP level.

DMHS IB Students Achieve More Than Exams

Despite demands of the IB curriculum, the DMHS IB students are community leaders and among the most active students on campus. Most IB students are members of, and hold offices in, many of the 71 campus organizations. They also participate in student government and perform extensive community service. IB students participate in a wide variety of varsity athletics resulting in many team championships for DMHS. IB students also lead internationally focused organizations such as "Invisible Children," Model UN, Sister Cities and Spanish Honor Society. The International Baccalaureate Student Association organizes an annual DMHS International Fair and invites all members of the student body and community to attend.

DMHS IB Students College Attendance for 2006 - 2009 Graduates

Arizona State University	Babson College	Boston University
Bowdoin College	Brandeis University	Brown University
Brunel University, London	Carnegie Mellon University	Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College	Colorado College	Columbia University
Cornell University	Dartmouth College	Duke University
George Washington University	Georgetown University	Gonzaga University
Hamline University	Harvey Mudd College	Ithaca College
Lehigh University	Mass. Institute of Technology	Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College	New York University	Northern Arizona University
Northwestern University	Reed College	Rice University
Scripps College	Southern Methodist University	Stanford University
Syracuse University	United States Naval Academy	University of Arizona
Univ. of California-Berkeley, LA	University of Colorado	University of Illinois
University of Michigan	University of Missouri	University of Notre Dame
University of Richmond	University of Southern Cal.	Univ. of St. Andrews, Scotland
University of Tulsa	University of Victoria-B.C.	University of Washington
Vanderbilt University	Vassar College	Wellesley College

Test Scores and IB Statistics

SAT Scores	Year	Total	Verbal	Math	Writing
DMHS-All	2008	1641	551	562	528
Scottsdale	2008	1624	542	551	531
Arizona	2008	1538	516	522	500
IB	2009	1958	650	646	662
IB	2008	1992	664	674	654
IB	2007	1998	676	671	651
IB	2006	2035	656	693	686
IB	2005	1328	642	686	
IB	2004	1332	674	658	

DMHS IB Diplomas Awarded	Diplomas	Candidates	Success Rates
2009	42	46	91%
2008	46	49	94%
2007	45	53	85%
2006	51	57	89%
2005	32	39	82%
2004	26	31	84%
IBO Average International Diploma Achievement = 80%			

DMHS IB Exam Scores	Average Total Points	Average Points per Exam	Highest Points Achieved
2009	30	4.71	38
2008	32	5.08	41
2007	30	4.72	44
2006	31	5.10	42
2005	29	4.66	36
2004	30	4.88	36
Highest Possible IB Score = 45 Points, achieved by only 1% of all international candidates			

DMHS National Merit Semi-Finalists	Total DMHS	Number of IB Students
2010	9	4
2009	11	7
2008	16	11
2007	4	4
2006	16	15
2005	9	6
2004	6	2
2003	8	7
DMHS National Merit Commended		
2009	7	3
2008	12	6