

What Can I Expect as my Child Progresses?

Grades 9 and 10

Transition for students with Advanced Learning Plans

The Ascent Team will meet with the high school counseling staff to provide transitional information based on individual student ALPs and other pertinent information. Students will work with counselors to determine appropriate course selection.

Challenge opportunities at Aspen High School

- Electives at all grade levels
- Placement by proficiency in math and world languages
- Flexible scheduling for student acceleration
- Clubs, both academic and service related
- Classroom differentiation
- Individual leadership opportunities through counseling
- Community partnerships with Aspen Institute, Aspen Film Fest, Aspen Writers Foundation, the Aspen Music Festival and School, and other local organizations
- College and post-graduate advising
- On-line courses for credit
- Off-campus courses for credit

Grade 9: Students learn about the International Baccalaureate Program from the IB Coordinator. IB courses emphasize academic rigor and are open to juniors and seniors. Students interested in participating in IB during their junior and senior year work closely with their counselor during freshman year to ensure they are enrolled in all appropriate prerequisites. Students whose needs would best be met by entering the IB program early (freshman or sophomore year) are evaluated by the IB Coordinator and placed in the program on a case-by-case basis. During the freshman year, students work with their counselors to find appropriate clubs, mentorship opportunities and independent studies.

Grade 10: In the fall of sophomore year, the IB Coordinator meets with all students to go over the IB application process. All students interested in the IB program must fill out an application during the spring of their sophomore year. At Aspen High School, the IB program has an open enrollment policy. All students interested in challenging themselves academically are encouraged to participate, provided they have taken the appropriate prerequisite courses. Students may work with their counselors to find appropriate clubs, mentorship opportunities and independent studies.

The IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, and help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

International Baccalaureate Organization 2006

The International Baccalaureate Program at AHS

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, has been operating worldwide for over 25 years. Its High School Diploma Program is followed by

over 475 schools in the United States, and in over 1,700 high schools in 122 countries. Aspen High School is one of the smallest public schools in the United States offering the IB Program.

The IB Curriculum and Examinations

The curriculum for IB classes is developed by IBO, and IB courses are taught at two different levels; Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL). Students in IB classes take externally scored examinations at the completion of each course to determine if they will receive IB credit for that class. Part of their IB score is also based on teacher evaluations, monitored by the IBO. Scores on IB exams determine whether or not the student receives college credit for these classes.