

# Talent Sikat

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**To:** talent@thesikatagency.com

**Subject:** FAQS CONTINUED 33+ 3of 3

FAQS CONTINUED 33+

-- An example of a typical IB Middle School curriculum that has an established track record would be

-6th grade'

Pre Algebra or Algebra 1 (High School Level)

Physical/Life Science or Biology (High School Level)

Foreign Language 1 (Spanish 1, French 1 High School Level) and possibly taking another Foreign Language 2 like (Japanese 1, Chinese 1, or Sign Language 1 High School Level)

English, History the normal 6-8 curriculum but moving Much faster

7th grade

Algebra 1 or geometry (High School Level)

Biology or Chemistry (High School Level)

Foreign Language 2 (Spanish 2, French 2 High School Level) and possibly taking another Foreign Language 2 (Japanese 2, Chinese 2, or Sign Language 2 High School Level)

English, History the normal 6-8th grade level but Much faster

8th grade

Geometry or Algebra 2 (High School Level)

Chemistry or Physics (High School Level)

Foreign Language 3 (Spanish 3, French 3 High School Level) and possibly taking another Foreign Language 3 (Japanese 3, Chinese 3 or Sign Language 3 High School Level)

These courses in Middle School offer a student when he or she attends the high school of their choice an opportunity to either continue with the stream of classes he or she took in Middle School like 9th grade Pre calculus, IB Science- Biology, IB Foreign Language 2 or 3 or the student can back down the curriculum and retake some of the courses from Middle School and slow down the process and then start IB course in 10th and 11th grades.

-- Nevertheless, most IB schools move faster through their curriculum, most students are considered well above grade level in proficiency of the basics; consequently, if the student is looking for a More challenging program IB may be a good fit.

34. If I go to an International Baccalaureate High School what should I know that the Administrators of the program do not tell you?

-- Normally the Administrator of the IB program will discuss the courses and process to receive an IB Diploma prior to the start of the 9th grade year either during enrollment, recruiting or the start of school. What Most IB

## Talent Sikat

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Programs push is the Extended Essay/Project that needs to be done at the end of Junior and at the beginning of Senior year. This project/Essay is very complex and takes a considerable amount of time. The Project/Essay is an Awesome way to become an expert at a topic but the Truth is unless you have time on your hands and a major desire to do get the Full IB Diploma it does not make sense to complete.

Think about this- The Student has gone through 3 years of the IB curriculum and has become Enlightened by his or her peers and the teachers- during the summer before Senior year and the fall semester of senior year a normal IB student is completing 12-20 college applications with a Personal Statement needing to be written that blows the admissions staff away and then 10-20 other Supplemental Essays from the schools the student is applying. Wow that is a lot of work to create, edit, do rewrites, fill out the applications, get teacher recommendations and Breathe. Why do the Extended Essay/Project if the student's applications are due either November 1st or January 1st and the reply of Yes or No happens by December 15th or April 1st - so the student has been accepted and denied at schools - why does the student need the Full IB Diploma? You, the student have already been admitted and did not have to do ALL the extra work?

-- Above is the Secret sauce of being in IB and taking advantage of the overall program without doing too much unless you really want to complete the Full IB Diploma

### 35. What is Dual Enrollment?

-- Dual Enrollment has become a path for many schools especially in under resourced communities to help their students get a leg up on the competitive by achieving in college classes while still in high school.

-- In some schools in the US the local community college teacher will come over to teach a college course that the juniors and seniors sign up for an "double dip" get credit for let say English 12 and College 101 by just taking the college course.

-- Some states like Washington call their program Running Start, which affords students a chance to graduate high school and have 12-30 units of college work already completed, which helps the student save a lot of money and be ahead in order to graduate in 2-3 years from college.

-- Is it good to do Dual Enrollment if offered at your school? YES. However, the danger is in the Math and Science courses. Why? If a student is going to attend a competitive college and enrolls in a 2nd semester Biology course like Biology 201 or Chemistry 201, Calculus 2 and when the new freshman in college walks into that class with chest out, he or she finds out that the competitive level of the Biology 101, Calculus 1 class etc. where they took it in high school can not compare to the depth and breadth the college kids attending that university have as a foundation. The high school student with Dual Enrollment normally performs poorly because they did not have to compete at the level of the 4 year college course when they took a similar class in high school.

-- Our suggestion is simple- for all courses that build on each other like the Sciences, Math and Foreign Language it may be better to take the 101 class over and because you, the student have a foundation in the material the student should crush the class with an A. If the class does not build on itself take the Dual Enrollment credit and move on to the next course in that discipline.

### 36. What is Concurrent Enrollment?

-- Concurrent Enrollment is when a student is taking both high school courses and lower division college courses, normally from a community college online or in person during off regular schools hours to either enrich or remediate the student's transcript.

-- In our practice we have a lot of juniors and seniors doing Concurrent Enrollment in order to enhance the students GPA and Rigor for college. By taking a Sociology and Psychology class from a community college while taking the regular courses offered at the high school it can be beneficial to show the rigor on the application, raise the GPA when the college recalculates the GPA and helps the student get ahead on course work that he or she will take once they get to college.

-- Additionally, a one semester College course i.e. Psychology 101, Music Appreciation 101, Sociology 101 count as though they are a 2 semester high school course. Moreover, the student can take a class in the fall and spring of junior year through the community college and again in their senior year and get 4 college General Education courses completed and enhance the student's academic profile.

## Talent Sikat

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37. What happens if a student achieves a D or F in a high school class?

-- If a student receives a D+, D, D- or F in a class either first or second semester then that student should immediately retake the class because a D or F grade is a replaceable grade. example- if a student achieves a D+ in Algebra 2 first semester and a B the second semester. If the student retakes the first semester class and achieves an A the 4 points for the A counts into the GPA and the 1 point for the D still shows up on the transcript but the credits for the D do not count because the retake of the A counts instead with the 5 units.

-- If a student receives a D or F in the second semester of the class the student should retake the whole year course in summer school or online during the school year unless if the first semester was a B or A grade. if a C then retake the whole year and show mastery of the class through the retake.

38. If you receive a C in a class the first or second semester or both semesters how can I improve the C?

-- With a C in a class and the student retakes then the new grade from the retake and old grade "C" are averaged  
- A retake and C old class average to a B and the 6 points will be divided by 2 and the 3 points will count toward the grade point average.

39. What happens if a student cannot do Foreign Languages because of a learning difficulty/disability?

-- Our strategy is to make the high school aware and we will have the student Concurrently Enroll in a community college Sign Language course or two to make up for the 2 year requirement at the high school. If the high school offers the Sign Language course then we would have the student sign up for that class. Normally kids with learning issues are Auditory, Tactile learners; consequently, the Sign Language courses which are tactile(touch and feel) work out better for the student.

40. What happens if a student is poor in Math?

-- We would have the student try a course at the high school and if it goes poorly in the large class have the student then take an online course one on one with a tutor. The one on one explanations and support usually gets the student over the hurdle of the class.

41. What happens if the student is not a good test taker but studies all the time?

-- We see a lot of kids who are very bright but just cannot perform on tests. These students study, have tutors but as soon as the questions are asked differently then the way they studied the student cannot critical think well enough and become overwhelmed. These kinds of learning issues are normal amongst a lot of kids today. These kids are Auditory tactile learners; consequently, taking the test by having the teacher read the test to the student while he or she reads along will show that the student actually knows the material but can not do it by just reading the test alone.