

**Lower Merion School District
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
Pilot Scheduling Model for 2010-2011**

Please read this document in conjunction with the program’s literature (updated October 2009), available at http://www.lmsd.org/sections/academics/default.php?t=pages&p=program_ib&menu=program.

During the 2010-2011 school year, we are going to pilot a change in the way in which IB classes are scheduled in order to facilitate the ability to schedule two IB science classes within the program. This pilot will affect only the incoming IB juniors next year and, potentially, subsequent IB classes.

Pages 2-3 of the program documentation detail the six subject groups in which students are required to take classes. Of particular importance for this pilot are:

- Group 3—Individuals and Societies: History of the Americas, Psychology, or Economics
- Group 4—Experimental Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, or Physics
- Group 6—Electives: Music, Visual Arts, or an additional course from a different group

Because all students are required to take History of the Americas, Economics and Psychology are elective opportunities for group 6.

Traditionally, all three sciences have been scheduled concurrently because each student would take only one science. For next year, we are going to attempt to schedule the sciences in such a way that two can be included in an IB junior’s schedule. The second science would satisfy the group 6 requirement, replacing either Economics, Psychology, Visual Arts, or Music. Next year’s incoming IB juniors, therefore, will be able to satisfy the group 6 requirement with Visual Arts, Economics, Psychology, Music, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.

The second science can only be taken at the standard level (SL) for one year. The current model is such that either the science or the elective drops out of the senior year schedule in order to accommodate Theory of Knowledge. The same must be true for the schedules within the pilot: at least one of the sciences must be a single-year SL class.

A potential by-product of this change is scheduling conflicts for students who opt to pursue a traditional IB schedule of only one science. Every effort will be made to accommodate all scheduling requests; however, just like students not in the program, some IB students may need to choose between two courses that are offered at the same time. If this pilot schedule creates conflicts for more students than for whom it allows the scheduling of two sciences, we may opt to discontinue plans for the pilot schedule.

Following is a sample schedule for a student who opts to pursue two sciences. Other scenarios are outlined on pages 14-15 of the program’s documentation.

SET	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
1	Physics HL	
2 (Day A)	Physics HL Lab	
2 (Day B)	Physical Education	
2 (Day D)	Chemistry SL Lab	CAS Meetings
3	Chemistry SL	Theory of Knowledge
4	English A1 HL	
5	Spanish/French/Latin 4H	IB Latin/Spanish B/French B SL
6	History of the Americas HL	
7	Math Studies SL/Mathematics SL, HL	
8	HHS Elective or free period/CAS meetings	HHS Elective or free period

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