

CHALLENGE yourself

The Diploma Programme (DP) focuses on creating globally minded students.

College preparation. The Diploma Programme is a way to earn college credits and prepare students for the workload expected in college. **Ashlin Leo '22** joined DP, not only because her older sibling was in the program, but also for the benefits of friendship. "It is a great way to get close with other people in DP, and it's really fun at the end," said Leo.

Raisins are superior. The Diploma Programme creates a bond between peers that can last a lifetime. This year, the DP juniors created a shared photo album that they can look back on in the future. This memory shows **Jacob Ghali '23** and



photo donated by: ciara piffarerio

other DP students who share the album gifting **Ciara Piffarerio '22** a box of raisins even though she does not like raisins as a joke. "We got her a box of raisins to show her that raisins are superior and that she's wrong and we're right," said Ghali.



photo by: jady torres



photo by: parker hamel

all the MEMORIES

The DP juniors created a shared photo album to share memories with each other.



photo by: jady torres

up close and PERSONAL

Before the DP years, sophomores get a feel for the IB principles and opportunities.

Here's the goal. Every sophomore has a chance to complete the Personal Project and earn their Middle Years Programme (MYP) diploma. MYP is the IB course load that all freshmen and sophomore students take. Participating in the Personal Project gives students a chance to explore their interests outside of the MYP academic courses. **Breeana Tran '24** and **Ghislane Rodriguez '24** teamed up to choreograph dances to K-pop songs for their project. "We would go to Breeana's basement and examine the dances that we wanted to learn, and then we just practiced each step bit by bit until we got it down, and then we practiced the full thing," said Rodriguez. "Performing was really fun, especially when we know the dances and we can feel that we're both doing it correctly. It's definitely a really good moment," said Tran. The Personal Project gives students the opportunity to explore their interests, learn new things, and showcase their experience at the end of their presentation.



photo by: tarah salek

Passion. New this year, any student can sign up for a DP course, without being fully immersed in the program. The new "Course Candidate" program allows students to take select DP courses earn a certificate following completion. **Leighton Woodard '23** chose to take IB Film

because, "[I like] the new perspective I have been given about film. My goal is to have a better understanding of why actors and directors choose the things they do so that way I can have a deeper understanding of film," said Woodard.

Working hard. The Diploma Programme is attractive for students that desire smaller classes and are willing to challenge themselves. The smaller classes give students the opportunity to have more contact with their teachers and more time to learn the content overall. **Devin Williams '23** said, "I like having classes with a lot of the same people and [I like film] because it is fun."



photo by: farah salek

Family Connection. While the workload of DP can be intimidating, the course load pays off. **Zain Jodeh '23** joined the Diploma Programme and has since grown a "brotherhood family" with his DP classmates. Jodeh said, "If you are not willing to work, then [DP] is not the program for you. But I think that the collective struggle that we have been through really brought us together and really built that family." **A new look.** The Diploma Programme inspires students to think creatively and in challenging ways. **Gillian Martinez '22** explains how she views the program, "I really like the community aspects of it, you build good friendships. [The program] looked different and challenging and it was just different than the traditional coursework that I had seen before, so I wanted to try something new," said Martinez.

behind the SCENES

The dean and IB coordinator does many things for the Diploma Programme.



photo donated by: ms. alexis bailey

Life lessons. The IB program thrives under its devoted teachers and dedicated coordinator, **Mr. Brian Herman.** Herman is in charge of ensuring that the Middle Years Programme and the Diploma Programme function according to the direction of the International Baccalaureate, making sure students understand what opportunities are available to them. "The IB program prepares students to learn how to think internationally... The Diploma Programme is for students in 11th and 12th grade, and is a great opportunity to prepare them for what lies beyond high school and college," said Herman.



photo by: jady n torres



photo by: farah salek

Familiar faces. Since all DP students have to take select classes, they are very familiar with one another and get along well. **Aleyna Zisser '22** says the Diploma Programme is a close-knit group of students who all share similar goals. "We are all pretty close friends and we are all pretty comfortable with each other... seeing the same people every day and going through the same experiences... it brings us all together and it is an interesting experience," said Zisser.



photo by: jady n torres

Full focus. DP student **Sadie Hust '23** works diligently during a junior class work day in the library. A highlight of her experience thus far is her art class, where she can talk with friends and have fun conversations. "Art is my favorite because [I enjoy] art in general, and my mom is the teacher," she explained. **Thinker.** The Diploma Programme has many benefits and opportunities that come with it. **Damian McFarlane '23** joined the program to get a more in-depth education than he would from typical classes. For McFarlane the most challenging aspect of DP is that, "There is a lot more work than in other classes. With DP classes, you have to be more interpretive, you have to interpret things a different way.," he said.

photo by: jady n torres