

BRENT SCHOOL



INTERNATIONAL
SINCE 1909

— BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BAGUIO —
UPPER SCHOOL
— COURSE OFFERINGS —

UPPER SCHOOL



Upper School begins in Grade 9 with Courses in Grades 9 - 10 serving as preparation for International Baccalaureate courses in Grades 11 and 12.

Courses in Grades 11 and 12 are offered at both Higher (HL) and Standard level (SL), as well as Credit level, to cater to students who may or may not choose to take the full IB diploma program. Credit level courses expose students to the rigors of the IB program but with less stringent assessment criteria. For more information on courses, please view the Upper School Course Offerings Booklet on the school website.

English

The English curriculum has a firm base in literature which acts as a springboard for developing writing and oral skills. Students are encouraged to explore language through literature and develop their abilities to read, write grammatically, speak, listen, think and understand. Literature from many countries and genres is studied with the goal of arousing curiosity and self-confidence in expression.

Grade 9 English and Literature

The course focuses on reading and appreciating different kinds of literature from around the world, and on developing written and oral language skills. Students study, discuss and write about novels, poetry, and short stories. A Shakespeare play is studied to help become familiar with the meaning and use of literary terms. Language work develops the students' ability to write different types of essays, using complex sentences, and with grammar review.

Grade 9 English B Language and Literature

The course is designed for students to focus on language acquisition and intercultural awareness and respect. Consequently, students examine style and form where they recognize a variety of text forms, text features and stylistic elements demonstrating understanding of how they help communicate meaning. The course looks at a selection of texts analytically, reading for meaning and demonstrating an understanding of a variety of informational, graphic, and literary texts, using a range of strategies and vocabulary appropriate to this particular genre in a range of assessment activities.

Grade 10 English Literature

This course explores British literature from the 8th century until the present time. The goal in this course is to understand, appreciate, and analyze literary work. In order to accomplish this goal, students will read a range of literary works from different periods, genres, styles, and contexts. Students will also study one unit of Asian literature, focusing particularly on short stories and poetry written by Filipino and Korean writers. Students in this course will develop literary analysis skills and learn to craft thoughtful, articulate, and personal responses to literature. Major projects that students will complete during the course include literary analysis essays, creative writing compositions, dramatic performance, and a research paper.

Grade 10 English Language

The main focus of this course is on language acquisition and the development of language skills. These skills will be developed through the study of a variety of text types and multimedia. All material should enable students to develop mastery of language skills and promote intercultural understanding. Through the development of productive, receptive, and interactive skills, students should be able to respond and interact in a range of everyday situations. Students will be exposed to literature across a range of genre that complements the topics studied, with the goal of enhancing text analysis skills.

Grades 11 & 12 IB Language A English Language and Literature HL, SL and Credit

This two year course aims to develop students' skills of close analysis of literary and nonliterary texts. Students will explore the ways in which formal elements are used to create meaning in a text and how that meaning is affected by reading practices that are culturally defined. Parts of the course relate to the study of language, and the study of literature. The students' responses will be assessed through written and oral essays, and commentaries.

Grades 11 & 12 IB Language B English HL, SL and Credit

IB English B is a two-year language acquisition course designed for students who do not yet possess a high level of competence. It may be studied at either SL or HL. The course is designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where English is spoken. The students' responses will be assessed through reading comprehension exercises, written essays and oral presentations.

Mathematics

Grades 9 and 10

These courses take an integrated approach and cover interrelated topics including number, shape, space and measure, algebra and data handling. Basic programming is developed further and students are taught to use a graphics calculator both for problem solving and investigative assignments.

Grade 11 and 12 Mathematics: Analysis and approaches SL, HL and Credit

Beginning in 2019, this revised course is designed for students “who wish to pursue studies in mathematics at university or subjects that have a large mathematical content; it is for students who enjoy developing mathematical arguments, problem solving and exploring real and abstract applications, with and without technology.” (Mathematics curriculum changes IB).

Grades 11 and 12 Mathematics: Applications and interpretation course SL, HL and Credit

Beginning in 2019, this revised course is designed for those “who are interested in developing their mathematics for describing our world, modelling and solving practical problems using the power of technology. Students who take Mathematics: Applications and interpretation will be those who enjoy mathematics best when seen in a practical context” (Mathematics curriculum changes).

Science

Grade 9

This course prepares the student for International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology. It covers Cellular and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Organismal Biology (Animal and Plant Structure and Function), and Evolution and Ecology.

Grade 10 Chemistry (semestral)

Chemistry 10 examines matter, its composition, properties, structure, changes, and the energy transformations that accompany these changes. Students begin by examining the atom and explore the many facets of the periodic table of elements. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to a variety of laboratory experiments. They will be given the opportunity to explore various aspects of the scientific method and be taught how to plan experiments, present and analyze their data as well as draw conclusions and evaluate their results.

Grade 10 Physics (semestral)

Physics 10 introduces students to various branches of physics. After an introduction to measurement, significant digits and the metric system, students will explore mechanic concepts, vectors, Newton's Laws and forces that surround us. They will then spend time on energy, learning about energy transformations, kinetic and potential energy, heat and basic electricity and magnetism. Students will be exposed to a variety of laboratory experiments and will be given the opportunity to present and analyze their data as well as draw conclusions and evaluate their results.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Biology HL/SL and Credit

This IB course is offered at Standard and Higher level and taken over two years. Topics include: Cell Theory, Ecology, Mitosis, Elementary Biochemistry, DNA Structure, Protein Synthesis, Genetic Engineering, Genetics, Photosynthesis, Respiration Evolution, and Human Biology and Diseases, together with one Option topic. Design and implementation of a common project is a part of the course as well as laboratory and field investigations.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Chemistry HL, SL and Credit

This IB course is offered Higher and Standard Level, over two years. Topics studied include Quantitative Chemistry, Atomic Structure, Periodicity, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibrium, Acids and Bases, Oxidation and Reduction, Organic Chemistry, together with one Option topic. Laboratory investigations and problem solving are integral parts of this course. Students are required to participate in a whole-class multidisciplinary project in the final year.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Physics HL, SL and Credit

IB Physics is a mathematically rigorous two-year course exploring a wide range of physics concepts. Physics HL is considered equivalent to a college level course in physics and students who sufficiently pass the external exams may be eligible for college credit. Furthermore, the course is sufficient to prepare students to sit the SAT II physics exam. In addition to covering the Core topic areas (physics measurement, mechanics, thermal physics, waves, electricity and magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics, circular motion and gravitation, and energy production), students will extend their exploration of some of the more advanced areas of physics. Some of the advanced areas of physics include the study of orbital motion, gravitation, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, and quantum and nuclear physics. In addition, students will study one additional Option topic. The topic Engineering Physics has been chosen in the past.

Social Studies

Grade 9 Modern World History (Semestral)

This course is taught thematically, so that topics are linked to give students a sense of continuity and development in historical trends. They will analyze by comparing and contrasting events that happened around the world at different times. This is a skill-based subject which expands on the students' previous experience with primary and secondary sources, document analysis, essay writing and formu-

lation of arguments. Topics explored include: Revolution, Imperialism, Nationalism and World War I.

Grade 9 Physical Geography (Semestral)

Physical Geography 9 focuses on the physical features of the earth. Emphasis is placed on the interrelationship between humans and the environment. The core concepts studied enable students to determine how human actions are influenced by the physical environment. Topics include: Maps and Mapping, Landforms, World Water, Natural Disasters and Environmental Issues.

Grade 10 Modern World History (Semestral)

This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of some of the most transformative events of the modern era. Having studied the rise of democracy and the Enlightenment in Europe in previous courses, students will study the collapse of the European order and the developments that led to the First World War. The course also examines the effects of these events on an increasingly globalized world by studying the Great Depression and the Russian Revolution. Later, the course will shift focus and examine the rise of nationalism around the world, the rise of Fascism in Europe and the outbreak of World War II, finally closing with an introduction to the Cold War. The Philippines will be studied in the context of this history.

Grade 10 Global Issues in Human Geography (Semestral)

This course is designed to examine the four major areas in Human Geography - population-related issues, models and theories, urban and rural settlement models. Each theme is dealt with from global and local perspectives. The objective of the course is to enable students to attain a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts with associated skills development; the geographical implications of the causes and consequences with their interrelationship to human development and progress; and the development of reasoned and balanced analysis based on respect for attitudes, values and perspectives of cultural differences. Units of study include: Population, Migration, Consumption, Sustainability and Human Rights.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Business Management, HL, SL and Credit

Business Management is a rigorous and dynamic discipline that examines business decision-making processes and how these decisions impact on and are affected by internal and external environments. It is the study of how individuals and groups interact in an organization and of the transformation of resources.

The IB Business Management course is designed to develop an understanding of business theory, as well as an ability to apply business principles, practices and skills. Course content aims to help students understand the implications of busi

ness activity in a global market.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Economics, HL, SL and Credit

The study of economics is essentially about the concept of scarcity and the problem of resource allocation and how the theories may be applied in an international context. Although economics involves the formulation of theory, it is not a purely theoretical subject: economic theories can be applied to real-world examples. Neither is economics a discrete subject, since economics incorporates elements of history, geography, psychology, sociology, political studies and many other related fields of study. The scientific approach characterizes the standard methodology of economics. This methodology can be summarized as a progression from problem identification, through hypothesis formulation and testing, arriving finally at a conclusion.

Grades 11 and 12 IB History, HL, SL and Credit

In this course, students will learn how to read, assess, and analyze historical evidence; how to use this material to construct a cogent written or oral argument; and how to research, organize, and document an original historical inquiry. The course requires an in-depth study of the main developments in 20th century world history. The first year will focus primarily on Europe, but will also include material on Asia and the Americas. The second year will review the same time period from the perspective of the Middle East.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

What is a life well lived? How are we to judge? How do we really know something? These questions are at the root of the curriculum of the Theory of Knowledge class. TOK is the culmination of the International Baccalaureate curriculum and at the center of the program. Students ask probing questions about knowledge and about learning. In TOK, students are asked to examine truthfully what kinds of thinkers they are becoming, and where they might go from here.

Modern Languages

Mandarin, Filipino and Korean are offered in the Upper School. Students in the ESL program receive additional English language teaching during these class blocks. Only students in the ESL Support Level may choose to study a third language. Modern Language classes may be multilevel.

Grades 9 and 10 Filipino and Grade 10 Korean

This level of course is intended for native or near native speakers of the target language. It covers grammar and composition as well as speaking, listening and reading a variety of literature. Genres covered include novels, poetry, essays and drama. Students will also write research reports.

Grades 9 and 10 Mandarin, Korean and Filipino – Beginner Level

This course is for students with very little or no prior knowledge of the target language. The four basic language skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing

are developed using the communicative, thematic and interactive approach. The themes that will be explored and studied will be the prescribed topics in the IB Ab Initio program like individual and society, leisure and work, urban and rural environment. At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to express themselves in the target language using simple but grammatically correct structures both in written and oral form. They are also expected to read and understand short written passages as well essential notices like signs, menus, timetables, advertisements. The students are also expected to show an awareness of the culture of the target language.

Grades 9 and 10 Mandarin, Korean and Filipino - Intermediate Level

Intermediate level is a continuation of the Beginner Level or for those with more exposure and fluency in the language. While still using the communicative, thematic and interactive approach making use of the topics prescribed in the IB Language Ab Initio program, this course introduces more complex grammatical structures and texts to expand the students' communication skills. This course also aims to provide students with a deeper familiarity of the culture of the target language. The students will also be given exposure to the literature of the target language through excerpts from poetry and prose for interpretation and appreciation. At the end of this course, students will be expected to orally express their ideas with more fluency and ease using more complicated structures and vocabulary. They will also be expected to write longer and more detailed compositions using a variety of sentence structures and vocabulary.

Grades 9 and 10 Mandarin, Korean and Filipino – Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course aims to develop and expand the students' language skills. Still using the communicative, thematic and interactive approach students will be able to express themselves in the target language making use of more sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical structures. Towards this end, greater emphasis is given on the students' fluency and ease of the advance grammar level in the target language. The students will be trained to write more formal compositions in the narrative, expository, descriptive and persuasive styles. This course also includes a survey of major literary works in the target language.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Language B Mandarin

Language B HL Level is a course for students who possess a high level of competence in the language. This course primarily aims to reinforce accurate and effective oral and written communication within a range of contexts and registers. It affords the students an understanding of the culture through two works of literature. The main focus of this course is on language acquisition and the development of skills considerably beyond those expected of an Ab Initio candidate.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Ab Initio Mandarin SL and Credit

The language Ab Initio courses are language learning courses for beginners, designed to be followed over two years by students who have limited or no previous experience of learning the target language. The main focus of the courses is on

the acquisition of language required for purposes and situations usual in everyday social interaction. Ab Initio language courses are only available at standard level. Ab Initio language courses aim to develop a variety of linguistic skills, and a basic awareness of the culture(s) using the language, through the study of a core syllabus and language-specific syllabuses.

Grades 11 and 12 IB A Literature Filipino HL, SL and Credit

This 2-year course develops understanding of techniques involve in literary criticism and promotes the ability to form independent literary judgments. The formal analysis of texts and wide coverage of a variety of literature, both in Filipino and in translated text from other cultural domains is combined with a study of the way literary conventions shape responses to texts. Students completing this course will have thorough knowledge of a range of texts and an understanding of other cultural perspectives. They will also develop skills of analysis and ability to support an argument in clearly expressed writing. Students must demonstrate their ability to provide literary commentary both in written and oral form. Students are internally and externally assessed.

Grades 11 and 12 IB A Literature Korean HL, SL and Credit

Literature Higher Level is designed for students with very strong writing and speaking abilities. Students taking the course develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking through the analysis of a variety of literary works. Assessment is through written and oral essays, commentaries and creative writing. Literature Standard Level is intended for students who are pursuing Higher Level courses in other areas. Over two years of the course, the class studies ten works of literature from varying genres, authors and cultural contexts. The course emphasizes literary criticism and the ability to write effective analytical essays.

Visual and Performing Arts

Grades 9 and 10 Visual Arts

Art is essentially project-based at these levels and encompasses basic elements and principles of drawing, painting, composition, sketching, studio experimentation, multimedia projects, art and history appreciation. Students are led through the processes of creating three-dimensional work from small pieces up to life-size caricatures. They are taught the processes used in graphic design, ranging from product design to building design and advertising. All projects are intended to encourage individual expression and thought.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Visual Arts HL, SL and Credit

Students follow the I. B. Visual Arts program over two years at either the Standard or Higher level. Grade 11 students do a basic foundation course and then launch into their own individual areas of study under the supervision of the teacher. The course involves studio work, experimental studio research (demonstrating an awareness of cultural and social issues, appreciation and awareness, technical skill, etc.) and the keeping of a research workbook. The final Grade 12 exhibition is a highlight of the year.

Grades 11 and 12 IB Theater Arts HL, SL and Credit

The program is designed to encourage students to examine theatre in its diversity of forms around the world. This will be achieved through a critical study of the theory, history and culture of theatre, and will find expression through workshops, devised work and scripted performance. Students will come to understand that the act of imagining, creating, presenting and critically reflecting on theatre in its past and present contexts embodies the individual and social need to investigate and find explanation for the world around us. The program emphasizes the importance of working individually and as a member of an ensemble.

Religious Studies

Grade 9 Religious Studies

This course reviews the Bible and then focuses on the Old Testament. Within a historical framework, stories, events, and personalities are chosen to illustrate the ideas and themes of the book. The emphasis is on the emergence of the people of Israel and their role in God's plan. The course will conclude with a study of the influence of the Old Testament in the foundational ideas of Western Civilization, particularly through a look at art, music, literature and law.

Grade 10 Religious Studies

This course explores the life and teachings of Jesus Christ based mainly on the testimony of the Synoptic Gospels, with Mark serving as the basic text. The course further explores contemporary portrayals of Jesus, and takes a brief look at the subsequent rise and spread of world Christianity. The central aim of this course is to raise questions and provide students with the desire and the means to search for answers – an endeavor that should last a lifetime.

Information and Computer Technology (ICT)

Grade 9 ICT introduces students to the concepts and mechanics of HTML and Web page construction, graphics design, video production and databases. Real-world problems and concepts of good visual design are stressed in all units. Students will also become familiar with the basic hardware used in Personal Computers. In addition to this, students will become aware of the social and ethical issues involved in the use of these technologies.

Grade 10 ICT students will gain practical experience and understanding in developing web pages, creating original graphics, producing digital movies, developing simple program applications and learning the technical concepts of networks and databases. The course will also give students a view of the social and ethical issues involved in the use of these technologies.

Physical Education / Health

Grade 9 and 10 courses build on those of earlier years and aim to further develop the self-esteem of each student, using sports as the principal medium. Other aims are to prepare students for adult life where they will be responsible for their own

physical fitness, and to develop sporting skills that will be of value in leisure time activities. Health education features in the program. Issues covered include personal health, self-esteem, the use, misuse and abuse of drugs and alcohol, family life, and the responsibilities and relationships of adolescence. Infectious diseases and disorders as well as environmental health are also covered.

Music

Grade 9 Music provides an awareness of musical styles manifested through the study of music according to four broad periods of music literature: The Middle Ages, The Renaissance, The Baroque and The Classical era. The study of music literature includes musical scores to combine visual perception with auditory understanding, and enables students to see in detail aspects of musical construction.

Grade 10 Music points out the prominent and distinctive characteristics of the 19th and 20th century styles. An in-depth integrated study of the harmony, rhythm, new forms and styles will be undertaken in singing, listening, composing and performing music.

The English as a Second Language Program

The ESL program continues in grades 9 and 10 but is not offered in grades 11 and 12. The grade 9 and 10 courses are designed to enhance students' proficiency of the English language by focusing on reading and writing. Students will have the opportunity to explore, analyze, research, infer, read, criticize and inspect a wide variety of literary genres. Narrative, Expository, Argumentative, Procedure, and Persuasive essays will all be covered. The course will be facilitated in compliance with the teaching and learning standards set by TESOL and SIOP.

Homeroom

All Upper School students are placed into Homeroom classes that meet briefly each morning. During this time, teachers serve as mentors and have the opportunity to get to know their students outside of assessed, academic areas. The Homeroom teacher also serves as the immediate point of contact for general communication between home and school. Teachers conduct attendance and read morning announcements.

