



Verde Valley School

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE • WORLD CITIZENSHIP • PHYSICAL LABOR • ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP • SERVICE TO OTHERS

THE SCHOOL

Verde Valley School educates students for college and for life by encouraging them to become intellectually curious, academically accomplished, and creatively expressive. The program promotes intercultural understanding and world citizenship, environmental stewardship, the value of physical labor, and service to humanity with a willing spirit. Founded in 1948, VVS has from its beginning been dedicated to developing students who are not only accomplished scholars, but citizens of the world, committed to contributing positively to humanity. As an IB World School, our students are given the tools to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

THE IB CURRICULUM

All students at VVS enroll in six courses – one from each of the six IB groups. This provides a well-rounded, balanced educational program for every student, and prepares each for the competitive college admission process. Every 4-year senior can boast four years of English, four years of a second language, four years of history and cultural studies, four years of math, four years of science and four years of arts. The IB Program is a rigorous, comprehensive, balanced curriculum that incorporates high standards of assessment and meets the needs of highly motivated students during the final two years of high school. To earn the IB diploma, students additionally complete the following three activities (non-IB Diploma candidates select one of the three):

EXTENDED ESSAY (EE)

The 4,000-word Extended Essay offers the student the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints him or her with the independent research and writing skills expected at college. Recent Extended Essay topics include:

- How does the Navajo Matriarchal Tribe Influence Women's Rites of Passage?
- To What Extent was South Korea Influenced by Acculturation with America after the Korean War?
- The Portrayal of the American Soldier by American Cinema During and after the Vietnam War

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)

The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives. Recent TOK presentations include:

- Emotion and Perception as Ways of Knowing
- Science/Western Medicine in Contrast to Eastern Healing Methods
- Religion/Spirituality and Free Will

CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (CAS)

The CAS program requires each student to become involved in artistic pursuits, sports, and community service. Recent CAS projects include:

- Goat Milk Soap & Laundry Soap Production
- Raising Awareness of the UN's Millennium Development Goals & Service Trip to Malawi
- Composting & Vermiculture

THE FACULTY

There are 21 faculty members at VVS, 79% of whom hold advanced degrees.

THE CO-CURRICULUM

In addition to the rigorous coursework and afternoon activities (which include sports, music ensembles, and service projects), students must also participate in an experiential education curriculum that truly distinguishes VVS from otherwise comparable secondary schools. Field Trips, Project Period, and Work Jobs are some of the most challenging — and most fondly recalled — aspects of the VVS experience. Both Field Trips and Project Period are graded pass/fail and appear on the transcript.

FIELD TRIPS

The annual Field Trips are a natural extension of the VVS and IB missions. During these two-week excursions to a variety of national destinations, students are exposed to cultural differences and unfamiliar terrain. These trips offer students the opportunity to participate in service projects that may include an integration of anthropological/humanitarian approaches to cultural understanding. Students must select a different Field Trip each year they attend Verde Valley School. Recent trips include: California Biomes; Anasazi & Hopi; Canyon de Chelly; River Ranch Sustainable Farming; Comparative Religions; Culture & Service in Los Angeles.

PROJECT PERIOD

During Project Period, students focus their energies on one or two special activities led by faculty and guest instructors. Over ten days, students explore topics or skills outside the academic curriculum. Students are required to make a final presentation to the community for each project.

WORK JOBS

In Work Jobs, which have been a part of life at the school since 1948, students learn the value of physical labor as they maintain and clean the campus grounds and buildings, run the school recycling and composting programs, and care for the School's horses and equestrian facilities.

COLLEGE COUNSELING PHILOSOPHY

The VVS college counseling process is individualized, deliberate, and comprehensive. The student's academic preparation for college begins upon arrival at VVS, and our College Counseling Team of three teachers work to ensure students are prepared for the process. We are committed to helping students conduct meaningful and authentic searches aimed at finding schools where they will thrive. We believe that "fit" is the most important factor.

THE STUDENT BODY

Total students: 119 (85 boarders/5 weekday/29 day)

International students: 48%

Students who receive financial aid: 45%

Nations represented in the student body: 17
Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, South Korea, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, USA, Vietnam.

U.S. states represented in the student body: 12

Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington

SENIOR CLASS

There are 27 students in the class of 2018. Of these, 14 are IB Diploma Program candidates. 100% of VVS graduates are admitted to four-year colleges.

CLASS RANK

Verde Valley School does not rank students.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students entering in the ninth grade are required to complete the following:

- 4 years English • 4 years mathematics
- 4 years history • 4 years foreign language
- 4 years science • 4 years in the arts

STANDARDIZED TESTING MEANS

SAT – 1141

CR: 537; Math: 579; Writing: 562

A NOTE ABOUT GPAS

Teachers give percentage grades rather than letter grades. Letter grades are derived from those percentages using the table below, and are supplied on the transcript. However, the GPAs are calculated from the richer data given by the percentage grades.

OUR GPA'S ARE UNWEIGHTED

GRADING SCALE GRADE RANGE SCALE

| A | 100 -93.0 | GPA Range | #in Senior Class |
|----|------------|------------|------------------|
| A- | 92.9 -90.0 | 4.00 -3.75 | 6 |
| B+ | 89.9 -87.0 | 3.74 -3.50 | 2 |
| B | 86.9 -83.0 | 3.49 -3.25 | 7 |
| B- | 82.9 -80.0 | 3.24 -3.00 | 3 |
| C+ | 79.9 -77.0 | 2.99 -2.75 | 2 |
| C | 76.9 -73.0 | 2.74 -2.50 | 3 |
| C- | 72.9 -70.0 | 2.49 -2.25 | 1 |
| D+ | 69.9 -67.0 | 2.24 -2.00 | 0 |
| D | 66.9 -63.0 | | |
| D- | 62.9 -60.0 | | |

2017-2018 NON-IB AND IB COURSE OFFERINGS

THE CORE

IB Theory of Knowledge
IB Extended Essay
IB CAS - Creativity, Action Service

GROUP 1: LANGUAGE A1

English Literature 1
English Literature 2
Language A: English HL & SL

GROUP 2: SECOND LANGUAGE

IB Spanish B ab initio SL
IB Spanish B HL & SL
IB French B ab initio SL
IB French B HL & SL
IB English B HL & SL

GROUP 3: INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES

Big History
American History
IB History HL & SL
IB Economics HL & SL
IB Social & Cultural Anthropology HL
IB Environmental Systems & Societies SL

GROUP 4: EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES

Physical Science
Physics
Chemistry
IB Biology HL
IB Environmental Systems & Societies SL

GROUP 5: MATHEMATICS

Integrated Math I & II
IB Math Studies SL
IB Mathematics HL & SL

GROUP 6: THE ARTS

Intro to Drawing
Intro to Painting
Intro to Ceramics
Intro to Photography
Intro to Sculpture
Intro to Music
Intro to Theatre
IB Visual Arts HL & SL
IB Music HL & SL
IB Theatre Arts HL & SL



MAY 2017 IB RESULTS SUMMARY

CLASS OF 2018 GRADE DISTRIBUTION, 3RD TRIMESTER 2017

The IB Diploma Program aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge – students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.



22
Students were registered as IB students in May 2017 Exam session



86%
Pass Rate



81%
Percentage of all subject results in the 4-7 range



| COURSE | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|
| IB English A HL I | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| IB English A SL II | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| English Lit2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| IB French HL 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| IB Spanish B ab initio SL 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | |
| IB Spanish B ab initio SL 2 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| IB History HL 1 Rout 2 | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| IB History SL 1 Rout 2 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| IB Social & Cultural Anthropology HL | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | |
| IB Biology HL 1 | 2 | 6 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | |
| IB Environmental Sys & Soc SL | 3 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| IB Mathematics HL 1 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | | | |
| IB Mathematics SL 1 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| IB Math Studies SL 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| IB Visual Arts HL | 11 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| IB Visual Arts SL | 5 | 6 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| IB Music HL | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| IB Music SL | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| IB Theatre Arts HL | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| IB Theatre Arts SL | 3 | | | 1 | | | | | | |

SELECTION OF RECENT COLLEGE ADMITTANCES

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Amherst College | Colgate University | Kenyon College | University of California, Los Angeles |
| Augustana College | Dartmouth College | Middlebury College | University of California, San Diego |
| Babson College | Davidson College | Mount Holyoke College | UMass Amherst |
| Bates College | Dickinson College | Ohio State University | University of Michigan |
| Berklee College of Music | Drexel University | Reed College | University of Puget Sound |
| Boston College | Emory University | Rhode Island School of Design | University of St. Andrews, Scotland |
| Bryn Mawr College | Grinnell College | Rice University | Vanderbilt University |
| Brown University | Gustavus Adolphus College | Smith College | Vassar College |
| California Polytechnic State University | Hampshire College | Stanford University | Warren Wilson College |
| Carleton College | Humboldt State University | St. Mary's College of California | Wesleyan University |
| Claremont Mckenna College | Indiana University | United States Navel Academy | Whitman College |
| Columbia University | Johns Hopkins University | University of California, Berkeley | Willamette University |

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