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 process. Every 4-year senior must complete an essay in 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.

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.

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.

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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.

THE FACULTY

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

THE STUDENT BODY

Total students: 115 (105 boarders/7 weekday/18 day)
International students: 53%
Students who receive financial aid: 45%
Nations represented in the student body: 19
Canada, China, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hopi Nation, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, South Korea, Russia, Rwanda, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Vietnam.

U.S. states represented in the student body: 16
Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington

SENIOR CLASS

There are 24 students in the class of 2017. Of these, 16 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 – 1663
CR: 537; Math: 603; Writing: 523
ACT – Composite – 23
English: 22; Math: 24; Reading: 23; Science: 24; Writing: 21

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

VERDE VALLEY SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANIZATION and AdvancED
2016-2017 PRE-IB AND IB COURSE OFFERINGS

THE CORE
IB Theory of Knowledge
IB Extended Essay
IBCAS - 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 2016 IB RESULTS SUMMARY

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34 Students were registered as IB students in the May 2016 Exam Session
26 Of the IB students were Diploma Candidates
4.91 Was the average grade of candidates who passed the diploma
92% Pass rate
38 The highest diploma points total awarded to a candidate
30 The average points scored by candidates who passed the diploma
57% The percentage of subjects in which the average score met or exceeded the world average
90% The percentage of all subject results in the 4-7 range

SELECTED RECENT COLLEGE ADMITTANCES

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

University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
UMass Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Puget Sound
University of St. Andrews, Scotland
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Warren Wilson College
Wesleyan University
Whitman College
WIllamette University

For more information and to apply, visit vvsaz.org or email admissions@vvsaz.org