

## IB Pathways Proposal

We propose streamlining our IB course offerings into three pathways: Business, Standard, and STEM.

Students who complete one of these pathways along with the IB “core” (Theory of Knowledge, Creativity/Action/Service, and the Extended Essay) will be eligible to earn the IB diploma.

**The plan reduces IB offerings:** Geography SL, Film SL/HL, Theatre SL/HL, Environmental Systems and Societies SL, Visual Arts SL/HL, Mathematics HL, and Music SL will be “shelved” and reintroduced only if warranted by student numbers. We worry that by reducing options for students, we’ll lose some students whose passion for a specific subject area (such as art or film, etc.) will outweigh their interest in the program. We also worry that we’ll lose some students who get drawn into the program due to the availability of a specific course (such as Math HL, which is more rigorous than its closest AP counterpart). So, we feel like shelving these courses is a risk, and we’d like to be able to make adjustments in the future based on student interest.

**The plan requires adding** Psychology SL, adding Math Studies SL, and offering HL in each of our three foreign languages. Note: The addition of Math Studies SL will be offset by “shelving” Math HL.

Business	Standard	STEM
English Literature HL	English Literature HL	English Literature HL
French HL or Spanish SL/ HL or Latin SL/HL	French HL or Spanish SL/ HL or Latin SL/HL	French HL or Spanish SL/ HL or Latin SL/HL
Economics SL	History HL	History HL
Mathematics SL/Math Studies SL	Mathematics SL/Math Studies SL	Mathematics SL/Math Studies SL
Biology SL	Biology SL	Biology SL
Business and Management HL	Psychology SL or Economics SL (or a second foreign language)	Design Tech SL
Notes	Notes	Notes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This pathway includes two of our courses that have been most popular with a la carte students (Economics and Business and Management).</li> <li>• A number of our current diploma candidates successfully followed a similar pathway.</li> <li>• This is a pathway that has no equivalent in another Worthington program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This pathway can configure in multiple ways and is ideal for students who are strong in the humanities and who seek rigor across the curriculum.</li> <li>• By adding Math Studies SL, we will significantly increase the number of students who will meet the prerequisites for the full diploma program.</li> <li>• Based on student interest, we think Psychology SL will be a draw as an a la carte option.</li> <li>• Reducing options in social studies and in electives will help increase section size in the remaining courses that we need to run in order to offer multiple pathways (Economics, History, and Psychology).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This pathway connects with PLTW and STEM. Students with a stronger interest in the “design” portion of PLTW (rather than the “engineering” portion) will be natural fits. These STEM students can complete the full diploma program.</li> <li>• Changes in IB’s curriculum (to focus more on design) will allow students who were not previously involved in STEM to complete this pathway.</li> <li>• Design Tech has been one of our most popular a la carte options.</li> </ul>
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### Additional Notes and Rationale

**This plan concentrates IB students in fewer courses.** The end result is that we reduce co-seating and give students more full-IB courses (and high-fidelity to the IB experience). For instance, by shelving Environmental Systems and Societies, this program, running at full strength, would provide a non-co-seated section of Biology SL.

**This plan helps recruiting by making earning the diploma easier.** By giving students the option to complete an HL course in foreign language and by replacing Math HL with the much more accessible Math Studies SL, we significantly widen our population of students who are both eligible for and capable of completing the full diploma program. This would shift us away from math and science HL courses, but such

a shift favors the academic strengths of many of the students we have previously recruited. In other words, students may find it easier to actually earn the diploma by taking all their HL courses in the humanities and languages, and more students will actually be eligible to enroll in the full diploma program.

**Each of the three tracks offers a unique recruiting proposition.** The Business track offers a pre-Business major the finest, most rigorous secondary experience possible. Not only would students get both Business and Management and Economics (courses not offered through the AP program), but Susan has partnered with the OSU Fisher College of Business to offer students incredible project-based opportunities. The STEM track has, obviously, our successful STEM program as feeder for students. And the Standard track could pull from students in a re-instituted Modern World History / Honors English 9 course.