

**Vandegrift High School**

Charlie Little, Principal

Christa Thompson-Martin, Dean of Instruction

# **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**

**Application for Authorization  
Submitted Spring 2017**

**Written and Compiled by Deborah Quick**

For Vandegrift High School and Leander Independent School District  
2016-2017



**English as a Second Language (ESL) is an intensive instructional program designed to develop proficiency in the comprehension, listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the English language. Student eligibility for the program is determined through the administration of an English language proficiency test, and parent permission is required for entrance into the program. All instruction is provided in English and utilizes the TEKS and the ELPS for the cultivation of English language skills and the promotion of academic success in all grade level content areas. ESL – Vandegrift High School has a full time English as a Second Language teacher, Mrs. Mima Nazarene (BA in English and MA in Education), who works with students from all over the world when they attend Vandegrift either through one of the foreign exchange student programs available or if their family has recently moved to Austin, Texas and they live within our school district. The ESL program is a comprehensive support program with teachers at all campuses district wide and an ESL director at the LISD central office. At Vandegrift, Mrs. Nazarene forms bridges with students and teachers allowing natural assimilation for students including a support system for academics and social interaction in ESL classes as well as inclusive assistance for teachers with ESL students.**

Indicate the provisions the school has taken or will take to support students' best language, if different from the language(s) of instruction of the school. Indicate whether this support will take place during school time.

**Each high school campus in Leander ISD has an English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program centered on second language acquisition. Each high school offers a variety of courses to ESL students according to their program placement with a highly qualified ESL teacher. The English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) high school program, is an intensive program of instruction designed to develop proficiency in the listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the English language. Students are enrolled according to their English proficiency level with a highly qualified ESL teacher where they learn functional, social and academic language to communicate in different settings. All other content area teachers serving ESL students use sheltered instruction strategies to help students understand content and develop academic language in the areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts. All courses for ESL students provide instruction based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and follow the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). [See 19 TAC Chapter 89.1210(f).]**

**English as a second language learners are a vital asset to our school community. Although these students are required to pass certain English requirements in the state of Texas, we encourage the use of students' mother-tongues in informal settings and believe the cultural-linguistic diversity that these students bring to our school aids in our wider goal of language development for the entire student body. Acknowledging the diversity of learning needs, we implement a variety of language learning strategies, so that all our students may find success in English or other languages they study while at Vandegrift High School.**

Describe how the school has approached the creation or revision of its preliminary language policy (i.e. who has been involved, how possible changes were identified, considered and decided upon, etc) to support the implementation of the programme.

**This policy is a culmination of laws set forth by the state of Texas, guidelines set forth by LISD and VHS as well as incorporating elements that comply with IB standards and practices using models from Anderson High School, an IB school in Austin, with the collaboration of the IB DP Coordinator, the Head of School and the ESL teacher. This policy will be reviewed yearly by a committee of the IB Coordinator, Head of School, ESL teacher, language B teachers. It will be made public via the school's website.**

Please indicate your current assessment of how your school meets this requirement.

In place

**5c. The school develops and implements an inclusion/special educational needs policy that is consistent with IB expectations and with the school's admissions policy.**



Describe how the school has approached the creation or revision of its inclusion/special educational needs policy (that is, who has been involved, how possible changes were identified, considered and decided upon, and so on) to support the implementation of the programme.

**No changes or revisions were needed for the inclusion/special education needs policy. Vandegrift follows the guidelines set forth by LISD which follows the guidelines set forth by the state of Texas which follows federal guidelines. Therefore, our inclusion special needs policy is in compliance with all laws and regulations that govern this public institution.**

Please indicate your current assessment of how your school meets this requirement.

In place

#### **5d. The school develops and implements an assessment policy that is consistent with IB expectations.**

Describe how the school has approached the creation or revision of its preliminary assessment policy (that is, who has been involved, how possible changes were identified, considered and decided upon, and so on) to support the implementation of the programme.

**This is the assessment policy information for 5d.**

**Vandegrift's current assessment policy is aligned to the state and national assessment practices. Specifically, 9th and 10th grade students complete state tests called STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) in core subjects and passing these tests is a state requirement for graduation in Texas: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, US History. Students also complete district assessments twice a year in December and again in May to assess student growth in courses. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme has a similar assessment system to the Advanced Placement Program and Vandegrift employs that standard yearly with ease currently administering over 2,500 exams in May of 2017. The Vandegrift Assessment Policy was written last year to ensure we were in compliance with the IB assessment guidelines, and we uploaded a copy of this policy with our Candidacy Application. Further, the document we created was a culmination of our current practices and IB requirements with basically semantic changes to ensure VHS had clear information concerning assessments. This was a collaborative effort and included the IB Coordinator and the Head of School, who also serves as the Dean of Instruction, and therefore, makes the final decision on assessments and data for Vandegrift.**

Please indicate your current assessment of how your school meets this requirement.

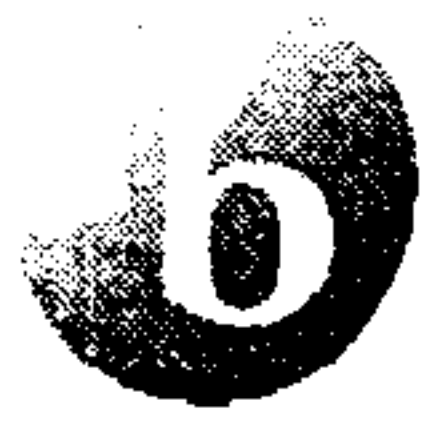
In place

#### **5e. The school has developed and implements an academic honesty policy that is consistent with IB expectations.**

Describe how the school has approached the creation or revision of its academic honesty policy (that is, who has been involved, how possible changes were identified, considered and decided upon, and so on) to support the implementation of the programme.

**The Vandegrift Academic Honesty Policy was written last year to ensure we were in compliance with the IB Academic Honesty guidelines, and we uploaded a copy of this policy with our Candidacy Application. Further, the document we created was a culmination of our**





current practices and IB requirements with basically semantic changes to ensure VHS had clear information concerning academic honesty. This was a collaborative effort and included the IB Coordinator and the Head of School, who also serves as the Dean of Instruction, and, therefore, oversees the academic honesty policy for Vandegrift.

Please indicate your current assessment of how your school meets this requirement.

In place

**5f. The school complies with the IB regulations and procedures related to the conduct of all forms of assessment for the administration of examinations for the DP.**

The IB will evaluate this requirement by reviewing information gathered under requirement B2.5.c and during the verification visit.

Please indicate your current assessment of how your school meets this requirement.

In place

**6. The school has systems in place for the continuity and ongoing development of the programme(s).**

Describe and/or provide examples of the structures in place (such as professional development opportunities, policies or procedures) to support the implementation of approaches to teaching (best teaching practices based on inquiry, conceptual understanding, local and global contexts, collaboration, differentiated teaching and continuous assessment).

Inasmuch as Vandegrift intrinsically maintains a learner-centered approach to academics with many of the best practices for teaching described in the approaches to teaching model already in place, ensuring that we, as a campus, are cognitively aware of approaches to learning and teaching and how it relates to IB is in its infancy stage. However, the IB coordinator has attended the IB training for Approaches to Learning, and plans are in place to actively discuss and collaborate with the IB faculty to ensure everyone is not only aware but implementing strategies at all times once we become an authorized IB school. Further, the campus leaders have been made aware of the ATL and its interconnectedness with an IB mindset as well as the importance of using the strategies campus wide to enrich the academic experience of all students.

Please indicate your current assessment of how your school meets this practice.

In progress

**7. The school carries out programme evaluation involving all stakeholders.**

As this practice does not need to be in place or in progress at authorization, we have no specific questions on it at this time.