



# École Victor-Brodeur

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## Challenge program

In recent weeks, as every year, some parents meet with the administration of Victor Brodeur School to talk about the orientation of their children, especially at secondary level. One of the most frequently discussed topics is that of the challenge program offered in some of the public schools in Victoria.

It is important for me to answer as clearly as possible to the legitimate questions of those parents and to correlate the challenge program offered at Esquimalt High and Mount Douglas Secondary with the International Baccalaureate offered at Victor-Brodeur.

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### Question :

*How does the challenge program differs from the International Baccalaureate Diploma program offered at École Victor-Brodeur?*

### Answer :

The challenge program is based on the BC Ministry of Education program. The same courses, the same degree of difficulty are offered to students taking the challenge program as to other students in the province enrolled in a regular program. The results at the grade 10-12 provincial exams seem to be higher but are not published.

The IB program offered at École Victor-Brodeur is based on a study program recognized by 132 states and adaptable to regional and local realities. The IB program allows schools, parents and students to compare their success with millions of learners around the world.

NB: the results obtained by the students of École Victor-Brodeur exceed the international average.

### International Baccalaureate Diploma program exam results

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Success rate	100%	100%	100%	100%
Victor-Brodeur's average	32.6/45	34.5/45	32.9/45	32.5/45
Canada's average	31.6/45	31.9/45	31.3/45	31.79/45

### 2013-14 Provincial Exam results

Subject	French 10	English 10	Math 10	Science 10	French 12	English 12
Victor-Brodeur	77.7 %	80.2%	79.4%	78.1%	79.2%	74.4%
British-Columbia	69.5%	70.0%	66.0%	67.0%	75.7%	73.0%

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Question:

***What are the courses that compose the two programs?***

Answer:

As mentioned above, the challenge program offers only the BC curriculum. Course content is no different from that of the other schools in the province. At Esquimalt High, an integrated philosophy course seems to be added to the whole curriculum.

The IB diploma program offered at École Victor-Brodeur includes an advanced course in French literature, English literature, international history, chemistry, physics, visual arts, music, philosophy (theory of knowledge) and community involvement. All are at a higher level of enrichment than other programs in British Columbia.

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Question:

***How do the two programs (challenge and IB) differ from the other programs offered in the province?***

Answer:

Both programs involve students eager to learn, curious and willing to invest in their education. The programs insist on the development of the spirit of analysis and synthesis aptitude. The challenge program allows an acceleration in the learning process of certain subjects.

The IB program requires a rigor from the specific skills, all evaluated at an international level, that are recognized as indispensable to the pursuit of post-secondary studies of high level. Students enrolled in the IB diploma program must write a dissertation of 4,000 words, lab reports, essays in history and philosophy, create a portfolio in visual arts and music, record oral presentations and undergo a series of final examinations, all corrected by a certified IB examiner of a global expertise level.

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Question:

***What special recognition is granted to students of both programs?***

Answer:

None at college and university level for the challenge program. No additional credit or post secondary scholarship seems to be awarded to students who have completed the program. Access to Advanced Placement exams is not specific to the challenge program since Victor Brodeur School offers that same opportunity to its students with successful results, in addition to IB in French, physics and calculus.

However, the IB program is recognized in 132 States and all universities and all colleges in North America. It allows students to enroll, without proof of equivalency, in all post-secondary institutions around the world. It allows students to be selected on a priority basis, to receive scholarships and college credit sometimes equivalent to a whole post secondary year.

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Question:

***What extracurricular activities offer both programs?***

Answer:

According to sources, the students of the challenge program participate in a variety of activities such as BBQs, dances, camping trips, film screenings and the talent shows.

Students in the IB diploma at École Victor-Brodeur enjoy sailing lessons, a camping trip, a snow class, a simulation of a UN session, a cultural trip in France or a humanitarian one in Guatemala as well as dances and presentations throughout the year.

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Question:

***What is the highlight of each program?***

Answer:

The challenge program relies heavily on the selection of students, which provides the impression of the composition of an elite group.

The school program dispensed at Victor-Brodeur is based on other values such as an openness to differences and to the world. Indeed, the work-life brings us to meet other different individuals and to work and live with them, while recognizing all of their qualities and strengths. The aspect of segregation is not appropriate in our school. We believe that we all have to learn from others. In addition, Victor Brodeur is the only institution to offer two first languages plus a second language and to promote the different cultures attached to them. There is no room in the Francophone school board for the theory of the "melting pot" where students are trained in a standardized mold.

At École Victor-Brodeur, there is no need for selection. We encourage difference and we know that our students have all the necessary prerequisites since they usually have been attending our school for several years.

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**Conclusion**

Finally, I would like to point out that by leaving Victor Brodeur school to another program, students choose to abandon their chance to master the French language and its culture. Immersed for several years in a dominant culture without any counterweight will eliminate all the efforts made since the beginning of their schooling. It's not some French lessons scattered through the schedule, with limited written work, that will make their francophone heritage survive and thrive. In addition, isn't learning and mastering two first languages already a challenge?

Pascale Bernier  
Principal

Source :

<https://mountdoug.sd61.bc.ca/programs-courses/challenge-program/>

<https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/programs-courses/4c-challenge/>

[https://mountdoug.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/76/2013/06/challenge\\_faq.pdf](https://mountdoug.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/76/2013/06/challenge_faq.pdf)