

# THE SCORPION SCOOP

Official Brandon Academy News



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## From the Head of School September 18, 2020

Dear BA Parents, Colleagues, and Students,

Curriculum Night provides us with an opportunity for parents to meet with their children's teachers and to see for themselves how their days are shaped and filled every day as they learn, work and play together here at Brandon Academy. While this year's Curriculum Night looks a little different, I know that my colleagues and I enjoy the chance to showcase the range and depth of learning in each grade level and each subject.

[This link](#) will take you to the BA Curriculum Night Program where you can access a short welcome video by me as well as individual teacher videos. To access these videos:

1. Open the PDF document.
2. Click on a teacher's grade and the video will open.
3. Enjoy!

Kind regards,

Eric Miles  
Head of School

## About the IB Curriculum

### [The IB Website](#)

Established in 1968, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) was the first programme offered by the IB and is taught to students aged 16-19. As of September 2019, there were 3,421 schools offering the DP, in 157 different countries worldwide.

### **The IB Curriculum**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum sets out the requirements for study of the DP. The curriculum is made up of the DP core and six subject groups. The six subject groups are:

- [Studies in language and literature](#)
- [Language acquisition](#)
- [Individuals and societies](#)
- [Sciences](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [The arts](#)

There are different courses within each subject group.

### **The IB Core Elements**

Made up of the three required components, the DP core aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills. The three core elements are:

- [Theory of knowledge](#), in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.
- [The extended essay](#), which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.
- [Creativity, activity, service](#), in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.



Ms. Gina Morse is the Brandon Academy IB Coordinator. Please feel free to reach out to her if you have any questions or if you would like more information about the IB DP Program.

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## COVID-19 Update

As always, the health and safety of our community is our top priority. Our goal is to reduce risk as much as possible by introducing multiple layers of protection and asking each member of our community to remember their obligation to help protect the health of all members of our community. Here are some reminders regarding COVID.....

### *Attendance*

Families should email the division assistants to report absences per regular expectations. Attendance will be taken in each course.

### *[Back-to-School Website](#)*

On this website, you will find important back to school information, our latest Health and Safety Procedures, information and procedures for At-Home Learning (AHL) and FAQs. As always, the health and safety of our community is our top priority. Our goal is to reduce risk as much as possible by introducing multiple layers of protection and asking each member of our community to remember their obligation to help protect the health of all members of our community.

### *Honor Code and Responsible Use*

The Brandon Academy Honor Code and Responsible Use Plan apply to the Distance Learning plan.

### *Masks*

BA will require all teachers and students to wear cloth face coverings throughout the day, except during lunch or during outdoor activities when students are well dispersed. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. We will remind each other frequently not to touch the face covering and to wash our hands.

**Parents should purchase five (5) cloth face coverings for each child attending BA.**

Cloth face coverings will **NOT** be placed on:

- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical or behavioral health needs.

#### Face coverings for Pre-K students

- Children 5 years of age and under are not required to wear a face shield or face covering in a child care setting.
- Children who are under the age of 2 years, or children who are sleeping, unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering or face shield without assistance; or who cannot tolerate a shield or covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition must not wear a face covering or face shield.
- Children age 2 through 5 years who can reliably wear a face covering or face shield in compliance with CDC guidance on [How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings](#) may do so. This means they can wear it without frequently touching or removing it.

Families can find more information on the proper use, wearing, removal, and cleaning of cloth face coverings, such as [CDC's Guidance on wearing and removing cloth face masks and CDC's use of cloth masks](#).

#### *Online Classes- Behavior & Etiquette*

Students should follow the handbook with regards to dress code and discipline expectations. Students will be required to use mute during parts of a lesson or the “raise hand” feature of Zoom. Students will follow expectations communicated by teachers, including not using cell phones during classes.

#### *Parents/Caregivers*

Brandon Academy understands that a shift to a distance learning approach will require our students and families to make adjustments. Yet a continued partnership with parents and guardians can play a vital part of ensuring the success of the plan. Division Directors, learning support staff, the technology department, and teachers are all available to support and guide students (and parents/guardians/caregivers) should they need help. Below are some guidelines for parents/guardians/caregivers to help students achieve success

with distance learning. Overall, we encourage you to embrace this time at home as a new adventure with great possibilities.

### *Sources & Helpful Links*

[CDC School Guidance](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics Considerations for Schools](#)

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## News You Can Use



### **Music Lessons Available**

Music lessons are available after school with Mr. Mitchell for students who play the violin at any level for violin, as well as for the piano, beginner to intermediate levels. Please contact Mr. Mitchell for further details.

## Athletic News



### **2020 BA Home Football Games**

Fri Sept 25 vs. Hillsborough Baptist  
4pm

*First ever game at BA!*

Thu Oct 8 vs. Atlantic Prep  
4pm

Fri Oct 16 vs. Classical Prep  
7pm

*Senior Night under the  
Lights!*

Fri Nov 6 vs. Geneva Classical  
4pm

*Homecoming Game*

Fri Nov 13 vs. Village View  
4pm

### **High School Volleyball Senior Night - Date Change**

Monday, September 28 @ 5pm

Come support the High School Volleyball team as they take on North Tampa on Monday, September 28 at 5pm. Below are short bios of our two awesome seniors, Evelis and Rheeya!

#### **Evelis Lebron**

**Class of 2021**

#### **IB Diploma Candidate**



Evelis Lebron has been on the Brandon Academy Varsity Volleyball Team for two years. She has worked extremely hard at her craft and has made tremendous strides on the court. As a starter she has been an integral part of success so far. She is a great teammate and is always smiling. We appreciate her hard work and wish her the best in her future endeavors. After graduating from BA, Evelis would like to attend [Eckerd College](#) and major in Animal Studies.

#### **Rheeya Patel**

**Class of 2021**

#### **IB Diploma Candidate**

Rheeya Patel has been on the Brandon Academy Varsity Volleyball Team for two years. Rheeya was a late addition to this year's team but has made an immediate impact. She is extremely athletic and a hard worker. Because of her athleticism she has become our primary setter and it has helped in a big way. We appreciate her hard work and wish her the best in her future endeavors. After graduating from





BA, Rheeya would like to attend [Georgia Tech](#) and major in Engineering.