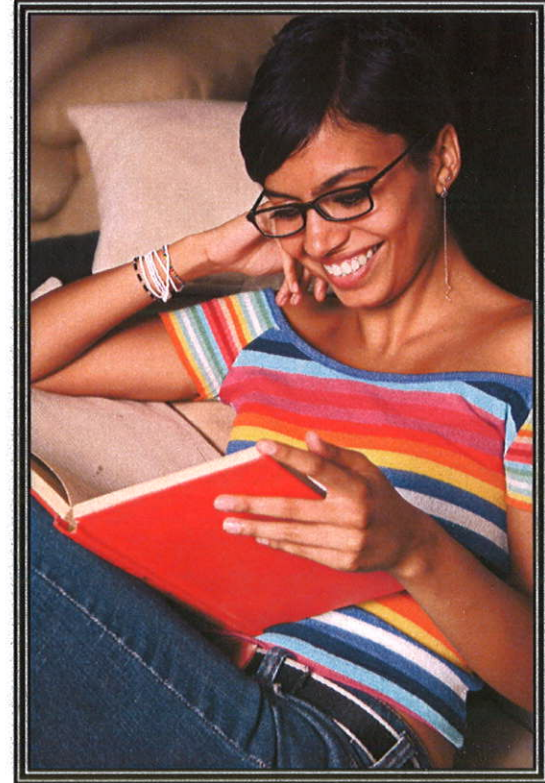


Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Independent Study



“The primary aim of Independent Study is to offer a means of individualizing the educational plan for pupils whose needs may be met best through study outside the regular classroom setting.”

From *Independent Study Operations Manual* © 2000 by the California Department of Education

What IS *Independent Study*?

☆ Independent Study (IS) is an alternative to classroom instruction consistent with the MBUSD high school course of study. It is not an alternative curriculum.

☆ Independent Study is an optional educational alternative...that is meant to respond to the student's specific educational needs, interest, aptitudes, and abilities.

☆ Instruction through MBUSD independent study:

- Provides a way for students to achieve competency and mastery in basic skills
- Allows students to study and complete course work according to their own schedules
- Provides an accelerated path to high school graduation
- Allows students to be educated at home
- Encourages students' resourcefulness and autonomy
- Facilitates the student's active participation in his or her own education
- Offers educational choices to students and families

Who enrolls in *Independent Study*?

- 11th and 12th grade students deficient in credits
- Working students (e.g., actors, musicians, emancipated minors) and elite-level athletes whose schedules preclude daily classroom attendance
- Students with special medical needs or disabilities
- Students working toward early graduation
- Students also enrolled in community college
- Pregnant or parenting students
- Students whose personal or family commitments conflict with regular school hours
- Other students as deemed educationally appropriate

Frequently Asked Questions about *Independent Study*

☆ **What kind of work is assigned?** Assignments are done through written work from handouts and textbooks, and tests are given. Work assigned must be completed each week in order for students to receive attendance credit.

☆ **How much school work is required each day?** The expectation is that students will be taking two classes at a time and working on school work for approximately four hours a day, the equivalent of what they would be doing during the regular school day (minus passing periods, lunch and snack and classroom group work and discussion).

☆ **Do Independent Study students attend class?** Students spend a minimum of one hour per week on campus meeting with their credentialed teachers. During these meetings students turn in completed work, take tests, get help with their course work, and receive the following week's assignments.

☆ **How long does it take to complete a class in Independent Study?** One semester's worth of course work takes approximately four weeks to complete when taking two classes at a time.

☆ **Are Independent Study classes UC approved?** No. If you choose to go to IS, please be advised that these classes are not currently considered college preparatory and do not meet UC eligibility.

☆ **What kinds of grades are given?** Students will receive letter grades for their work just as they do in regular education.

☆ **Are Independent Study students considered Mira Costa students?** Independent Study students are entitled to all Manhattan Beach Unified School District resources. They may attend official Mira Costa school functions, access student services on campus (e.g., guidance counselors, library, College Career Center) and must abide by school and district rules. Students who graduate from Independent Study receive a Manhattan Beach USD diploma at a special Independent Study graduation ceremony.

Courses Offered

CORE ACADEMICS

LANGUAGE ARTS

- English 1-8

SOCIAL SCIENCE

- U.S. History
- World History
- Government
- Economics

SCIENCE

- Earth Science
- Biology
- Chemistry

MATH

- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra A-D
- Geometry

ELECTIVES

- Creative Writing
- Journalism
- Spanish
- French
- Art
- Health
- Physical Education
- Music
- Drama

For more information about *Independent Study*, or to apply to the program, contact your student's guidance counselor.

Program Management

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