

School District of Indian River County

International Baccalaureate Programme

Student and Parent Guide

Encouraging Innovation, Rewarding Excellence



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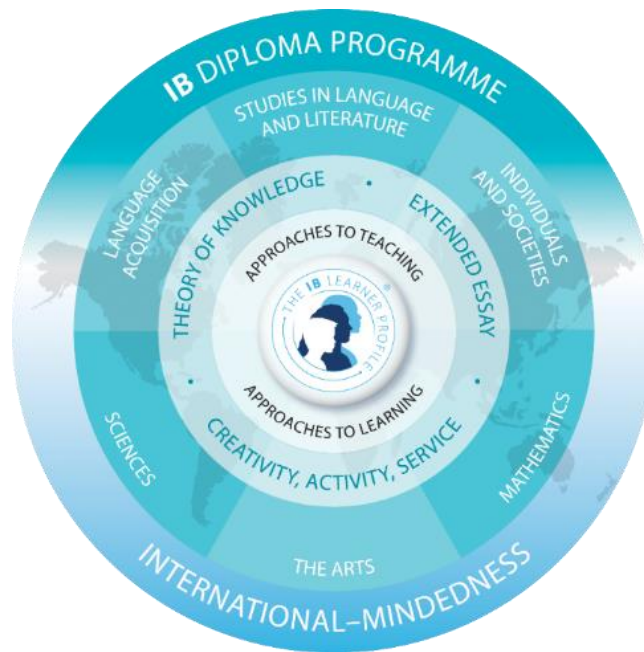
What is the International Baccalaureate Programme?

The International Baccalaureate is a comprehensive, integrated curriculum of university level studies and is regarded worldwide as a premiere college preparatory program providing extraordinary educational opportunities to all of Indian River County's highly motivated students. The rigorous academic curricula are designed to develop inquiring minds and knowledgeable, caring young people who will better compete in our global society with intercultural understanding and respect. The School District of Indian of Indian River County (SDIRC) offers the IB continuum at Liberty Magnet Elementary, Sebastian River Middle School, and Sebastian River High School.

What is the IB Continuum?

The IB offers schools a continuum of four programmes, Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), Diploma Programme (DP), and Career-related Programme (CP). SDIRC does not offer the CP.

The IB Diploma Programme Model



The graphic above displays the focus of an IB education for the Diploma Programme. All three programmes have a similar model and philosophy.

- The student is in the center; the student **IS** the focus of the education.
- The next ring exemplifies the type of learning skills that students acquire (Approaches to Learning): thinking, communication, research, social, and self-management. Approaches to Teaching is based on inquiry, focused on conceptual understanding, developed in local and global contexts, focused on teamwork and collaboration, differentiated for different learning needs, and informed by assessment.
- The next ring features the CORE of the IB Diploma Programme. To enhance students' writing and research skills, students write an Extended Essay. CAS encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others through experiential learning. Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is an interdisciplinary course that challenges students to question the basis of knowledge and lets the student explore the most central question: "How do we know what we know?"
- The next ring indicates the six subject areas students will study. The IB curriculum is developed along the "liberal arts" education model where students take courses in areas of their strengths and weaknesses.

What is the Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The PYP offers an inquiry-based, transdisciplinary curriculum framework that builds conceptual understanding. It is a student-centered approach to education for kindergarten--5th grade. The PYP curriculum framework begins with the premise that students are agents of their own learning and partners in the learning process. PYP students learn through inquiry and reflecting on their own learning while developing knowledge and conceptual understanding.

The PYP offers a transformative experience for students, teachers and whole school communities and delivers excellent outcomes by providing an education that is engaging, relevant, challenging, and significant.

PYP learners know how to take ownership of their learning, collaborating with teachers to deepen understanding and increase their confidence and self-motivation. Through actively engaging in integrated ongoing assessment, they become effective, self-regulated learners who can act on constructive feedback.

What is the Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The MYP is a five-year programme, which can be implemented in a partnership between schools, or in several abbreviated (two, three or four year) formats. Students who complete the MYP are well-prepared to undertake the IB Diploma Programme (DP) or Career-related Programme (CP). SDIRC offers the MYP in the three-year format.

Using global contexts, MYP students develop an understanding of their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet through developmentally appropriate explorations of:

- identities and relationships
- personal and cultural expression
- orientations in space and time
- scientific and technical innovation
- fairness and development
- globalization and sustainability.

The MYP curriculum is taught through the lens of conceptual learning. Concepts are big ideas that have relevance within specific disciplines and across subject areas. MYP students use concepts as a vehicle to inquire into issues and ideas of personal, local, and global significance. The MYP curriculum also focuses on STEM as an important perspective from which to consider integrated teaching and learning in concepts and skills related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

What is the Diploma Programme (DP)

The DP is a two-year “pre-university” course of study that begins in the junior year of high school. Completing this program rewards students with the **world-renowned** IB Diploma, opening pathways to some of the best universities in the world. Additionally, earning the IB Diploma automatically qualifies a student for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

Students choose courses from the following subject groups: studies in language and literature; language acquisition; individuals and societies; sciences; mathematics; and the arts. Students may opt to study an additional sciences, individuals and societies, or languages course, instead of a course in the arts.

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 (TOK), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), and the Extended Essay (EE).

IB Accreditation

Every five years, IB requires schools to undergo an evaluation known as a self-study. Over an 18-month period, IB schools review and reflect upon their current program that leads to a deeper understanding of both the aspects of the program that are being implemented effectively and the aspects that need further development. Faculty, staff, parents, and students are involved in the self-study to ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to help improve their school. After submission to the IBO, the self-study is evaluated to ensure the school is adhering to the IB standards. The IBO determines whether a school will have a site visit or a teleconference; representatives from the various stakeholder groups are included in this process.

Other Important Information

Research suggests, for example, that IB students are more likely than their peers to complete their undergraduate degrees and pursue graduate work. Additionally, they are more likely to be engaged in various aspects of university life.

What Colleges Know about IB students

The IB Diploma Programme is recognized, both nationally and internationally, as a program that excels in preparing students for the collegiate years and beyond. Below you will find a sampling of research and opinions on how the IB DP is viewed by some of the most prestigious universities in the nation.

University of Michigan, Cliff Sjogren, former Director of Admissions

“A transcript that reveals a student’s enrollment in International Baccalaureate courses serves notice to the admissions officer that the applicant is someone who accepts rather than avoids educational challenges. Further, a successful IB student will enroll at Michigan with some advantages over students who have taken less intensive programs...Unquestionably, a school that graduates each year a number of students with IB diplomas has demonstrated its commitment to high educational standards and that commitment will serve to influence admissions decisions at the University of Michigan.”

Michigan State University, Pamela Horne, Assistant to the Provost for Enrollment and Director of Admissions,

“My eyes light up when I see ‘International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme’ on a transcript. Students who apply to Michigan State University with IB credentials are assumed to be mature, curious, and creative. They have proven to be successful in a rigorous program that is both broad and deep in its content and intellectual challenge. On campus, IB graduates move with ease in a diverse and global university that demands intercultural skill and adaptability. The challenge of completing an IB diploma means that a student has engaged in the kind of rigorous work that is likely to help them become not just an outstanding college student and citizen of the world, but an exceptional one.”

Harvard University, Marilyn McGrath Lewis, Asst. Dean of Admissions

“Success in an IB program correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Program on the transcript.” GPA is not nearly as important a factor in university admission as the IB Diploma. If a student has to choose, choose the Diploma over protecting the GPA.”

Duke University, Christoph Guttentag, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

"One of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its structure and quality. It is a coordinated program, well established, well known and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the IB curriculum is terrific."

Virginia Tech, Dr. Eugene Carson

“... IB students who attended that university (Virginia Tech) as freshmen significantly outperformed all other freshmen, including students who had taken Advanced Placement courses.”

Colleges and Universities of SRHS IB Graduates

Alabama, Auburn University, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Bryn Mawr, Bowdoin College, California Institute of Technology, Dartmouth, Duke, Elon, Embry Riddle, Flagler College, FIT, Florida State, George Washington University, Georgia Tech, Georgetown, Harvard, Howard, IRSC, MIT, Michigan St., Missouri State University, NYU, Notre Dame, Penn State, Princeton, Rollins, Stanford, Stetson University, Temple, The Cooper Union UK University (England), US Air Force Academy, US Military Academy, US Coast Guard Academy, US Naval Academy, University of California-Berkeley, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Mississippi, University of North Florida, University of Paris, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, University of South Florida, University of Tampa, University of West Florida University of Miami, Vanderbilt, Wellesley, Wake Forest University, and Yale University

Fast Facts

As of December 2022, the IB

- is in 160 countries.
- has 5,600 schools offering the IB curriculum.
- has 7,800 programs (PYP, MYP, DP, and CP) Some schools have more than one program offering. For example: a school may offer both the PYP and the MYP.
- Educates just under 2 million students globally.

Would you like more information?

Please contact the school's Coordinator and/or visit the school's website.

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