

Highland High School IB Diploma Program Admission Policy and Procedures

The IB Diploma Program at Highland High School is very unique in that a single cohort experience for students participating in the 6 subject areas required for the IB diploma will occur during junior and senior years. The students in the cohort will take the same literature, social studies, science, and math IB courses. They will participate 'out of the cohort' as they choose a world language from Spanish, German, or French, and a fine art area of study from music, visual arts, or film studies. In world language and fine art courses, IB students will participate with other students seeking Advanced Placement credit in that area of study.

Students in the cohort begin preparation for IB courses during their freshman and sophomore years. These courses help to build the necessary content knowledge, work ethic, and study skills required for success in achieving the IB Diploma. As a result, acceptance into the Highland High School IB Program happens in January of a student's 8th grade year.

Students applying for the IB Diploma Program will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Completed application submitted by the posted deadline (typically the 3rd Friday in January).
- Minimum grade point average of 3.3 with consideration given for higher grade point averages.
- Consideration for participation and performance in honors and accelerated courses.
- Personal letter of interest.
- Parent/guardian letter of interest.
- Teacher letter of recommendation. This letter can address work ethic, intellectual curiosity and any unique qualities that might predict success in this program. This letter is optional and available for those that believe that the prior criteria may not reflect the scope of their ability to do well in the program.

The IB coordinator, IB counselor and IB administrator will review the applications and notifications will be made by the end of January. After students are selected, they receive written notification and are invited to a mandatory registration night (typically the 2nd week in February).

The number of students selected for the IB Diploma Program at Highland High School is based on the school's capacity to provide an outstanding IB program given the number and distribution of professional support staff. An anticipated number of students will leave the program before the start of their junior year, and that anticipated attrition is built into the initial acceptance number. Therefore, there will be no waiting list or admissions after the registration night held in February. This includes transfer students from other IB programs worldwide. If you are interested in transfer options in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades, please contact West High School in the Salt Lake City School District.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the IB administrative team before applications are submitted in January.