

## Highland High School IB Diploma Program Admission Policy and Procedures

The IB Diploma Program at Highland High School is a cohort experience for students participating in the 6 subject areas required for the IB diploma. The students in the cohort will take the same literature, social studies, 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. Students will select from two science tracks. One will culminate with Biology HL and the other with Physics HL. 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades in courses including AP Human Geography, Honors Chemistry and AP Physics. These courses help build the necessary content knowledge, work ethic, and study skills required for success in achieving the IB Diploma.

Most students attend an informational meeting in January during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. An online application is available after this meeting. Students must complete the application and submit transcripts from middle school. The application data is used for placement in the appropriate language B courses and mathematics courses. This data is evaluated by the coordinator to identify students who would benefit from additional support before their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year and the beginning of the IB diploma cohort experience. All those who apply are included in our IB Class of \_\_\_\_\_ email list. Students receive a "congratulations" email and attend a "welcome to Highland" question and answer meeting in January regarding course selections. Summer workshops are provided before 9<sup>th</sup> grade, to help facilitate an easier transition into high school and before 11<sup>th</sup> grade to prepare to start the two-year diploma program.

Other students, in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade, may apply to the program and must interview with the IB coordinator before joining the cohort. All students who complete the application and interview with the coordinator can choose to be apart of the cohort.

After the IB cohort begins in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade no students will be added to IB courses without an interview with the IB coordinator. Our intention is to have all our IB students in the diploma program and to minimize any "certificate" experiences. However, this will be determined on a case-by-case basis with regard to the student, the course and staffing availability.

Most recent review of this policy: November 2021