

MCPS Preparing Students for Success in IB

IB courses offer a high degree of challenge, engagement and connections to the real world. Life in the 21st century, in an interconnected, globalized world, requires critical thinking skills and a sense of international-mindedness.

IB focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and the world outside. To prepare students to become global citizen in the 21st century, students will:

- Become critical and reflective thinkers by learning how to think critically
- be encouraged to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world
- be given the opportunity to be engaged in the Junior Great Books (K-5) and William and Mary Programs
- Be encouraged to participate in advanced coursework
- develop a sense of personal and cultural identity and respect for themselves and others
- Participate in community service opportunities in school and throughout the community

Opportunities to develop international-mindedness include:

- FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary School)
- Foreign Language in Middle School

Why IB?

Why should I pursue an IB diploma?

The IB Diploma Programme helps you develop critical-thinking, independent learning, and research skills. It also provides a gateway to the development of intercultural understanding. IB courses are not about reciting facts and figures - the IB Diploma Programme helps you learn how to learn, and appreciate the process.

What are the benefits of an IB Diploma?

The IB diploma is recognized by universities around the world. Students are renowned for their preparation and skills. Studies have shown that students participating in the IB Diploma Programme are given preference in college admissions over students in other programs (AP, regular), all other factors being equal (SAT/ACT score, G.P.A.). Students can expect to earn the maximum college credit for scoring a 5 or higher (on a 7 point scale) in the subjects they study. The majority of students completing the two year IB Diploma Programme have higher college G.P.A.s, and 96% complete college and earn a bachelors degree (fewer than 69% of students entering a four year college complete a degree within six years, according to an American Enterprise Institute study published in June 2009).

**INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE**

**DIPLOMA
PROGRAMME**



Watkins Mill High School
an
IB World School

The Diploma Programme at
Watkins Mill

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International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

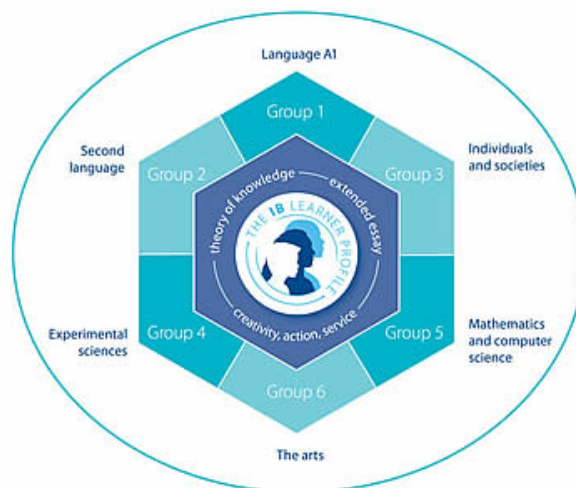
To this end the IB works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a demanding two-year international program that meets the needs of highly motivated Grade 11 and 12 students and leads to a qualification that is recognized by leading universities around the world. To earn an IB diploma, students must take a challenging liberal arts course of studies and pass examinations in six academic subjects. In addition, students are required to take the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course that investigates the nature of knowledge in various disciplines; participate in Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) to achieve eight learning outcomes, undertake original research, and write an Extended Essay of 4,000 words. Students successfully completing the program earn a MCPS diploma and a Montgomery County Certificate of Merit, in addition to the internationally recognized IB diploma.

Diploma Programme Curriculum Framework

The curriculum is modeled by a hexagon with six academic areas surrounding the three core requirements.



Over the course of the two-year programme, students:

- Study six subjects chosen from the six subject groups
- Complete an extended essay
- Follow a theory of knowledge course (TOK)
- Participate in creativity, action, service (CAS)

Are you an IB Learner? *The IB Learner Profile*

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers They develop their natural curiosity. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance.

Thinkers They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication.

Principled They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities.

Caring They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.