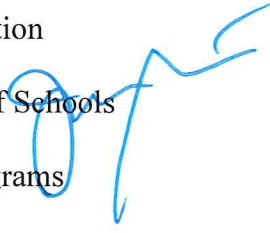


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

October 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: International Baccalaureate Programs



Question

Mrs. Ortman-Fouse asked: I hear this a lot—that the IB programs are different. Is this just the public’s impression or reality? If you go to a DCC IB program is it less rigorous and/or does it have less opportunities than the IB program at RM?

Response

In order for a school to be authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, the school undergoes a rigorous application process for authorization. This process ensures that the school has—

- understood the IB philosophy;
- understood the programme requirements;
- met the major objectives of its action plan to ensure successful implementation; and
- concluded that it meets the requirements to become an IB World School.

Once authorized, each IB World School is evaluated every five years to ensure that the standards and practices of its IB programme(s) are being maintained. As part of the process, the school engages in a self-study method that is a key element in the school’s continual improvement.

In order to become an IB World School offering an IB programme, a school must demonstrate that certain practices and programme requirements are in place and that implementation is in progress. IB will share with each school a report that is structured according to the programme standards and practices. This report describes the outcome of the process of verification and evaluation that the school has completed. It is based on the evidence provided by the school to demonstrate that it meets the IB requirements.

The report includes the following:

- The full list of practices that must be in place, indicating those which were found to be in place and those which were found not to be in place.
- For practices that were found not to be in place, the following will be identified: associated finding(s), matter(s) that the school needs to address, and the evidence to be provided by the school.
- Matters to be addressed are areas within a school's practices that, if not addressed immediately, will jeopardize the integrity of the programme and thus the school's entitlement to be considered or remain an IB World School.
- Practices that were found to be in place or in progress, as required, which have an associated commendation or recommendation, will show related finding(s).
- Commendations relate to school practices that are beyond the requirements for authorization and will benefit the implementation of the programme.
- Recommendations provide guidance for the school on further developing the programme, and it is expected that the school incorporates these into its action plan in order to respond to them at the time of evaluation.

IB World Schools in Montgomery County Public Schools are part of a strong community, a network of fellow schools, and educators who collaborate throughout the year both vertically and horizontally, as a common practice that is aligned to the IB Standards. Lastly, the IB Diploma Programme students complete the same internationally benchmarked IB internal and external assessments. The criteria for each class is identical in more than 3,000 IB Diploma Programme schools globally. Once students complete the IB exams in May, each IB exam is mailed to the team of IB Senior Examiners; grading is conducted by these experts from the IB Organization. IB works closely to monitor and ensure that each assessment is consistently graded among students globally.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:BJC:clc

Copy to:

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