

**This document was compiled by DHHS IB Coordinator Anne Bracewell, providing answers to the questions that were submitted ahead of time for the *All About IB* PTO parent education program.**

### **General questions**

*1. What are the main differences between IB and non-IB programs?*

The IB program is a full curriculum, and students take IB classes in all disciplines. It is designed to be cohesive and encouraging of students making cross disciplinary and cultural/societal connections.

*2. Why should my child take IB classes instead of AP classes?*

There is no actual “should” here—it really does depend on the student and their desires, interests and sense of self-direction. This is something that we would discuss with you and your child individually.

*3. What’s the advantages of being an IB student?*

The IB program absolutely prepares students for the sort of rigor and inquiry vital to college success. Classes are weighted at 5.0 and IB students are actively recruited by many colleges and universities. Again, however, so are AP students. We would want to look at each individual situation to make a decision re: whether the IB would be advantageous for your student.

*4. Do you have statistics that support College preference/admissions for kids with IB diplomas?*

In the attached PPT, you can see some statistics re: college admissions.

### **Logistics**

*5. How much work will there be ?*

There will be a lot. Is it impossible? Of course not! But it is rigorous and will require a great deal of time and attention. Note of course that these classes can end up earning college credit for your student, so they do essentially consist of college-level work. The program is quite writing intensive as well.

*6. What classes should juniors in IB sign up for?*

This depends on the student. All of them will take year 1 of IB English, History, Theory of Knowledge and an IB elective. The sciences, maths, and world languages have different options, depending on the student’s prior progress and success in those courses.

*7. When will the application process begin?*

As soon as the county determines which applications meet eligibility requirements, we will start reviewing applications. Be sure to have all application materials in before the Feb. 4 deadline.

*8.If your school is DHHS do you recommend still applying for the 9th grade seat?*

Yes. The app is required for all student, and a student who decides to pursue IB but hasn't applied could find that there are no more seats due to class size requirements. If an in attendance area student applies then decides not to pursue IB, we only ask that you let us know so that we can open that seat for another student.

*9.What are sophomore class pre-requirements for IB at Druid Hills*

Before beginning grade 11 IB, all students will need to have taken 9th Grade Lit and Com, World Lit, Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Algebra, 3 sections of world language, Economics, Geography and World History. There may be some variations in which students take which classes in grade 9 and which take them in grade 10.

*10.What does a sample 4-year schedule look like?*

Two years of "pre" IB accelerated courses including all required courses listed above. In 11th grade, the official IB program begins with the courses listed in Question 6.

*11.Can a rising Junior enter the IB program? If so, how? If they meet all requirements and successfully apply, yes. But again, it does depend on seat availability and completion of all pre-requisites.*

## **Support and Outcomes**

*12.What support system do you have for the students adapting or failing?*

We offer tutorial in all classes and we also have student to student tutoring in place. We will work with each student to provide the best support for each particular situation. We want all of our students to succeed!

*13.Are there any options for students outside of the area to continue at DHHS if the program is too strenuous for them?*

Unfortunately, no. IB is our only option for out of attendance area students.

*14.What percentage of students who start IB pass the exams to receive an IB diploma?*

We tend to hover between 55-65%.

*15.Is it hard to keep all A's in IB?*

This is really subjective. It does require attention and good time management.

*16.What percent of Black students withdraw or fail the program?*

These numbers have fluctuated quite a bit over the last couple of years, and we have lost more students in IB overall this year, we believe due to COVID-related learning interruptions. Is there a clear issue re: IB interest and attrition when it comes to non-white students? Yes, there is, and it is something we are actively addressing with students, parents, teachers and admin. We ask you to please provide any feedback, concerns, questions, ideas you have as we work on this

issue. Right now we have a student-led organization founded on this very subject and are actively addressing it.

*17. Will kids stick with each other throughout the courses for the duration of the IB program?*

They will, although not in all courses,

*18. Can students do a hybrid of IB and AP?*

Most pre-IB students take some AP courses in grade 9 and 10 and we have had students take additional AP courses during grades 11 and 12, but most often those are taken on as additional courses.

*19. Are there concrete advantages of IB at DHHS vs AP non-IB at DHHS? What are the non-course IB requirements?*

See Question 1 and related links.

*20. Is part-time work in a proposed degree field help?*

Certainly it can if it is in a field that interests the student.

*21. Are there any summer requirements and/or options?*

All IB and AP classes have summer work requirements.

*22. Why is the workload so high? Is it busy work?*

It's the nature of the program. IB students take 7 classes at college-level, it is writing intensive, and does have additional requirements that are not required in AP. We will cover the whole program in more detail over the first two years of high school.

### **Links for additional information:**

The official IB website—you will find answers to most questions here: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

IB v AP Comparison

[US News & World Report article](#) comparing both programs

[American Foreign Service Association article](#) for families choosing between AP and IB curricula

Examples of [college acceptance rates for IB program graduates](#)

For more information, contact [Anne Bracewell](#), DHHS IB Coordinator