



Is the IB Diploma* Program Right for You?

1. **Are you motivated?** The key to success in IB is student motivation. Students who enjoy school and schoolwork, who readily accept the challenge of school and thrive on those challenges do well in the IB Program. Many IB Diploma students took Pre IB classes or had very high grades in regular classes.
2. **Are you a thinker?** IB requires more than rote memorization. Students are challenged to participate actively and think far beyond just memorizing facts. Students who want more academic stimulation thrive in the IB Diploma Program.
3. **Are you learning to think critically?** IB students realize that information presented in texts is just the beginning of understanding. They look beyond the surface interpretations to understand the whys and how's of knowledge in each area of learning. .
4. **Are you a reader?** All Pre IB and IB courses require a great deal of reading. You should be reading at or above your grade level.
5. **Is your focus learning or grades?** Some students and parents are concerned when a student does not receive stellar marks in every subject, every quarter, and on every assignment. Since IB work is assessed according to rubrics that are used to establish International standards, students will sometimes have difficulty consistently reaching the highest scores. Those in IB recognize that the process of learning is the goal rather than striving for grades alone. Colleges and universities look for the level of challenge you have undertaken when evaluating your high school record for admission.
6. **Did you start preparing for IB in middle school?** Some students take Algebra, and/or Geometry, and a Foreign Language (French, German, or Spanish) in middle school to prepare for the IB Diploma. These students can reach the highest level IB Mathematics class and function well in IB Language classes. **If you did not take Algebra and Foreign Language in middle school**, you can still attain the IB Diploma by taking Geometry in summer school or on-line and choosing Latin as your Language.
7. **Did you transfer into South Lakes from another high school?** You may still be able to earn the IB Diploma by taking Geometry in summer school or on-line and choosing Latin if you didn't start Foreign Language in 8th grade.

- 8. Do I have choices in the IB Diploma Program?** Yes. Option 1: You can choose to go for the full Diploma which means taking one course in each of six areas, writing an Extended Essay, taking a course called Theory of Knowledge, and completing Creativity-Action-Service. Option 2: You choose to take one or more IB classes. You will be held to the same standards in your class(es) as students seeking the full Diploma. You will not write the Extended Essay, take Theory of Knowledge, or complete Creativity-Action-Service.

As you consider your choices use these questions to guide your decision making:

- **What is my primary motivation for choosing the IB Diploma Program?**
- **How successful have I been in the past in challenging courses?**
- **Do I enjoy educational challenges?**
- **How active is my involvement in classroom activities?**
- **Do I enjoy reading?**
- **Do I draw my own conclusions or do I want the teacher to tell me what I am supposed to think?**

***The IB Diploma Program is intended for students in grades 11 and 12. The Pre IB classes are usually taken during the IB Middle Years Program in grades 7, 8, 9, and 10.**