

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is an honors college preparatory program offering an academic challenge to bright, motivated students in the Riverside Unified School District. The curriculum, designed by an international group of educators, emphasizes the development of higher level thinking skills in addition to the acquisition of knowledge in a variety of subjects. Courses reflect a global perspective and encourage the understanding of other cultures. Each student is expected to become proficient in language and mathematics -- two important tools of communication and analysis. Participants must also take courses that explore the experimental sciences and study human behavior and history. Additional coursework in music and theatre provide balance for students.

The IB Diploma Program operates in the junior and senior years of high school. Ninth and tenth graders participate in the IB Middle Years Program so they can take the courses, develop the skills, and obtain the counseling necessary for success in the eleventh and twelfth grades.

IB Offers Many Benefits to students. Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses have been adapted to match the IB curriculum and new courses have been developed in a variety of subjects. IB focuses on the education of the *whole student*, emphasizing intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth. Benefits of the IB program include:

- the opportunity to take challenging classes in a wide range of subject areas
- educational experiences designed to give students the skills needed for success in college
- additional counseling and academic information through the IB coordinator
- increased likelihood of gaining admission to the more competitive colleges and universities
- easier adjustment to the academic demands encountered upon reaching college
- the opportunity to earn college credits by taking external examinations and scoring well

Criteria Used for Admission to the IB program evaluate a student's ability and motivation in a number of ways. It is not our goal to deny students the opportunity to participate in IB, but we do want to give families an idea of whether we believe the program will be a good fit for their student. Students must apply in December of the eighth grade year. Applicants are judged in terms of the following criteria:

- placement in math classes -- a student should complete Math 8 by the end of the eighth grade (completion of Math I is ideal.)
- placement in foreign language - it is helpful, but not mandatory, for a student to complete a full year of a foreign language prior to the ninth grade year
- participation in GATE/Advanced/honors courses is advantageous
- good grades in academic classes in seventh and eighth grade
- good attendance in the seventh and eighth grade
- teacher recommendations from two teachers of academic subjects
- counselor recommendation

General information about the International Baccalaureate is available at www.ibo.org. More details about North High School's International Baccalaureate may be obtained from Christine Schive, IB Coordinator, John W. North High School, 1550 Third St, Riverside, CA 92507, cschive@rusd.k12.ca.us or (951) 788-7311 x 63083. Parent information meetings for 8th grade families: **November 27 or 28 at 6pm in North's Theater**. Information is the same both evenings.