HARRISBURG ACADEMY

WHAT IS IT?

The International Baccalaureate Program Explained

Harrisburg Academy is proud to be the first school in the Harrisburg area to receive International Baccalaureate World School accreditation and offer the IB Diploma program to its Upper School students. Designed as a comprehensive, two-year curriculum that allows students to fulfill requirements of various national education systems, IB incorporates the best elements of education across the globe.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
The IB Diploma program is internationally recognized as one of the most challenging college-preparatory curricula available, which is why it aligns seamlessly with the Academy’s high-quality college preparatory liberal arts format and globally minded mission. Colleges and universities around the world understand and appreciate the discipline and motivation required to complete the IB Diploma program. To date, more than 3,500 schools in 145 countries are accredited IB World Schools. Harrisburg Academy is proud to be a part of this extensive community of global IB learners.

IB DIPLOMA SUCCESS
At the successful completion of the program, Academy students receive an IB Diploma in addition to their Harrisburg Academy diploma. This designation often results in advanced placement or credits in college. Since 2009, Harrisburg Academy has awarded 41 IB Diplomas to its students; eight out of 10 Academy students pursuing a full IB Diploma earn this prestigious honor. Harrisburg Academy’s average IB scores are consistently higher than the world average.

IB SUMMER STUDY SCHOLARSHIP
In 2010, the Academy created an annual scholarship opportunity specifically for new and returning 11th grade students planning to pursue a full IB Diploma. As an IB Summer Study Scholar, each recipient receives a $10,000 scholarship toward a summer study program and their senior-year tuition.

CURRICULUM
IB Diploma program students study six courses at higher level or standard level, at least one from each of the following areas: Language A; Language B; Individuals & Societies; Experimental Sciences; and Mathematics.

EXTENDED ESSAY
In the summer following their junior year, Diploma candidates undertake an independent research project and write a paper on a subject of their choice. Students are assigned a faculty mentor for their Extended Essay.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK) SEMINAR
This philosophy course meets throughout the two-year program. It unifies the program’s various academic disciplines by exploring fundamental questions, such as “What are the ways of knowing?”

CREATIVITY, ACTION, AND SERVICE (CAS)
CAS is a framework for experiential learning, designed to involve students in new roles. IB Diploma candidates have a requirement of 150 hours completed over the junior and senior years.
WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT IB PROGRAMS?

- IB programs are recognized around the world and ensure an increased adaptability and mobility for IB students.

- The curriculum and pedagogy of IB programs focus on international perspectives of learning and teaching, while insisting that students fully explore their home culture and language.

- IB World Schools must undergo an exhaustive authorization process in order to offer one or more of the programs, which includes a study of the school’s resources and commitment to the IB mission and philosophy.

- IB teachers participate in a wide variety of professional development opportunities to constantly update their knowledge and share their expertise with colleagues around the world.

- Many students graduating from the Diploma program find that it enhances their opportunities at tertiary institutions. The IB works closely with universities around the world to gain recognition for IB programs.

- The core components of IB programs encourage students to participate in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level.

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