



Reasons to Consider the Full IB Diploma Program

West Ottawa High School

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Common Application

High school students around the world use the Common Application to apply to any of the nearly 700 member colleges and universities in the US, Canada, China and many European countries. The Common Application allows students to mark “Yes” if they are candidates for the full IB Diploma. By marking “Yes” in the box, IB candidates immediately set themselves apart from thousands of other high school students that did not pursue the full IB Diploma.

HL and SL Exams and College Credit

All candidates for the full IB Diploma take 6 IB exams (3 in HL subjects and 3 in SL subjects). Colleges know that students sit for these exams and they will grant credit for high scores, especially in HL subjects. Many WOHS students have advocated to earn credit in their SL subjects and colleges are willing to grant these requests. IB exam scores could end up saving IB candidates thousands of dollars in college tuition. Colleges and universities typically respond more favorably to students that did the full IB Program versus a few individual IB courses.

Challenge Throughout High School

IB candidates are able to demonstrate to their potential college/university that they chose to engage in the most challenging academic program we have at West Ottawa High School. Again, this sets students apart from others that did not do the full IB Diploma Program.

Scholarships, Academic Programs and Internships

Completion of the full IB Diploma Program will open doors to community and university scholarships. Some colleges even offer special scholarships just for IB candidates! Several WOHS IB candidates have been recruited by universities for prestigious academic honors programs and high level internships.

Quotes From University Admissions Directors

“Success in an IB program correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Program on the transcript. GPA is not nearly as important a factor in university admission as the IB Diploma. If a student has to choose, choose the Diploma over protecting the GPA.” –Marilyn McGrath Lewis, Asst. Dean of Admissions at Harvard University

“My eyes light up when I see ‘International Baccalaureate Diploma Program’ on a transcript. Students who apply to MSU with IB credentials are assumed to be mature, curious, and creative. They have proven to be successful in a rigorous program that is both broad and deep in its content and intellectual challenge. On campus, IB graduates move with ease in a diverse and global university that demands intercultural skill and adaptability. The challenge of completing an IB diploma means that a student has engaged in the kind of rigorous work that is likely to help them become not just an outstanding college student and citizen of the world, but an exceptional one.” –Pamela Horne, Asst. to the Provost for Enrollment and Director of Admissions