

Dear Parents/Guardians

Your child is currently enrolled in one or more enriched programming courses in Grade 9 or 10 this year. Enriched programming is a challenge, as is the IB Diploma Programme. The purpose of this letter and information package is to invite you to attend the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme Information Night on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**. This event will take place at the **Education Centre** starting at **6:30 p.m.** The Education Centre is located at **20 Education Court**, across from Limeridge Mall.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two-year programme that consists of challenging international education and rigorous assessment. The IBDP encourages students from across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners through intercultural understanding and respect.

The IBDP is offered at Ancaster High School and Westdale Secondary School. Our IB students have earned excellent results in their IB subjects, resulting in preferred university program acceptance, university scholarships and access to university equivalent credits due to their IB results.

On the following pages, there are several facts about the IBDP on an international and local scale to help you begin to understand the value of the programme. Your family is invited to our **IB Information Night on February 15, 2017** so that you can begin or continue to learn more about the opportunities your child can have through the IBDP pathway in HWDSB.

If you cannot make the meeting on February 15th, or if you have any questions about the IBDP please contact either Mr. Reg Varghese or Mrs. Kim Parkes-Hallmark through the contact information below.

Thank you for reading and we hope to see you on February 15th at the Education Centre.

Sincerely,

Mr. Reg Varghese
Ancaster High School
905 648 4468 ext. 518
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Mrs. Kim Parkes - Hallmark
Westdale Secondary School
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Facts about the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

IB Mission Statement:

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Who is the IB Diploma Programme for and what are the benefits to my child?

Internationally Written Curriculum

Students will be exposed to curriculum that connects them to a Global Education.

Two Diplomas - OSSD and IB

The IB Diploma is a document that can be used alone to enter post-secondary studies at top ranked universities around the globe.

University and Post-graduate preparation

Some students use the rigorous curriculum as a preparation for course work at university and to build their academic transcript beyond their undergraduate program. Many studies have provided evidence that IB graduates have higher success rates in university.

Transfer Credit

Students can apply for university credit based on their results in IB examinations that can allow a lighter schedule in years one and two of university.

IB Facts

- International Baccalaureate was founded in Geneva Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. Today there are over 1,250,000 students at 3,290 schools located in 147 countries worldwide taking this internationally written curriculum.
- As of May 2015, the IBDP has graduated 1.3 million students in over 140 countries worldwide.
- Top ranking university admissions officials say the 'Diploma Programme is the best qualification for developing students' non- academic skills and preparing them for further education and careers.'
- Diploma Programme alumni report that IB has profound, long-lasting effects on students' lives. It helps them develop critical thinking, analytical and writing skills and a broader worldview.
- There are approximately 56 Diploma (High School) schools in Ontario.
- The average pass rate of the IBDP in Canada is 91% compared to the world average of 79% (2007).
- In Ontario (2008), 92% of exam writers scored a 4 (84%+) or higher.
- Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, the IB Diploma Programme features concurrent study in six (or five) subject areas in a rich curriculum that combines breadth and depth.
- Designed to instill a global perspective and to promote cross – cultural understanding and respect.
- The Diploma Programme emphasizes inquiry – based learning and discovery.
- Along with a sense of social responsibility, students develop independent and critical – thinking skills vital to university studies.

