



Admissions Policy

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Washington-Lee High School

Last Revised January 2019

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to

- Articulate Washington-Lee High School's beliefs about access to the Diploma Programme.
- Describe promotion of full Diploma Programme
- Describe student advisement prior to and during the programme.
- Identify criteria for admission and manner of communication to the community.
- Describe how Washington-Lee High School communicates and reports results.
- Identify Washington-Lee High Schools commitment to including all students in the Diploma Programme.

This document draws its authority from the *Diploma Programme: From Principles to Practice* (2015), *Approaches to Teaching and Learning* (2015), *What is an IB Education?* (2017), *Learning diversity and inclusion in IB programmes* (2018) and the IB Program Resource Center online publications and resources. This policy is reviewed annually by the IB Coordinator, the Director of Counseling, an Assistant principal, and the Instructional Lead teacher. This policy can be downloaded electronically from the W-L IB website.

IB mission statement

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

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

Program Philosophy

Washington-Lee High School (WLHS) serves the citizens of Arlington, Virginia's geographically smallest county, located across the Potomac River from the District of Columbia. We educate one of the nations' most diverse and sophisticated student populations – students come from 71 countries and speak 45 different languages. We serve students with a range of programs designed to meet individual needs. Our mission is to prepare and support all students to strive for the best, to become life-long learners, and to become successful, active members of the global community.

True to the IB Mission, WLHS “aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” WLHS believes that all students can learn at a rigorous level. Our schoolwide goal for 100% of all students to challenge themselves by taking at least one IB or AP course before graduating has been met for the last few years.

Promotion of full IB Diploma Programme

Arlington Public Schools (APS) sponsors High School Information Night each October. This session is directed to students who are rising 9th graders and their parents/guardians. It includes a general overview of the high school options in APS as well as the process for transferring. The general session is followed by breakout sessions from each high school program. Participants can attend up to two breakout sessions. The focus of the WLHS session is the IB Diploma Programme as this is the only school that offers it in APS. In addition, all Arlington high schools schedule information sessions to provide parents and students an opportunity to visit the schools, meet the principals, and get a general sense of the personalities of each of the schools. All parents/guardians of rising high school students are encouraged to attend one of these sessions (no RSVP required).

Admissions Process

WLHS is one of three comprehensive high schools in the Arlington Public Schools (APS) district and the only school that offers the IB Diploma Programme. WLHS has an open admissions policy for participation in the Diploma Program. Students who attend one of the other high schools in the district are able to apply for a transfer as long as the criteria have been met.

Prerequisites for transfer to WLHS Pre-IB:

- A's and B's in all subjects
- Algebra I or greater in 8th grade or Geometry or greater in 9th grade
- Spanish II, French II, Arabic II, Chinese II or Latin II in 8th grade OR Spanish III, French III, Chinese III or Latin III in 9th grade
- Short answer/essay question

Selection Process

The selection process has been designed by APS. The number of slots available each year is determined by the APS School Board. An admissions committee scores each student's application using a rubric which incorporates the above- mentioned prerequisites and the student's short-answer question. Applicants are then ranked according to their score. Any student that scores an 11 or higher, out of a possible 15 points, is deemed qualified for acceptance. If the applicant is a rising 9th grader, the admissions committee will only review final grades for 6th and 7th, and first quarter grades for 8th grade. Rising 10th grade applicants will have their final grades reviewed for 6th through 8th, plus first quarter grades for 9th grade.

The APS School Board caps the number of program transfers (W-L Pre-IB and IB Diploma) each year and announces the number of transfers slots available each November based on November enrollment projections. If the number of qualified transfers exceeds the number of available transfer positions, a random, double-blind lottery will be conducted by the Superintendent's Office to determine which students are selected. The remaining students will be placed on a waiting list of alternates to be considered in the event that a student who is offered a position in the program chooses not to accept. As space becomes available, admission will be offered to students on the waiting list in the order established by the lottery. When a student on the waiting list is eligible to fill a vacancy in an existing class, the family will be contacted and invited to enroll their child.

Student Advisement

Students who intend to participate in the full IB Diploma Programme are encouraged to enroll in classes that will best prepare them for the rigors of the IB Diploma Programme. To participate in WLHS' pre-IB Programme, students are advised to take the intensified level of core classes (English, math, science, and social studies) as well as continue their study of a world language. As further preparation, students must take AP US Government during their sophomore year.

<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>
English: Intensified English 9	English: Intensified English 10
World Language: Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic or Latin III	World Language: Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic or Latin IV
History: Intensified World History or AP World History	History: AP Government for Sophomores*
Science: Intensified Biology	Science: Intensified Chemistry
Math: Intensified Geometry or Intensified Algebra II	Math: Intensified Algebra II
P.E./Health I	P.E./Health II
Elective	Elective
Generals Period	Generals Period
<i>*All transfers must take AP Government for Sophomores and a minimum of three IB courses junior and senior year. Please note that Intensified courses are strongly encouraged.</i>	

The IB Coordinator visits all English 10 classes during November and December to share information about the IB Diploma Programme and ways students can participate (i.e. full or partial candidate). A Declaration of Intent form is distributed. Any students interested in the full diploma programme must complete the form, including parent input, and return it to the IB Office. The IB Coordinator meets with all students who return this form to create a two year plan. Additionally, the IB Coordinator hosts an evening event for parents of sophomores to review the IB Diploma Programme requirements, share information about course scheduling and development of two year plans.

Both students and parents can make use of this [WLHS IB Scheduling Tool](#), created by our IB Computer Science teacher, to explore a plan that is right for the student.

Commitment to all students

WLHS is committed to supporting all students to be successful at any level of participation in IB. Students can access support for faculty and staff before school, during our instructional support period during the school day, during lunch, after school and on Saturdays.

IB courses are open to all students who have fulfilled the course prerequisites. WLHS is committed to challenging all students to the rigor of advanced classes and to supporting students in this endeavor. By graduation, 100% of our students take either an IB or an AP course. WLHS understands that each student brings different skills to the classroom and, similar to IB, “that all students should be given opportunities to improve their understanding and that those opportunities should be as fair as possible.” *Learning diversity and inclusion in IB programmes* (2018) HILT/ELL students and students identified as needing Special Education services will be supported appropriately. Additionally, the IB Diploma Programme is available to all students at no additional charge. APS pays the cost of all examination registrations and fees.

Admissions Policy

This policy is reviewed at the end of each school year by the IB Coordinator, the Director of Counseling, an Assistant principal, and the Instructional Lead teacher. This policy can be downloaded electronically from the W-L IB website.