



What is the International Baccalaureate Program?



The IB Program is an international academic program providing a rigorous and accelerated course of study leading to examinations for the IB Diploma. These examinations consist of three higher level exams (two years of study) and three standard level exams (one year of study). Students from all over the world take classes in the subject areas of Studies in Languages and Literature (English); Language Acquisition (Chinese, French, Latin, or Spanish); Individuals and Societies (History, Psychology, and/or Social and Cultural Anthropology); Experimental Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems and/or Physics); Mathematics; and a Sixth Subject or Elective (Art, Film, Music, another Language Acquisition subject, another Experimental Science, or another course from Individuals and Societies). In addition to the six exams, there are three other components to attaining the IB Diploma: students must write a 4,000-word research paper, take a Theory of Knowledge course their junior and senior years, and complete an 18-month volunteer program that increases community involvement through Creativity, Activity and Service. The IB Program meets the needs of highly motivated students and is considered the most rigorous high school curriculum in the world. Since this program of study is not based on one single country, this curriculum represents the desire of the founders to provide students from different educational, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds with the critical, creative, intellectual, environmental, and social perspectives necessary for successfully negotiating their adult world.

A few goals of the International Baccalaureate program and James S. Rickards High School are:

- Students will critically reflect upon the larger issues of international awareness.
- Students will understand the ways of humanity in society and the scientific forces of the environment.
- Students will reach considered conclusions about humanity, language, and literature.
- Students will learn how we learn.
- Students will be informed, tolerant, and willing to communicate readily with others on a range of topics about which they have already formed considered opinions as a result of having shared a common two-year experience with other students from around the world.
- Students will become learners who are inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

The IB world consists of over 5,000 schools in 159 countries. Schools must be officially approved by the International Baccalaureate (IB) and are authorized to offer the IB curriculum and to present candidates for examination. James S. Rickards High School endeavors to carry out the intentions of the International Baccalaureate Organization. Students who do not satisfy the requirements for the full program are recognized for any subjects they complete and will receive the James S. Rickards High School diploma. Many universities throughout the world offer advanced standing to IB Diploma recipients. Colleges and universities, especially the state universities of Florida, recognize the IB Diploma for course credits, awarding up to 30 hours college credit. The IB curriculum can also fulfill the requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship.

Requirements for acceptance of rising 9th grade students into the IB Program are a 3.0 unweighted GPA on all course work taken in Middle School and completion of Algebra 1 or a higher math course prior to entering Rickards.

If you are interested in learning more about the IB Diploma Programme at James S. Rickards High School, please contact the following the following individuals:

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