



Heights High School

Since 1926

Heights High School IB Programme Admission Policy

Heights High School offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme for students in Grades 11 and 12. The IB program is open to all students, regardless of previous educational experience, and is an extension of Heights's mission to promote the development of world citizens.

At Heights High School, we believe all students who wish to challenge themselves both academically and personally should be offered the opportunity. Therefore, students choosing to participate in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) or the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) are not required to take an entrance exam. There is no minimum standardized test score, grade point average, or subject grade that must be achieved. For a student to participate fully in the IBDP or IBCP, he or she must first elect to take the challenge.

A tenth-grade student formally expresses interest in the IB programs by submitting a 2 page essay entitled, "How the IB CP/DP Program Fits Me". This paper demonstrates a student's knowledge of his/her chosen program (DP/CP) and is evidence of a thoughtful choice. Next, a personal meeting with an IB coordinator is scheduled. At this meeting, the student's academic and career goals are discussed. A review of the student's transcript, standardized scores (PSAT, STAAR), and teacher recommendations is undertaken. If any concerns regarding the appropriateness of participating in the full program are expressed by the student, parents, or coordinator, the issues are discussed, and possible interventions and strategies developed, or alternate plans explored.

It is highly recommended that students speak with their current subject area teacher to determine whether an IB subject is an appropriate choice. Any decisions regarding the participation in the IBDP or IBCP must be approved by each student's parent or guardian.

A student who decides to participate in the IB Program, as a Diploma Programme candidate or as a Career-related Programme candidate, can expect to:

- demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility
- develop a serious work ethic
- approach tasks with a sense of purpose
- learn from fellow students as well as teachers
- share with, and contribute to, the community.

The IB Diploma Programme:

The two-year Diploma program provides students with a breadth and depth of rigorous academic study which prepares them for university. Generally, higher level subjects reflect the student's area of special interest. Standard level subjects complement the higher-level choices, but do not generally require the same degree of specialized knowledge and understanding. IB Diploma students choose 6 subjects, no more than 4 at higher level and the remaining at standard level, to study concurrently with Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and the Creativity, Activity and Service Program.

The IB Career-related Programme:

The Career-related Programme (CP) is an innovative education programme tailored to students who want to focus on career-related learning in the last two years of high school. It combines courses from the International Baccalaureate's highly regarded Diploma Programme (DP) with an approved career-related study program and a unique CP core. The core consists of four components--Language Development; Service Learning; Personal and Professional Skills and a Reflective Project—blended together to enhance critical thinking and intercultural understanding. Combined, these elements help students develop the communication and personal skills necessary for success in a rapidly changing world.

Heights High School International Baccalaureate Programme Agreement

Heights High School fosters students to become life-long learners, critical and compassionate thinkers, and informed participants in local and world affairs who are conscious of the shared humanity that binds all people together in a global society while respecting a variety of cultures and attitudes.

The IB student is expected to maintain the following minimum standards for achievement and conduct:

- will maintain a satisfactory grade (75-100) for all courses for each semester. Averages resulting below a C average will be evaluated and a student will be placed on a growth plan.
- will exercise a growth mindset by viewing lower grades and other challenges as opportunities for growth and actively seeking out after school tutorials, teacher assistance, and counseling when experiencing academic problems.
- will take IB DP examinations aligned with the courses in which their IB plan requires.
- will earn passing scores on Texas mandated tests (currently STAAR) applicable for courses and grade levels as required by the State of Texas.
- **will not engage in any form of academic dishonesty, (malpractice).**
- will maintain a conduct grade of *satisfactory* or *excellent* for all courses
- will exhibit good behavior as outlined in the HISD Code of Student Conduct and not receive a suspension from school.
- will maintain good attendance in compliance with the HISD attendance policy.
- will promptly and aggressively respond to any decline in performance.

- will attend meetings as required with the IB Coordinator to discuss current academic progress, progress toward IB exams, and other IB requirements.
- will complete all components of the IB Diploma program or Career-related program.
- If a student fails to meet the minimum standards outlined above, the following actions may ensue determined by the severity of the violation:
- ***A committee of IB faculty and Heights High School administrators will review the agreement violation and may decide to exit the student from the IB Diploma or Career-related programme.***

The parent (s) or guardian(s) of the student will:

- be diligent in monitoring his/her progress in IB classes through the district provided parent portal to a student's grade reports.
- contact the teachers as soon as possible if there is a question or concern regarding the student's progress in classes.
- be supportive of student due dates and school obligations including the summer IB responsibilities.
- be understanding and supportive of the challenges of a high school student in an advanced level of study. Quiet space and time for study will be required.
- reimburse the school/district for exam costs if the student does not complete the components by the due dates established by the school as required by IBO.

Heights High School will:

- provide a quality education aimed at preparing students for IB examinations as well as college admission.
- Communicate with parents through the Heights website, progress reports, and various publications mailed from the school.
- Provide a supportive and instructional environment to guide, mentor and assist IB candidates through the successful completion of the IB components.

