



Wichita High School East INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

**2008-09
FACT SHEET**

What is the International Baccalaureate?

The International Baccalaureate Program is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Wichita East High School is one of nearly 2,000 schools in 124 countries authorized to provide the IB program to nearly 500,000 students worldwide. East High has offered the IB diploma program for 18 years. For more information, please visit the organization's website at www.ibo.org, or the IB link on the East High Web site: <http://east.usd259.org>.

• What is the IB curriculum?

- IB students take specially designed courses to prepare them to meet IB diploma requirements, including externally evaluated examinations in six academic disciplines, externally evaluated essays, lab workbooks, and oral presentations, as well as an externally evaluated 4,000 word research essay.
- IB courses in math, science, English, social studies, foreign language, art, and upper level theater, music, and computer science are separate from USD 259 and East High courses. IB course curricula, goals, and objectives are uniform at all IB authorized schools.
- Because IB coursework and exams are graded externally according to the same criteria, IB students are evaluated on world standards, not merely local, state, or even national standards.

• What is the Pre-IB (PIB) program?

Students begin the program in the 9th grade and progress through two years of preparation called Pre-IB, followed by two years of the IB Diploma program in 11th and 12th grades.

• Who are East High IB students?

Our 407 Pre-IB and IB students come to East from nearly thirty middle schools from around the region. Approximately 18% come from area private schools or from suburban school districts.

• What is an IB Diploma?

Students who earn sufficient points on their six subject examinations earn the IB Diploma. The East High IB program has been very successful in terms of the number of its students who earn the IB Diploma upon completion of the program:

- The diploma rate for **United States** IB schools is **75%**.
- The diploma rate for IB schools **worldwide** is **79%**.
- **The average East High IB diploma rate since the class of 2000 is 92%.**

• What are the benefits of IB?

- IB is **excellent preparation for college**, no matter which college you plan to attend. In addition to exceptional academic content, IB coursework helps prepare students to think critically and write well across the curriculum.
- **Average ACT score (class of 2008): 29.3**
- **Average SAT score (class of 2008):**
critical reading: 653, math: 653;
writing: 643
- Our IB students have chosen to attend a **wide variety of colleges and universities**, locally and across the country. (Our IB graduates have been admitted to the most selective colleges and universities in the nation, including Yale, Princeton, Stanford, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins, Wellesley, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Cal-Berkeley, MIT, Northwestern, and Washington Univ. at St. Louis.)
- **IB students are enormously successful in college:** A study by Virginia Tech showed that at the end of one year of college, 88% of students from IB schools had a B average or better while only 40% of students who had been offered credit on the basis of Advanced Placement had a B average or better. A study by Florida State University indicated that students with IB diplomas had the skills and work habits to allow them to keep their incoming high school g.p.a.'s during their first year of college, while students with just AP credits saw their first-year college g.p.a.'s drop nearly half a letter grade from their high school g.p.a.'s.
- Students performing well on IB exams sometimes earn **college credit and/or advanced standing**. The amount of credit awarded varies from school to school. Some schools offer sophomore standing to students holding an IB diploma and **some students are offered significant scholarships**, depending upon the college they attend and their grade point average. Merely completing the IB program does not guarantee admission to a particular school, nor does it guarantee a scholarship. However, **colleges emphasize the importance of high school students taking the most challenging courses available, and look very favorably upon students who complete the IB program.**

• What is CAS?

CAS is an acronym for Creativity, Action & Service, the IB component that emphasizes learning through experience. Students are required to earn a total of 200 CAS hours during their 9th-12th grade years at East High. Creativity is interpreted as imaginatively as possible to cover a wide range of arts and other activities. Action does not restrict itself to expeditions, sports, or physical training, but may include carrying out creative or service projects. Service emphasizes community or social service.

- **May IB students participate in East High sports and activities?**

Absolutely! Historically, IB students are among the most active students in East High, participating on every sports team and in drama, debate, scholars' bowl, student government, journalism, vocal and instrumental music, yearbook, pom-pon, cheerleading, etc. There is a strong correlation between involvement in school activities and academic achievement.

- **Are additional fees required to participate in the IB program?**

There is no fee for applying to the IB program. Students who are accepted to the IB program must pay approximately \$675 total during the junior and senior years for IB test fees. Exceptions are made for families that cannot afford these fees. **No one is denied participation in IB because of finances.**

- **How are students admitted to the East High IB Program?**

Admission into the East High program is by application only. Applications are available in early December. Applicants must:

- attend an IB admissions testing session in late January, consisting of a writing test and a critical thinking test
- submit a completed application packet, including standardized test scores and transcripts of grades and attendance
- request recommendations from three current teachers

A selection committee reviews completed applications and then invites certain qualified applicants and their parents to interview for admission with an IB staff member. Students not selected may be put on a waiting list at the parent's request. More than 98% of East IB students enter as freshmen. If space permits, the program accepts a few sophomores each year.

What do graduates say about IB?

Whether they are attending school here in Wichita or far away, at a big school or small one, in a public institution or private school, the common refrain we hear from our graduates is how well their IB experience prepared them for college. Following are comments from some recent **East High IB graduates**:

"I can't even imagine what college would be like if I hadn't suffered through IB. All the IB credit I received allowed me to skip all the dull freshmen survey classes and jump right into the courses that really interest me. In IB, you're encouraged to actually talk to your teachers outside of class and about more than school. It really helped me take the initiative to get to know my professors here and be more than a name on the roll sheet that they can't pronounce. IB keeps you busy, but you learn how to budget your time, which really becomes useful when you're on your own in college with no parents around to insist that you do homework or sleep."

- Sue Nguyen, University of Tulsa graduate and Goldwater Scholar, and second year medical student

"IB brought my high school experience to a whole new level. Not only did I learn incredibly from my classes, but I also gained valuable life lessons from my talented peers and developed skills that are continuing to serve me well in college; indeed, I feel just as prepared for college-level work, if not more so, than many of my classmates from renowned prep schools. East High IB seems to attract the area's brightest and most motivated students and the highest caliber of teachers. I feel blessed to have been a part of it."

- Nancy Cheng, Harvard University graduate

"When I arrived at Penn, I realized that my time management skills, willingness to interact with professors, and overall ability to succeed in college were far superior to my peers, even those with incredible intelligence, talent, and already impressive resumes. I realized that after four years in IB, it wasn't my first year in college, it was my fifth."

- Chris Jacob, Wharton School of Business at University of Pennsylvania graduate

"It's worth all of the work that you put into it. Even if you don't receive a lot of credit at the university you choose to attend, the study skills facilitated by the IB curriculum are irreplaceable. IB develops critical thinking and time management skills to a level unequaled by other high school programs, and for this reason I have been able to keep up with schoolwork and play a varsity sport while some of my classmates are struggling to find time to go to class."

- Whitney Smith, Washington University in St. Louis graduate

"IB was so successful in preparing me for my higher education experience that I honestly can say college was easier than high school was. As a result of my time in East High IB, I am better prepared in all my classes, and where other students struggle, I feel completely prepared. IB was well worth all the time and effort!"

- Whitney Gent, Drury University graduate

"I believe IB made all the difference in my college acceptances. There are thousands of kids exactly like me who also act, dance, do community service, and have good grades, but colleges understand what it means to do all of those things successfully while in IB. IB is synonymous with higher standards. I would not have done high school any other way."

-- Christine Murphy, Princeton University graduate