



Calgary Board of Education



**SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME**

**AREA 1**  
**INFORMATION PACKAGE**

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## **AREA 1 IB APPLICATION PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Junior high school students may apply to an Area IB High School through the *Area Application* process. Students living within Area 1 and outside the boundaries of Sir Winston Churchill High School apply for tentative admittance into this school's IB program.

Sir Winston Churchill High School **does not** have a Grade 10 Honors or a Pre-IB Program therefore **all** Sir Winston Churchill High School grade 10 students **must apply for confirmed acceptance and admittance** into Sir Winston Churchill's IB program in November of that student's Grade 10 year.

2. Applicants will be accepted on the basis of: quality of application; program type; and ability of the school to accommodate numbers. Sir Winston Churchill will place an emphasis on the IB Diploma Program.
3. Those applicants who have applied to Sir Winston Churchill and are unsuccessful in accessing the IB Program **may have** their application forwarded to the IB Coordinators at John G. Diefenbaker, Lester B. Pearson or Henry Wisewood high schools.
4. Sir Winston Churchill **will not** be able to accommodate any students who are unsuccessful at their initial school choice.
5. Applications should be available through the student's current Junior High School or through the Calgary Board of Education website.
6. Applications will be considered within the following priority: Calgary Board of Education Junior High Schools [public]; Charter Schools; home schools; private schools and then separate schools. (The Catholic Separate System offers the IB Program through St. Mary's and Father Lacombe.)
7. Students who are successful in accessing tentative admittance into Sir Winston Churchill's IB program through the Area 1 application process but who are not successful when re-applying in November of their Grade 10 year **may be re-directed to their designated high school** for the second semester of Grade 10.
8. Sir Winston Churchill **cannot** accommodate all three (3) sciences for IB students.
9. Sir Winston Churchill **does not** work with the Calgary Chinese School in providing Mandarin IB.

### **BE INFORMED**

### **AREA 1 IB INFORMATION/REMINDERS**

1. Look through the *General Information Booklet* as well as the attached pages.
2. Ask questions of your Junior High School Counselor and of the IB Coordinator at Sir Winston Churchill High School.

3. Area 1 applicants will receive a package of information and registration guidelines from Sir Winston Churchill High School once a placement has been offered. [January/February]
4. Once you are in Grade 10 at Sir Winston Churchill High School go to the information session about IB, ask about IB in Guidance, ask IB students about IB, ask the Coordinator about IB.
5. Do not make uniformed or ill-informed decisions.
6. REMEMBER: Your decision to become involved doesn't have to take place until December of your first semester of Grade 10. Keep in mind, if your designated high school is not Sir Winston Churchill High School and you apply through the Area I IB Process you have a commitment to apply for the IB program in your Grade 10 year!
7. IB Fees will be due in your Grade 11 and Grade 12 years.
8. Please ask questions if you are unsure. Remember, the IB program establishes expectations for behaviour and academic integrity. All IB students will be expected to sign and adhere to an Academic Integrity Policy and Statement.

**IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT APPLYING FOR IB  
PLAN FOR IT!**

## **OVER VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM**

Are you planning on attending university? Do you love learning and enjoy a rigorous academic challenge? The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program may be just what you are looking for in a high school program. Typically the type of students in IB are self-motivated, love learning and enjoy studying. Success in this program will depend on your ability and willingness to:

- a. Handle a demanding workload at a fairly quick pace.
- b. Work to understand concepts and their development rather than just memorize.
- c. Learn to become an independent, self-disciplined student.
- d. Handle disappointment and frustration with openness and a positive attitude.

Diploma IB candidates take full IB in grade 11 and grade 12 with all your courses in IB classes/curriculum. In addition, you will complete Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and 150 Creativity, Action and Service (C.A.S.) hours.

Certificate IB candidates must take a minimum of two (2) IB courses from the 15 or 20 level to the course completion at the 30 or 35 level. Student must also be involved in 75 Creativity, Action and Service (C.A.S.) hours.

In May, you will write challenging IB exams and where applicable, the Alberta Education Diploma exams in January and/or June.

## IB COURSES OFFERED AT SWC

IB courses are offered at either the Higher Level (HL) or the Standard Level (SL). A combination of three (3) HL courses and three (3) SL courses, plus completion of Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, and CAS hours will provide the student with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. The school decides which courses to offer at the HL and SL levels.

- English HL\* - (World Literature Study) English 20IB, English 30/35IB
- Social Studies HL\* - Social 20IB, Social Studies 30IB/World History 30IB)
- Mathematics SL\* - Pure Math 20IB, Math 30/31IB
- Biology SL – Biology 15IB, Biology 20/30IB
- Physics SL – Physics 15IB, Physics 20/30IB
- Chemistry HL – Chemistry 20IB, Chemistry 30/35IB
- Visual Arts HL – Art 20IB, Art 30/31IB
- Computer Science HL – (Computer Science 31IB, Computer Science 33IB)
- Chinese SL – (Mandarin) Chinese 20IB, Chinese 30IB
- French SL – French 21IB, French 31A/31B IB (Experienced in the French Language)
- French ab initio SL – French 20IB, French 30A/ 30B IB
- Theory of Knowledge\* - 30IB must be registered in World History IB and Social Studies IB
- Extended Essay\* - 30IB
- CAS\* - (Creativity, Action, and Service)

\* Full Diploma B student must take these courses, plus one of Biology IB or Physics IB, one of either Chemistry IB, Computer Science IB or Visual Arts IB, and one of the IB Second Languages.

At Sir Winston Churchill the first semester of grade 10 is used as an indicator of student adaptability and readiness for the IB program.

- a. All interested students must apply in Grade 10.
- b. Selection is granted on a course by course basis and the admission criteria:
  - A mark of 75% or better in the prerequisite course.
  - Recommendations by your grade 10 subject teachers.
  - Program desired –Diploma IB candidates are given priority placement.
  - A well rounded selection of IB courses for certificate IB candidates.
- c. Diploma IB students will have no time in their schedules for options especially within their grade 11 and grade 12 years.
- d. Few IB students will be able to complete all three (3) IB sciences
- e. Fees for IB are paid at the time of registration for grade 11 and grade 12 students and are established by the International Baccalaureate Organization yearly. The average cost over two (2) years for diploma students is approximately \$850.00 Canadian. These are non-refundable fees.

**Please do not apply for IB courses you have no intention of completing them. You take away the opportunity from someone else.**

**If you accept placement in IB you will be expected to fulfill your commitment to the program, not withstanding unforeseen circumstances. Withdrawal from the program/courses will be granted only with the IB Coordinator's consent and/or medical certificate; not because your interests have changed!**

## EXPECTATIONS OF SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL IB STUDENTS

- Believes in integrity and honesty
- Motivated to participate and complete assignments
- Desires to learn and not memorize
- Committed when the going gets tough
- Willing to try new ideas and methods
- Shows a positive open attitude
- Communicates with teachers and administration effectively
- Has realistic personal expectations
- Strives for attainable excellence; can live with imperfection
- Practices humility and helpfulness

## BEFORE YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH IB

1. You must apply. If you live within Area 1 but out of Churchill's designated boundary areas and are interested in attending you must apply using the CBE Area IB Application process. Please remember, if you are accepted via the CBE Area IB application process you will be only tentatively registered in the IB program. You will need to apply once you are in grade 10 at Sir Winston Churchill High School.
2. You must have the prerequisite courses before you can apply for the IB program in grade 10.
3. Make the decision about IB for the 'right' reasons. Choose the IB program because you want to, not because your parents what you to, or because your brother or sister did!
4. Make the decision about IB with as much information and thought as possible. "I didn't know" is not an acceptable excuse, reason or explanation for wishing to withdraw from the IB program once you have started.
5. Involvement within a Diploma program means you will have no time for option courses.
6. It is your responsibility to ask questions, go to information sessions, and be aware of application times and deadlines.
7. Ask yourself these following questions before becoming involved with the IB program. Be honest with yourself about your answers and feelings!
  - Will I always complain about a demanding academic workload?
  - Will I worry about my marks and grades all the time?
  - Will I be in class for the sake or learning? Not for memorizing, for prestige or because this might look good on my high school transcript.
  - Do I generally have good work habits? Good study habits? Time management skills? Am I organized? Or, am I willing to learn these skills?
  - Do I have confidence in myself and my teachers to ultimately be successful in IB?
  - Can I learn with an open, tolerant, and honest willing attitude?
  - Is academic integrity and honesty important to me?
  - Will I be able to withstand some disappointments and frustrations?
  - Do I only do homework when it is specifically assigned or when it counts for marks?
  - Do I like school? Learning? Being in a class with others who also do?
  - Will I participate openly, politely, and enthusiastically? Share? Cooperate? Be involved?

**Being involved within the IB program is not only challenging and a risk, but is also very rewarding and provides the opportunity for great experiences.**

*“Beyond intellectual rigor and high academic standards, strong emphasis is placed on the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship, to the end that IB students become critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs...”*

*Quoted from the International Baccalaureate Organization.*

## **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is IB?**

- IBO stand for International Baccalaureate Organization.
- IBO is a private education institution based in Geneva with regional offices.
- IBO was founded in 1960.
- IB tries to provide all its recognized schools with a common curriculum.
- IB curriculum is recognized universally by post-secondary institutions.
- IB curriculum emphasizes critical thinking.
- IB curriculum is a rigorous pre-university course of studies.
- IB curriculum promotes the understanding of material and content, not the memorization of material and content.
- IB curriculum promotes the communication of understanding through verbal and written processes.
- IB curriculum is tested through examinations set by the IBO, by in-school teacher evaluations and projects, some established by the IB teachers themselves and others established by the IBO.

### **What is the difference between the Diploma and Certificate IB Programs?**

#### **Diploma Program**

Diploma Program means students will be taking the following courses within the IB curriculum

- Mathematics,
- History (Social Studies)
- Science (Biology or Physics)
- English
- A Second Language (French or Mandarin)
- One of the following: Chemistry, Visual Arts or Computer Science
- Theory of Knowledge
- Writing an Extended Essay
- Involved in 150 CAS hours

A diploma Program begins in the second semester of grade 10 and is completed within the last semester of grade 12.

Within a Diploma Program some IB exams are written in May of grade 11 and the remainder in May of grade 12.

#### **What is the difference between IB and AP?**

#### **Certificate Program**

Certificate Program means student will be taking a minimum of two (2) IB courses within the IB curriculum.

- Minimum of two (2) IB courses from the beginning of the sequence of the course to its completion.
- Course selections must reflect the philosophy of the IB program consisting of a variety of disciplines
- Involved in 75 CAS hours

Some IB courses begin in the second semester of grade 10, others begin in grade 11.

Within a Certificate Program some IB exams are written in May of grade 11 and the remainder in May of grade 12.

- AP – Advanced Placement – is a set of examinations that Princeton University sells to high schools. These exams may be challenged by any student, at any time and may or may not result in advanced placement or credit when the student enters university.
- AP is generally based on the premise of what the North American universities are currently testing in the first year and then develops its curriculum.
- AP website: <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/homepage>
- IB – International Baccalaureate is a program of many components based on a philosophy of learning. The program places high expectations on rigor, understanding, and communications.
- IB places a high emphasis on the development of the learning process, with frequent practice, reinforcement, and opportunity to express understanding and knowledge within its examinations.
- IB is generally based on the premise of what a student should know in the first year of university and then develops a curriculum framework.
- IB website: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

There is a great amount of information available on both of these programs. The November 8, 2004 edition of the Time Magazine has a feature article regarding AP.

### **How is IB related to Alberta Education and its curriculum?**

- These are two separate and distinct educational entities.
- Students take the Alberta curriculum courses and IB courses simultaneously.
- Students receive two separate transcripts – one from Alberta Education and one from the International Baccalaureate Organization.

### **Why would I want to be involved in IB?**

- Desire and interest in learning. Learning for life NOT for grades.
- Desire to develop and refine skills in preparation for post-secondary learning.
- An opportunity to approach learning from a different perspective, philosophy and methodology.
- An opportunity to be in a classroom with others who are there to learn.

### **Why would I not be involved with IB?**

- My parents want me to do this.
- My brother did this program.
- I am brilliant in Mathematics.
- It will get me into an Ivy League University.
- It will give me an 'edge' over everyone else in university.
- I can skip courses in university and get advanced credit.
- It will look impressive on my university and scholarship applications.

## **What can I expect?**

- Homework
- Challenging work, not busy work.
- An emphasis on developing self-initiative, self-confidence and self-reliance.
- Too much work.
- Tears, frustration, sometimes even failure.
- Lower marks at times, lower than I have ever had.
- A sense of accomplishment.
- Friends and peers I can rely on and work with.
- A sense of true learning.
- In first year university, a realization of how much I have gained from participating in this program.

## **What qualifications do I need to apply for an IB program?**

- Prerequisite courses. Example: Pure Math 10 for Pure Math 20IB
- A positive attitude.
- Commitment.
- Parental support and understanding.
- The ability and willingness to ask questions, ask for help, and share your expertise and knowledge with others.
- A willingness to listen and follow directions and instructions.
- Involvement in school clubs and extracurricular involvement.
- Attempt the Math IB and Science IB challenges.
- A history of academic integrity, honesty, and respect for teachers and fellow students.
- Sir Winston Churchill High School teacher recommendations for your involvement in the program.

## **Will my marks change?**

- Students in IB courses are provided with the opportunity to participate in courses which are demanding and as such their grades may be somewhat lower than what they expect.
- Sir Winston Churchill High School recognized this problem and has developed policies that reflect the difference in expectations, thus making allowance for the IB component when reporting marks to Alberta Education. The marks of most IB students are adjusted to reflect what they might have earned if they had been in a non-IB course. These are the grades submitted to Alberta Education as teacher based grades on the student's behalf.
- The IB students write the same Provincial Diploma Exams and general have a significant advantage within these examinations.

## **How are my grades determined within IB?**

### **How are my grades reported to Alberta Education?**

Teachers provide in-class assignments, tests, quizzes, labs, etc. to help students develop content, understanding, and skill development. Teachers will grade these according to their assessment expectations, needs, and criteria. These assignments should a combination of IB assessments and Alberta Education assessments. Teachers will submit a percentage grade to Alberta Education on behalf of the student.



For the IB grade, each student within each discipline will work on an IB Internal Assessment assignment that will be graded by the teacher according to IB criteria. This Internal Assessment is submitted to IB on behalf of the student and constitutes a percentage of that student's final grade within that course. The student will write a series of examinations within each subject in either May of grade 11 or May of grade 12. These examinations will be developed by and submitted to IBO for grading. A combination of student achievement on the examinations and the Internal Assessment will provide a final grade for the student in that IB course. IB does not use a percentage grading system; it grades students on a scale from 1 – 7 with 1 being lowest and 7 being highest. The range of marks translating into a 1-7 grade will vary from year to year depending upon the achievement of the global community.

### **How much does IB cost?**

A Diploma program will cost the student and his/her parents approximately \$850.00 Canadian over two and a half years. IB fees are paid only in the year the IB exam will be written for an IB course.

A Certificate program will cost the student and his/her parents approximately \$80.00 Canadian per IB course and a registration fee of \$85.00 Canadian.

## **GRADE 10 STUDENTS IB REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

1. Students interested in Math and/or Science Certificate IB courses or a Diploma IB program should be registered in Pure Math 10 and Science 10 in the first semester of their grade 10 year. Students interested in pursuing Math and/or Science courses (beginning the second semester of grade 10) will submit an application to the IB Coordinator in November of their grade 10 year. As the IB program is designed to be a program rather than individual courses of enrichment, acceptance into the program will look at the applicants' total requests. A well rounded program will receive priority attention and placement.
2. If students are interested in IB courses other than Math or Sciences, an application will take place within SWC during May of their grade 10 year.
3. IB requires commitment and strong parental support. Once in IB, students are not permitted to withdraw. Therefore it is important to think the decision to participate in the program through carefully weighing both immediate and long-term goals.

### **How does a grade 10 student apply?**

- Follow the daily news within the Churchillian and pick up an application when they are available, usually in late November.
- Make sure you know when and where the Math IB Challenge and/ or the Science IB Challenge will be held. You must participate in these to apply for these IB courses.
- Work through the application package and the application itself. Follow the instructions provided. Complete the application in pen.
- Ask three teachers for recommendations. Then provide each teacher with one of the recommendation forms attached to the application. Make sure you complete all the necessary information on this form before giving it to the teachers.
- Submit the application on or before the due date.
- Apply seriously. Make sure you apply for a 'balanced' certificate program. (Example: Physics IB and Math IB is not a balanced certificate program.)

- Make sure you have thought this through and have planned for the future. There is no withdrawal once you have been accepted into the program unless you submit a medical certificate.
- Thank the teachers who have provided a recommendation for you.

### **What happens once I have applied?**

1. Applications will be reviewed.
2. Teacher recommendations will be reviewed.
3. Decisions will be made before the Christmas Holidays.
4. All IB applicants will receive a letter outlining the dispensation of their application.
5. Applicants who have been accepted into the IB program must return Confirmation of Acceptance form by the due date. This will be included with the letter received.
6. Applicants who have been accepted into the IB program will receive a copy of the IB General Regulations and will review such document with their parents/guardians. A form indicating receipt of and review of the regulations must be returned by the appropriate due date. This will be included with the letter received.
7. Applicants who have been accepted into the IB program will receive a copy of the IB Academic Integrity and Policy Statement. A form indicating receipt of and review of must be returned by the appropriate due date. This will be included with the letter received.
8. All IB applicants must make an appointment with their Guidance Counselor in order to ensure they are appropriately timetabled for second semester.
9. Students who came to Churchill on an Area 1 IB Application last February and who do not apply for the IB program or who are not accepted into the IB program will be referred to their appropriate Assistant Principal.