

IB FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

The IB Program gives students a disciplined, goal-oriented outlook and a work ethic that will serve them well no matter where they go or what they do. It is also a strong indicator of success in college.

Over 1,000 North American colleges recognize IB Diploma and exams for advanced credit and/or placement. Check with colleges or universities to see their individual views and guidelines.

“It’s really not about how intelligent you are. It’s more about the amount of work that you’re willing to put in. It’s really about determination.” – Haley Swedlund, 9th grade



**The International Baccalaureate
Diploma Program:
A Global Program for a Global Future**



WASHBURN RURAL
JR. BLUES



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Internationally-recognized preparation for college and beyond

Life in the 21st century, in an interconnected and globalized world, requires critical-thinking skills and a sense of international-mindedness, both of which International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program students learn and understand. The IB Diploma Program is designed to be academically challenging to prepare students to be successful in college and throughout life. More than just a set of classes, IB is an entire program that gives students a holistic educational experience.

Founded and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968, IB has garnered international recognition by colleges and universities and currently is taught to 900,000 students in more than 3,000 IB World Schools in 141 countries.

Washburn Rural High School went through an extensive authorization process to train its teachers on the IB approach to learning, and is one of only six Kansas schools to offer the IB Program. Ongoing evaluations ensure that the IB Diploma standards are met and exceeded, which raises the standard of learning for the entire school, not just the students who participate in the IB Program.

“Not only the accelerated education inspired me, but the cultural aspect. This makes IB students aware of other people’s cultures as well as their own.”

– Hannah Schifman, 10th grade

A holistic approach

While AP offers high-quality preparation in individual subjects, IB brings those subjects together in a comprehensive program. IB emphasizes oral and written communication, critical reflection and community service.

Students explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and worldwide impact, gaining in-depth knowledge and understanding of a range of disciplines. IB helps them gain a better understanding of their own culture and personal history along with the perspectives, values and traditions of other people and communities. It teaches students to apply thinking skills critically to recognize and solve complex problems.

THE PROFILE OF AN IB STUDENT

The IB Program develops the whole student—physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically. IB is well-suited to students who strive for these 10 attributes:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- A Thinker
- A Communicator
- Principled
- Open-Minded
- Caring
- A Risk-Taker
- Balanced
- Reflective

IB Structure

In the junior and senior years, students study six courses at standard or higher level, choosing one subject each from groups 1 to 6:

- GROUP 1** **Primary Language**
A literature-based course presented in the student’s best language; student picks the language courses based on proficiency.
- GROUP 2** **Second Language**
Courses are literature-based, in a second language the student wishes to learn up to the near-native speaker level. French Ab Initio and Spanish are offered.
- GROUP 3** **Individuals & Societies**
• History
• Information technology in a global society
- GROUP 4** **Experimental sciences**
• Biology
• Chemistry
- GROUP 5** **Mathematics & Computer Science**
• Mathematical studies standard level
• Mathematics standard and higher level
- GROUP 6** **The Arts**
• Music
• Visual Arts

In addition, the program has three core requirements that will help expand the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding:

- **Extended Essay**
Students complete independent research through an in-depth exploration of a question relating to one of the courses.
- **Theory of Knowledge**
Students reflect on the nature of knowledge, examining and learning to appreciate different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).
- **Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)**
Students actively learn from experiences outside the classroom by doing real tasks that embody each aspect of CAS, either by combining all components into one activity or exploring them separately.

Assessing Your Progress

Throughout the school year, assignments are initially graded by Washburn Rural High School teachers that are then moderated by external IB examiners. At the end of the program, students take written exams that are graded only by external IB examiners.

“I chose to participate in IB because I wanted to be able to reach my full potential, strive for my best, and obtain the most knowledge I can.” – Megan McNamee, 9th grade

