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Signature
PROGRAMS

International
Baccalaureate

TRIBE TENET

International Baccalaureate (IB)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Signature Program is an internationally recognized curriculum that offers 11th-and 12th-grade students an opportunity to earn the IB diploma. More than one million students worldwide participate in IB programs. The program is offered in more than 3,463 public and private secondary schools in more than 143 countries around the world. Of those, 1,374 are in the United States and only seven are in Kansas. Nearly half of the state's IB programs are in Shawnee Mission (Shawnee Mission East, Shawnee Mission North, and Shawnee Mission Northwest).

To earn the IB diploma, students complete and test in six IB subjects; write an extended essay of independent research guided by a faculty mentor, complete 150 hours of creative, action, and service activities (C.A.S.); and participate in a critical thinking course called theory of knowledge. This advanced, comprehensive program of study offers an integrated approach to learning across the disciplines with an emphasis on meeting the challenges of living and working in a global, technological society.



**We promote international mindedness
and respect, not as an alternative to
a sense of cultural and national identity,
but as an essential part of life in the
21st century.**

Program Components

IB learners strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

“IB programmes have been recognized and praised by admissions officers at a variety of prestigious colleges and universities. Christoph Guttentag, director of admissions at Duke University, has stated that “one of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its structure and quality. It’s a coordinated programme, well established, well known and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the curriculum is terrific.”

- www.ibo.org



Creativity, Action, Service (C.A.S.) Hours

What does Creativity, Action, Service mean?

- **Creativity:** This aspect covers a wide range of arts and other activities outside the normal curriculum. This could involve participating in dance, theater, music, and art, for example. Commitment to learning an art form is the goal.
- **Action:** Involves the participation in expeditions, individual and team sports, and physical activities outside the normal curriculum. It also involves physical activity in carrying out creative and service projects.
- **Service:** Service activities involve doing things with others and developing a real commitment with them.

“I am thankful for the impact of C.A.S. (and indeed, the International Baccalaureate Signature Program in its totality) on my life as, without these aspects, I feel I would not have realized and discovered my true aspirations, ambitions, and ultimately my true potential.”

- Aly Haji, Student, SM East



Independent Research

- ▲ Students work on independent research with the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Program Requirements

The IB Signature Program consists of six areas of study. These subjects are represented by the framework shown below. A candidate must select one subject from groups 1-5. The sixth subject can be selected from group six or a candidate may select an additional subject from groups two or four.



SM North Graduation

SM North celebrated the first graduate from the school's IB program in 2014.

Enrollment Information

All district high school students are eligible to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Signature Program courses as full-time students on transfer to Shawnee Mission East, North, or Northwest or as part-time students, schedule permitting. Students are responsible for their own transportation to the program location.

Enrollment and transfer forms are available online at www.smsd.org. These forms are also available from the school counselor. Enrollment and transfer forms must be completed no later than January 5 and should be submitted to the principal at the student's home high school.

For more information, contact the school counselor or the International Baccalaureate Signature Program coordinator.

Additional information about the Shawnee Mission School District Signature Programs can be found at <http://signature.smsd.org/pages/default.aspx>.

Contact Information

Shawnee Mission East High School

7500 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 993-6600
signature.smsd.org/ib/east

Shawnee Mission North High School

7401 Johnson Drive
Shawnee Mission, KS 66202
(913) 993-6900
signature.smsd.org/ib/north

Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

12701 W. 67th Street
Shawnee Mission, KS 66216
(913) 993-7200
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