

# **Westbury High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Admissions Policy**

We at Westbury High School are committed to an open enrollment admissions policy for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and its related courses. We believe that all students should be provided the opportunity to undertake the challenges of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and its related courses.

## **Open Enrollment Philosophy**

In keeping with the International Baccalaureate learner profile, we believe that as educators we must be open-minded about the potential of students to achieve academic success. We also believe that the two year structure of most International Baccalaureate courses provides for the opportunity to support the development and flourishing of students with a wide variety of academic backgrounds including students who have completed Regents, Honors, or Advanced Placement courses in 9th and 10th grade. For this reason, we have established an open enrollment policy for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and Westbury High School and its related courses. There are no achievement standards established to determine qualification for enrollment. However, students should complete 6 plus credits as a freshman and have a total of 13 plus credits in sophomore year in order to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. They must also take their required health class before entering into the program in order to be on track to graduate according to New York State requirements. Students may choose to enroll in either the full diploma program or individual courses based on interest and motivation. There are also no set limits on the number of students that may enroll as full diploma programme students or diploma course students.

## **Admissions principals:**

With the philosophy above in mind, we affirm these principals as guidance for admission into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme:

- ❖ All children can learn when challenged by high expectations and when given the resources and support to meet those expectations.
- ❖ We should support and encourage students to be risk takers in their journey towards becoming lifelong learners.
- ❖ We should seek to encourage students to pursue advanced course studies who may have been overlooked in the earlier years of their educational journey.
- ❖ A student's past academic record of achievement is valuable information to support an enrollment decision but is only one piece of evidence among many upon which such decisions are made.
- ❖ Individual students may exceed expectations when instructional strategies are adjusted in a thoughtful, reflective manner to support the individual needs of each student.
- ❖ The educational curriculum a student chooses to pursue is best determined by the parents and the student with the supporting guidance and advice of teachers,

guidance counselors, building administration and International Baccalaureate diploma programme coordinator.

### **Links to other written policies:**

#### **☰ Language Policy**

The Westbury High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme admissions Policy is supported by the language offerings we provide to support language acquisition. We seek to offer Language B courses to allow the broadest range of students to participate in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. We strive to support and include students who are English Language Learners and the principles that will support our ability to provide support and encouragement to these students.

#### **☰ Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy**

Being we at Westbury High School have an open enrollment policy, the Academic Honesty Integrity Policy is reviewed with all students before entering the Diploma Programme. Students are informed that in all International Baccalaureate courses their work will be reviewed for originality and analyzed for copied, unreferenced, or improperly cited material in order to educate students about plagiarism and prevent academic misconduct or malpractice.

#### **☰ Inclusion Policy**

Since Westbury High Schools admissions policy is an open enrollment policy, we support the inclusion of all students regardless of special education status. Prospective International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme candidates with learning disabilities or physical impairments are informed about their rights with regards to accommodations and modifications. They will be provided with testing and other assessment modifications as outlined in their individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 plans. If the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) allows for similar accommodations during summative examinations, the students will be provided with them, after formal approval is sought and received. All accommodations provided when special needs students take International Baccalaureate exams are based on the approved procedures and practices of the International Baccalaureate Organization, which may differ to some extent from the assessment modifications outlined in the students local IEP and 504 Plan.

#### **☰ Assessment Policy**

The primary purpose of assessment at Westbury High School is to support student learning. International Baccalaureate teachers at Westbury High School use assessment to inform instructional decisions, to better understand the academic needs of individual students, and to analyze the effectiveness of instruction. Effective teaching will prepare students for both formative and summative assessments which are designed to measure understanding of course aims and objectives. These assessments are used to measure and report student understanding to students, parents and

teachers; provide ongoing and consistent feedback to students and teachers; and to guide decisions about instructional content and practice.

**Admissions Policy Review Process:**

This policy is a living, breathing document. It has been created using International Baccalaureate support materials, models graciously shared from other International Baccalaureate World Schools, as well as Westbury High School district data and input from stakeholders in the International Baccalaureate learning community. It is an ongoing process that will be systematically reviewed, evaluated and modified as needed by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme faculty, coordinators and administrators.

\* Last Updated & Reviewed 05/2024