Roton Middle School Admission Philosophy

IB Admission Committee:

Edward Singleton, Principal/Head of School

Luz Palmero, IB MYP Coordinator

- Sped representation: Corrine VanHise
- Parent representation: Kara Bonitatibus, Co-Chair of RMS SGC
- School Counselors

Introduction

Roton Middle School, a public school in Norwalk, CT, is proud to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP). The MYP is designed to provide a rigorous and holistic education for middle school-aged students, focusing on developing inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are motivated to succeed in a globalized world. As a public institution, we are committed to offering this high-quality educational framework to all accepted students within our district, ensuring equity, access, and excellence in education for a diverse range of learners. The MYP at Roton Middle School is open to all students who organically feed into the community from Brookside Elementary School and Rowayton Elementary School, respectively. Feeder pattern students will apply in February or March during the course selection process. Additionally, those students who elect to gain admission through the NPS Middle School Choice Lottery will apply in December in tandem with the lottery selection. Students who wish to apply for admission through Intra-District Transfer will submit an application to the school along with his/her transfer request.

This admission philosophy outlines the process and criteria for entry into the IB MYP at Roton Middle School. It is designed to align with the principles of the IB Organization, ensuring that every student has an opportunity to develop their academic potential, foster international-mindedness, and contribute to a better and more peaceful world.

IB Mission and the Roton Middle School's Admission philosophy

IB mission statement The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Roton Middle School's admission philosophy aligns with the IB Mission by ensuring equity and access to a high-quality education for all students within its district, including those from feeder schools, the Middle School Choice Lottery, and Intra-District Transfers. This inclusive approach reflects the IB's commitment to developing "inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people" by offering a rigorous and holistic educational framework that fosters academic excellence, international-mindedness, and respect for diverse perspectives. By providing multiple pathways for admission, the philosophy promotes student agency and lifelong learning, empowering students to become active contributors to a better and more peaceful world, in line with the IB's core values.

Admission Criteria

1. **General Eligibility**
    - Students entering grades 6-8 are eligible to apply for the IB Middle Years Programme at Roton Middle School.
    - Enrollment is open to all middle school-age students residing within Norwalk Public Schools
    - The IB MYP at Roton Middle School is a public program, and no special entrance exams are required. The school is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of academic background or socio-economic status, have access to the full benefits of the IB education.
2. **Academic and Personal Development**
    - The IB MYP emphasizes the development of the whole student. Admission decisions consider not only academic performance but also a student's social, emotional, and personal growth. The IB philosophy fosters the attributes of the IB Learner Profile, which includes qualities such as being balanced, principled, reflective, and open-minded.

- Although academic ability is important, the school values students who demonstrate a willingness to take on challenges, engage in inquiry-based learning, and develop critical thinking skills.

3. **Commitment to the IB Learner Profile**
    - Applicants are expected to embrace and demonstrate the values and attitudes outlined in the IB Learner Profile, including being knowledgeable, inquirers, communicators, risk-takers, thinkers, and reflective individuals.
    - The school encourages students who are open to developing intercultural understanding and who are committed to making a positive impact in their communities and the world.
    - The IB Learner Profile and international-mindedness are embedded throughout the curriculum, with students engaging in units that explore global contexts, diverse perspectives, and cross-cultural connections. Language learning and service opportunities further empower students to develop empathy and a sense of global responsibility.

Application Process

1. **Online Application**
    - Prospective students must submit an online application form through the school's official website. The application form will request basic student information, parent/guardian contact details, and an optional personal statement or letter of interest from the student.
2. **Academic Records and Teacher Recommendations**
    - For students applying to the MYP at Roton Middle School outside of Brookside Elementary School and Rowayton Elementary must adhere to the following:
        1. As part of the application, parents/guardians must submit the student's most recent report cards or academic transcripts, which should demonstrate a strong record of performance, particularly in core subject areas.
        2. Students will also be asked to provide two teacher recommendations, ideally from teachers in core academic subjects (e.g., language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies), who can speak to the student's academic abilities, behavior, and potential for success in the MYP. Students will share a link with their teachers to complete the brief survey in Google Forms.

3. **Commitment to Participation**
    - Students and their families must understand and commit to the expectations of the MYP program, which includes:
        - Active participation in all subjects and school activities.
        - Completion of required projects, assignments, and assessments, including the Personal Project in Grade 8.
        - Adherence to the IB's emphasis on academic integrity, respect for diversity, and development of global citizenship.
4. **Admission Review and Decision**
    - Once the application period closes, a committee consisting of school administrators, counselors, and IB MYP coordinators will review the applications.
    - The committee will consider the student's academic performance, teacher recommendations, commitment to the MYP values, and overall suitability for the program.
    - All applicants will receive a notification of their admission status within four weeks of the application deadline.

Responsibilities

Here's a breakdown of the roles for the admissions committee members in line with IB standards and the current philosophy:

Principal/Head of School (Edward Singleton): Ensures the admission philosophy aligns with the IB standards and the school's mission. Provides final approval on admissions decisions and oversees the equitable access process.

- Ensure philosophy adherence to IB Standards and Practices.
- Provide guidance on equity and inclusion practices.
- Make final decisions in cases of appeals or special considerations.

IB MYP Coordinator (Luz Palmero): Facilitates the implementation of IB philosophy in the admission process and ensures all elements of the IB framework are reflected in admissions decisions.

- Ensure applicants' alignment with the IB Learner Profile.
- Train staff on MYP expectations related to admissions.

Counselor (Roton Counseling Team): Provides insight on student well-being, social-emotional readiness, and transition support.

- Review academic records and teacher recommendations for holistic consideration.
- Assess personal development and support needs.
- Assist with orientation and transition support planning for new students.

SPED Representation (Corrine VanHise): Ensures the admissions process accommodates students with diverse learning needs and aligns with the IB's commitment to inclusion.

- Ensure the admission process is accessible for students with disabilities.
- Advocate for appropriate accommodations during assessment and enrollment.
- Review applications to identify additional support needs for students.

Parent Representative (RMS SGC): Provide a family perspective on equity and community engagement in the admissions process.

- Represent the parent community in the decision-making process.
- Ensure transparency in the communication of admission decisions.
- Collaborate on strategies for family engagement and diversity inclusion.

Placement and Transition Support

- **Transition Programs**: For incoming students, Roton Middle School provides orientation sessions and transition support to help students acclimate to the demands of the IB MYP.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Support**: Once enrolled, students will have access to academic support through personalized counseling and mentoring. Teachers will monitor each student's progress and well-being, ensuring that they have the necessary resources and guidance to succeed.
- **Language Support**: For students for whom English is not their first language, the school offers additional support to help them succeed in the MYP. This may include access to English Language Learners (ELL) services, tailored instructional support, and additional resources.
- Roton Middle School provides ongoing academic support through dedicated mentoring, personalized learning plans, and intervention services tailored to individual student needs. Language support for multilingual learners includes English Language Learners (ELL) services, additional language development resources, and culturally responsive teaching practices

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Diversity and Inclusion

Roton Middle School is committed to providing an inclusive environment that respects and values diversity. In line with IB's philosophy of international-mindedness, the school welcomes students from a wide range of cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds. The school ensures that all students have the opportunity to succeed within the MYP framework, with appropriate accommodations and support where necessary.

Roton Middle School fosters a supportive learning environment where diversity is celebrated, and all students feel valued and respected. Classrooms are designed to encourage collaboration, critical thinking, and intercultural understanding, with differentiated instruction strategies ensuring all students, regardless of learning style or ability, can engage meaningfully with the IB curriculum.

IB Learner Profile and Admission

1. **Inquirers:** The philosophy encourages students who show curiosity and a willingness to engage in inquiry-based learning.
2. **Knowledgeable:** The philosophy selects students who have a strong academic record and are prepared for the IB MYP's intellectual challenges.
3. **Thinkers:** The philosophy values students who demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
4. **Communicators:** The philosophy emphasizes the importance of effective communication and collaboration in all subjects and activities.
5. **Principled:** The philosophy promotes integrity, academic honesty, and respect for diversity in all students.
6. **Open-minded:** The philosophy prioritizes students who are open to diverse perspectives and cultures.
7. **Caring:** The philosophy supports an inclusive environment, providing equal opportunities for all students, including multilingual learners.
8. **Balanced:** The philosophy considers both academic achievement and personal growth, encouraging well-rounded students.
9. **Reflective:** The philosophy encourages students to reflect on their learning and personal development through various activities.
10. **Risk-takers:** The philosophy values students who take on academic challenges and step outside their comfort zones.

ATLs and Admission

1. **Thinking:** The philosophy values students who demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
2. **Communication:** The philosophy emphasizes the importance of effective communication in all subjects and activities.
3. **Social:** The philosophy supports students' ability to work collaboratively and engage with others.
4. **Self-management:** The philosophy encourages students to manage their time, responsibilities, and academic tasks effectively.
5. **Research:** The philosophy supports students' ability to gather, evaluate, and apply information in various contexts.
6. **Reflection:** The philosophy promotes opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and growth.
7. **Collaboration:** The philosophy encourages students to work with others, including peers and teachers, in a supportive and inclusive manner.

IB Standards and Practices and Admission

1. **Culture 1: Access to an IB Education (0301-01)**
   The school ensures access to an IB education for a broad range of students by offering the MYP to all students within the district, including those from feeder schools, the NPS Middle School Choice Lottery, and Intra-District Transfers.

2. **Culture 3: Inclusivity (0303-01)**
   The philosophy supports the IB's commitment to inclusive education by ensuring that students from diverse linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds have access to the program.

3. **Students 2: Holistic Student Development (0402-01)**
   The admission philosophy emphasizes the development of the whole student, including academic, personal, and social growth, in alignment with the IB Learner Profile and Approaches to Learning.

4. **Students 4: Student Engagement (0404-01)**
   The philosophy promotes an environment where students are encouraged to be

inquirers, communicators, and thinkers, fostering active participation in all subjects and school activities.

5. **Students 5: Commitment to MYP Values (0405-01)**
   The philosophy ensures that all students are expected to demonstrate commitment to the MYP values, including academic integrity, intercultural understanding, and global citizenship.

6. **School Environment 1: Student Support (0202-01)**
   The philosophy reflects the IB's commitment to creating a school environment that supports the academic and personal development of all students through personalized learning plans and mentoring.

7. **School Environment 2: Language Support for Multilingual Learners (0203-01)**
   The philosophy ensures that language support is provided for English Language Learners, helping them to succeed in the MYP through tailored instructional support and additional resources.

8. **Leadership 1: Leadership Commitment (0501-01)**
   The philosophy supports the IB's aim to have a committed leadership team, consisting of school administrators, counselors, and IB MYP coordinators, who are involved in the review and selection process to ensure that the program meets its goals and standards.

School Policies and Admission

Inclusion philosophy

The Roton Middle School admission philosophy is closely aligned with the school's inclusion philosophy by promoting equity, inclusivity, and support for all students, regardless of their background or learning needs. The philosophy ensures access to the IB MYP for all students, reflecting the school's commitment to fostering diversity and providing opportunities for academic, social, and emotional growth. It supports the inclusion of students from various cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds, ensuring that each student has the resources necessary for success. Additionally, the philosophy emphasizes the development of compassionate, open-minded, and globally aware learners, which directly aligns with the goal of promoting intercultural understanding and respect outlined in the inclusion philosophy.

Academic Integrity philosophy

The Roton Middle School admission philosophy is aligned with the school's Academic Integrity philosophy by supporting the development of students who embody the IB Learner Profile attribute of being "principled." The admission philosophy sets the foundation for fostering integrity and ethical behavior by selecting students who demonstrate a commitment to the values of the IB MYP, which include academic honesty and respect for diversity. By emphasizing the importance of these principles from the beginning of a student's journey at Roton Middle School, the admission philosophy helps to cultivate a culture of academic honesty and personal responsibility, ensuring that students are prepared to engage in authentic and original academic work while respecting the intellectual property of others.

Language philosophy

The Roton Middle School admission philosophy aligns with the school's language philosophy by supporting the development of students' linguistic skills, cultural awareness, and multilingualism. The inclusive admission process ensures access to the MYP for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, promoting international-mindedness and respect for cultural diversity, as outlined in the IB mission. By welcoming students from varied language experiences, the philosophy contributes to fostering a deep appreciation for language learning and the importance of multilingualism, reflecting the goals and standards set forth in the MYP framework and Roton Middle School's broader educational objectives.

Assessment philosophy

The Roton Middle School admission philosophy aligns with the school's assessment philosophy by ensuring that all students, regardless of background, have access to the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the ongoing assessment practices that are integral to student development. By providing equitable access to the MYP, the admission philosophy supports the goal of continuous growth and reflection, key elements of the assessment process. This alignment ensures that students admitted to the program are prepared for assessment-driven learning, where progress is monitored, and development is supported, fostering lifelong learners who possess the skills needed to thrive in a globalized world.

Conclusion

Roton Middle School's IB MYP admission philosophy is designed to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to participate in an internationally recognized program that fosters academic excellence, personal development, and global citizenship. The school remains

dedicated to providing a supportive, challenging, and inclusive environment for all students, and to nurturing young people who will contribute to creating a better world.

Communication of the Admission philosophy

Roton Middle School is committed to maintaining transparent communication about its philosophy throughout the school community. A collaborative working group, including teachers from various departments and subject areas, ensures that the philosophy is effectively shared and understood across the school.

This philosophy is aligned with the school's overall strategic plan, which is accessible on the Roton Middle School website.

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philosophy Review: The first year of implementing the current practices helped to solidify the foundations for ongoing improvements. Although the initial changes in our policies presented challenges, they have resulted in long-term benefits. This philosophy was last reviewed in January of 2025, and feedback on its effectiveness continues to be shared with stakeholders through meetings with parents, conducted by the MYP Coordinator, and through our website and handbook. These continuous reflections and updates ensure that our practices remain relevant and effective in supporting student success.

Resources

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