Big Sky High School
3100 South Avenue West
Missoula, Mt 59804
(406)728-2401
http://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/11

Big Sky High School International Baccalaureate

Interest Form

Student Contact Information:

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Current Grade-Level _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: (If different from above)_____

_____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Cell_____

Email: _____

I am interested in: (Check one)

- ☐ Pursuing the IB Full Diploma
- ☐ Taking a few IB Courses (a-la-carte classes)

My level of interest at this point could best be described as:

- ☐ This is something I definitely want to do. I've made up my mind.
- ☐ I've just started considering this path. I might need more information.
- ☐ I'm interested, but I'm not sure if it's the right path for me.
- ☐ I'm kind of interested, but I really need more information.

I would like to request a meeting with Mr. Johnson:

- ☐ Yes. I prefer to meet during: lunch after school period
- ☐ Not at this time

My primary concerns at this point are:

_____

_____

_____

MCPS Graduation requirements*: Check all that apply to you. If you aren't sure, ask your counselor!

- ☐ I have taken/am taking two years of Health/PE
- ☐ I have taken or am taking a year of Biology
- ☐ I have completed/am completing my 1.0 credit for Fine Arts
- ☐ I have completed/am completing my 1.0 credit of Practical Arts

*Students have until their senior year to complete these elements. We find that students pursuing the Full Diploma are less overwhelmed if these requirements are met previous to starting the diploma.

IB Courses I am Interested in Taking—Please Circle

(PLEASE *see handbook for full descriptions, pre-requisites and length of course*):

Group 1	**Group 2**	**Group 3**	**Group 4**	**Group 5**	**Group 6**	**Core**
IB Language and Literature HL	IB Spanish Ab Initio	IB History HL	IB Biology SL/HL	IB Math Studies Analysis and Approaches	IB Theatre SL	Theory of Knowledge
IB Language and Literature SL	IB Spanish SL	IB Psychology	IB Chemistry SL/ HL	IB Math Studies Application and Interpretation	IB Visual Arts	
	IB Spanish HL		IB Sport, Exercise, and Health SL			
	IB French SL		IB Physics			

Students pursuing the Full Diploma:

- You will need to take 6 courses in total, one from each column. *Exception:* Students may forego a Group 6 course by doubling up in another Group.
- Three of those classes (but no more than 4) must be Higher Level.
- You will take a Theory of Knowledge course the second semester of your junior year and the first semester of your senior year. This does not count towards your 6 courses.
- Your Senior Capstone will entail a CAS (Creativity/Action/Service) project and an Extended Essay that you will begin your junior year.

List some possible college majors or careers you are currently thinking about:

Becoming an IB Student

While the benefits of the IB Program are many, so are its demands. The purpose of the enclosed application process is to ensure that interested students and their parents have given adequate consideration to the commitment and seriousness of purpose that IB coursework requires.

The ideal IB candidate is a student who:

- ☐ is intellectually curious.
- ☐ is highly **self-**motivated to work and learn.
- ☐ is excited by the challenges and enjoys the dynamics of academic discovery.
- ☐ understands that the IB curriculum is rigorous.
- ☐ possesses a scholarly orientation to class work.
- ☐ demonstrates a consistent work ethic to achieve academic goals.
- ☐ can manage their time effectively
- ☐ has a good attendance record.
- ☐ communicates effectively with teachers and peers
- ☐ takes responsibility for his/her experience

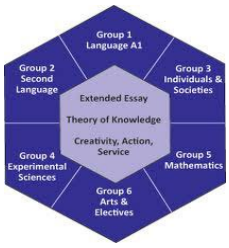
The ideal IB candidate is **not** a student who:

- ☐ is taking IB just because his/her friends are doing it.
- ☐ is taking IB primarily because his/ her parents want it.
- ☐ thinks that simply taking an IB class provides entry into a "good" university.
- ☐ values grades over learning.
- ☐ Waits for the teacher to offer help instead of self-advocating
- ☐ Manages his/her time poorly

In addition to the qualities outlined above, all students in IB courses agree:

- ☐ to sign and adhere to an academic honesty code (see attached).
- ☐ to complete all assessments required for the course.

Big Sky High School



IB Diploma vs. IB Certificate (a-la-carte courses)

The Diploma

Diploma Program candidates are required to study six subjects: one subject each from groups one to five, and a sixth subject from group six or an elective. The electives include a second subject from groups one to five. At least three and not more than four of the six subjects are taken at a higher level (HL), the others at a standard level (SL). Each subject is graded on a scale of 1 point (minimum) to 7 points (maximum). The awarding of a diploma requires candidates to meet defined standards and conditions. These include a minimum total of 24 points, and the satisfactory completion of three additional components.

1. The extended essay (EE), a 4,000 word independent research paper on a topic of the students choosing.
2. The theory of knowledge (TOK) course, an interdisciplinary class intended to stimulate critical reflection on knowledge and experience gained outside the classroom.
3. The Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) component involves participation in three extra-curricular areas: creativity, action and service.

The Diploma Program requires a time commitment of 20 hours during the summer between junior and senior year for working on the extended essay. In addition, many students dedicate a portion of their summer to CAS projects.

A-la-carte IB Courses

A candidate who does not satisfy all requirements of the Diploma Program, or who has elected to take fewer than six subjects is awarded a certificate for the examinations completed. Diploma candidates who successfully complete more than six subjects receive an extra certificate for additional subjects.

University Recogntion of Standard Level and Higher Level Courses:

If students take IB courses a-la-carte (certificate), universities will be more apt to give credit for higher level courses with decent exam scores (which differ by university, but are generally listed as 5 or higher out of 7). This is because SL courses are *generally* viewed as advanced junior/senior courses and HL courses are seen as advanced senior/college-freshman level by most post-secondary institutions. That's not to say that there aren't exceptions to this!! Many schools will give credit for SL courses. It's a matter of researching specific places where students are applying.

Taken *within* the IB Full Diploma, colleges and universities are more apt to offer a package deal. IB does not allow students to take more than 4 HL courses within their Full Diploma, for good reason. A student graduating with, for example, 35 IB points (out of 45) from their Full Diploma exams might be offered 25-30 undergraduate credits. Schools understand the extraneous elements attached to the Full Diploma, as well as the commitment students make when pursing this rigorous program.

You will notice as you research different post-secondary institutions that many universities have a point-requirement for course exams; most are 4 or higher. "Passing exams" also means something different for a-la-carte students and for full diploma students. A Full Diploma student has some more wiggle room with a whole-package score (see example above) for their cumulative Diploma exams/EE/TOK than they do if they take a-la-carte courses. A full diploma student who receives a 3 on an exam has still 'passed' the exam, as long as his/her cumulative points add up to the number required for a Full Diploma (28) and the number the University is asking for. A student taking, for example, HL Biology alone might have to score a 5 or 6 on the exam to get university credit, whereas a Full Diploma student could receive a 3 on the exam but still accumulate up to 37 points from

other courses and elements of the full diploma.

It's *very* important that students understand that if they decide to step-down from the full diploma they are likely foregoing much of the credit they would have gotten for their SL courses transferred to University credit. Staying in the Full Diploma has a better payoff when it comes to colleges and universities, as well as cross-curricular collaboration that happens on a daily basis between the Full Diploma courses.

Exams and Costs

Parents of students participating in the IB Program should be aware of the following:

☐ End of course exams take place during the month of May, and exam schedules are available one year in advance. Most courses are two years in duration, so the majority of exams are taken in May of the students' senior year.

☐ IB **does not allow** for alternate testing dates. Students must be present at our authorized testing site on the scheduled date and at the scheduled time. Students will know their exam dates when they register for exams.

☐ IB exam fees as of 2021-2022 are:

1. Individual exam costs	$120 per exam
Nx$120= Cost for the IB Diploma	$720

Big Sky IB Exam Registration does allow for payment plans, need-based scholarship, and free/reduced lunch aid in payment for those who qualify.

NO PAYMENT IS DUE AT THIS TIME.
Invoices for May exams are due in October of the exams' academic year. For example, registration and fees for exams in May of 2022 are due in October of 2021.

Your signature below acknowledges that you have read and understood the information in this packet, that you support your child's choice to participate in the IB Program, and that you accept financial responsibility for your child's exam fees.

Parent/guardian name _____
(printed)

_____ _____
(parent/guardian signature) (date)

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____