



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Updated: April 2025



North Middle School and William J. Palmer High School are inclusive IB World Schools where all students participate in the International Baccalaureate continuum. As part of our school-wide commitment to IB values and pedagogy:

- All students in grades 6 through 10 participate in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP).
- All students take IB English Language and Literature in grades 11 and 12.
- All students have access to IB coursework as Diploma Programme (DP) candidates, Career-related Programme (CP) candidates, or Course candidates.

The shared admissions practices for North Middle School and William J. Palmer High School reflect our core belief that IB is for all learners. We are committed to equitable access and broad participation in all IB programmes, including students with varied academic backgrounds, language profiles, and learning needs. Admissions decisions are based on interest, programme and graduation progress, and consultation—not exclusionary prerequisites. Our schools provide academic advising, inclusion support, and family engagement to ensure success for all students.

Middle Years Programme

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is implemented school-wide in grades 6 through 8 at North Middle School and in grades 9 and 10 at William J. Palmer High School. It provides a challenging, inquiry-based framework that supports students in making practical connections between their studies and the world around them. Students may choose between grade-level or honors-level courses—or a combination—based on interest and readiness. Counselors, teachers, and the MYP Coordinator collaborate with families to ensure appropriate placement.

Diploma Programme

Palmer High School offers open access to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) for all interested students in grades 11 and 12. The DP provides a rigorous, internationally recognized academic experience that prepares students for college and lifelong learning. Full diploma candidates complete six IB courses across at least five subject groups, with a minimum of three at the Higher Level (HL). In addition to their content-area studies, students fully engage in the DP core—Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS). To remain in the programme, students must be on track to meet all IB requirements and local graduation requirements. Enrollment is guided by student interest and determined through collaborative planning with counselors, teachers, and the DP Coordinator.

Career-related Programme

William J. Palmer High School also offers open access to the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (CP) for all interested students in grades 11 and 12. The CP provides a unique blend of academic and career-focused learning that prepares students for further education, apprenticeships, or direct entry into the workforce. CP candidates complete at least two IB Diploma Programme (DP) courses in addition to fulfilling requirements in a chosen career-related studies strand. Students also engage fully with the CP core, which includes Personal and Professional Skills (PPS), Service Learning, Language Development, and the Reflective Project. To remain in the programme, students must be on track to meet all IB requirements and local graduation requirements. Enrollment is guided by student interest and determined through collaborative planning with counselors, teachers, and the CP Coordinator.

Course Candidacy

At William J. Palmer High School, students who wish to experience the rigor and benefits of the International Baccalaureate without pursuing the full Diploma or Career-related Programme may enroll as IB course candidates. These students take one or more individual IB courses, complete the associated internal and external assessments, and may earn IB certificates based on their exam performance. Course candidacy allows students to tailor their IB experience to their interests and academic goals while still engaging in internationally benchmarked learning.

As part of Palmer's universal access to IB, all 11th and 12th grade students take IB English Language and Literature, regardless of their chosen IB pathway. This ensures every student engages in rigorous, inquiry-based study aligned with international standards.