

## **Dobbs Ferry School District International Baccalaureate Program Access and Admissions Policy**

### **Mission Statement:**

*The Dobbs Ferry School District strives to develop independent, curious, and open-minded learners who think critically, work collaboratively, act ethically and are knowledgeable about the world around them.*

### **Statement of Philosophy**

As an IB World School and part of a cluster of schools that support a K-12 continuum of IB programs, Dobbs Ferry Middle School and Dobbs Ferry High School are committed to supporting access to the IB programs we offer to all students. The IB Diploma Programme (DP) at Dobbs Ferry High School has evolved over time to ensure that all students can access the benefits of an IB education. The IB Diploma Programme at Dobbs Ferry High School is an **open-enrollment program**.

To further support and encourage participation in the IB program as a Full Diploma Candidate, we offer a broad range of IB SL and HL courses that allow students to select a number of pathways to fulfill the requirements of the IB Diploma. Students should consult with their teachers, counselor and IB DP Coordinator in order to make informed decisions regarding the IB Diploma Programme.

### **Access to the MYP at Dobbs Ferry Middle School and Dobbs Ferry High School**

The MYP at Dobbs Ferry is a whole-school program inclusive of all students in grades 6-10. To participate in the IB program, students must live within school boundaries.

### **The IB Diploma Program at Dobbs Ferry High School**

- Students and their parents have multiple opportunities to learn about the IB Diploma Programme. Yearly informational sessions are available to the community starting when the students are in the 9th grade. In these sessions, parents receive an overview of the IB curriculum and the IB teaching philosophy as a whole.
- IB Diploma courses are open to all 11th and 12th grade students at Dobbs Ferry High School.
- Dobbs Ferry is committed to being “IB for All” and all students take IB English and IB Math.

- The IB Head of School, DP Coordinator and guidance counselors share information with 10th grade students and parents regarding the IB Diploma Programme during the final year in MYP.
- Students complete an interest inventory to express interest in pursuing the IB Diploma.
- The counseling department identifies students who did not express interest and encourages their participation.
- Counselors, Coordinator and Head of School meet with students and parents to discuss course selection when questions arise.

*There are two ways to participate in the Diploma Program at Dobbs Ferry High School. Students may either opt for the full IB Diploma Program or for individual IB DP courses. Each pathway is described below and should be discussed with a student's guidance counselor during guidance and schedule planning sessions.*

### **Full IB Diploma Candidates**

The IB Diploma Programme at Dobbs Ferry High School is an open-enrollment program so there is no written application. Students who are in good academic standing as 10th graders and passed all of their classes may elect to become an IB Diploma candidate. Students and parents meet with their guidance counselor each Spring to discuss courses for the following year. During these meetings, the guidance counselor discusses the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme and enroll students interested in becoming IB Diploma candidates in one course from Groups 1-6, Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS), and Extended Essay (EE).

### **IB DP Course Students**

Students who do not wish to participate in the full IB Diploma Programme can take one or more IB DP courses in 11th and 12th grade. Since Dobbs Ferry is "IB for All," all students take IB English and IB Math. It is highly recommended that students speak with their current subject area teacher and guidance counselor to determine whether an additional IB DP course is an appropriate choice.

### **Procedures for the publication and review of this policy**

All stakeholders will review the Access and Admissions Policy on a bi-annual basis: teachers, students, parents and administration.

## **Resources**

International Baccalaureate Organization *Access and Inclusion Policy (Updated November 2023)*

International Baccalaureate Organization *Programme Standards and Practice (Updated November 2024)*

Dobbs Ferry High School IB DP Handbook

Dobbs Ferry Course of Study

Dobbs Ferry Inclusion Policy