Student Information Meeting
Robinson Secondary School

For Rising Eleventh Grade
Students
February 2014
What is so special about IB?

- Recognized around the world
- Focus on international perspectives of learning and teaching, as well as exploration of home culture and language.
- Emphasis on thinking, asking questions, applying knowledge
- Enhanced opportunities at the college level
- Encouragement to participate in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level.
- Multiple assessments contribute to the final score
IB Learner Profile:
The IB Diploma Program aims to develop internationally minded people who are striving to become:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Critical Thinkers
- Communicators
- Risk-Takers
- Principled
- Caring
- Open-minded
- Well-balanced
- Reflective
How will an IB class be different from a regular class?

- You will be challenged to think more abstractly and analytically. The reading and writing are more sophisticated.
- You must be committed to 30 minutes of homework per night and able to handle long-term assignments.
- You will need to complete an internal assessment (which could be written or oral, depending on the course and which may involve research).
- You will need to sit for the exam at the end of the course.
What are my options for coursework within IB?

- IB Diploma

- IB certificates – individual IB courses in subjects about which you have a passion and an interest
Full IB Diploma

- One exam level course in each of the six areas:
  - English,
  - World Language,
  - Social Studies,
  - Science,
  - Math
  - and the Electives.

- IB Theory of Knowledge – junior year
- Extended Essay
- CAS (Creativity, Action and Service)

Three higher level (HL) And three standard level (SL)
IB Diploma Requirements
To be completed in grades 11 and 12

Extended Essay (EE)
- 3,000 – 4,000 word essay, on a topic of student interest
- Provides excellent preparation for independent study at university level

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- Critical reflection of how we know and what we know
- Develops awareness of cultural perspectives and biases
- Allows for connections to be established between disciplines

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)
- A framework for experiential learning, involving students in new and active roles
- Develops awareness and a sense of responsibility towards the community
Why pursue the full diploma?

- Preparation package for college (the IB has always been designed to get students *through* college courses, not necessarily *out* of them)
- IB emphasizes reading, writing, and speaking skills; students learn to ask and answer their own questions
- College admission advantages
- Lifelong learners, critical and compassionate thinkers, global citizens
- Possible college course credit or advanced standing for impressive IB exam scores
- Scholarship opportunities
- Most rigorous high school program
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Average Rate</th>
<th>IB Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNC Chapel Hill</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duke University</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York University</td>
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<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Berkeley</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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English options:

IB English I

- This is the first half of a two year course. IB assessments include writing a world literature paper; completing an oral assessment (a prepared presentation) Students will study three works in translation (one semester) as well poetry and both contemporary and classic American works. Students will work on the development of reading, writing and oral communication skills.

IB English Standard and Higher Level:

- Students will choose one of these two courses to complete the IB English sequence. Both courses include an emphasis on reading, writing and oral communication skills, an individual IB oral commentary, and two end-of-course exams. SL students study 5 works, and HL students study 7 works.
IB World Language:

At both the Higher and Standard levels, students are asked to do the following:

• Communicate clearly and effectively in a range of situations, responding to texts, and to each other, engaging in discussion with the teacher through writing and speaking

• The Higher Level Language option requires students to read and respond to two works of literature in the target language. (5 years of a language is required for this option)
IB History Options:

Choices as a junior:
IB History of the Americas HL I or US History

Choices as a senior:
Topics in 20th Century World History HL II: a continuation of the study of history beginning in junior year with IB History of the Americas. Instruction focuses on the how and why of significant historical events, and includes an emphasis on peace-making in history.

Geography SL: A stand alone course that satisfies the state requirements for graduation in the history sequence. Course focuses on issues of spatial analysis—urbanization, population development and environmental qualities.
IB Science Sequence

Virginia requires 3 different lab sciences and 4 units of science for graduation with an advanced studies diploma.

IB requires an SL or HL science class.

If a student pursues the full IB diploma, Virginia will accept the IB requirements (and thus 3 different lab sciences are not required).
IB Science Options:

- Biology Higher Level (2 year course)
- Biology Standard Level (1 year course)
- Chemistry Higher Level (assumes IB Chem 1) and Chemistry Standard Level (assumes Chem 1 or IB Chem 1)
- Environmental Systems Standard Level (is a transdisciplinary course and count as either a science or history for IB): course that explores the influence/impact society has on the environment
More Science Options

- Physics Higher Level (assumes IB Physics 1)
- Physics Standard Level (assumes Physics 1 or IB Physics 1)
- Design Technology Standard Level (counts as a science for IB, but not for Fairfax County): course for those interested in architecture or engineering
IB Math Options:

- **Math Studies Standard Level**: a study of math in our world. Emphasis on probability and statistics with an introduction to calculus topics. (one year course; assumes Precalculus or a semester of Trigonometry)

- **Mathematics Standard Level**: a course similar to Calculus. Course also includes a unit on probability and statistics. (Two year course)

- **Mathematics Higher Level**: Course involves study of Calculus similar to the AP BC level. Study also involves extending calculus topics including two- and three-dimensional vectors, three-dimensional coordinate geometry and linear algebra.
IB Electives

- Social & Cultural Anthropology SL
- World Religions SL
- Philosophy SL
- Psychology SL (one year)
- Psychology HL (two years)
- Business SL (one year)**
- Business HL (two years)
- Computer Science SL
- Music SL

- Economics SL **
- Economics HL (two years)

Both SL and HL in the following courses are two year courses:

- Film SL or HL
- Visual Arts SL or HL
- Theatre Arts SL or HL

**satisfies state requirement for economics/personal finance
If I decide to pursue the full diploma, what is the next step?

- Fill out the gold planning sheet by circling your choices in each of the six groups of IB courses, making sure that you are setting yourself up for 3 HLs and 3 SLs.
- Bring your gold sheet to the IB Office and meet with Ms. Vu or Ms. Green to go over your choices prior to meeting with your counselor the last week in February/beginning of March.
What do I do if I don’t want to pursue the full diploma?

- Take one or several IB courses in subjects that you like and in which you want a greater challenge.
- Consider one of the fabulous IB electives – an opportunity to study a subject that is new to you.
Considerations in Planning for High School Courses

Academic Challenge

Academic Success

Extra-curriculars

Create a healthy balance!
Diploma Candidates must come by the IB Office with the gold schedule sheet and meet with Ms. Green or Mrs. Vu individually prior to registering for classes with your counselor.

Not pursuing the diploma? You are still welcome to come by with questions!

The IB office is located in the main hallway next to the main guidance office.
Save the Date:
2014 IBMA College Fair

- Saturday, April 5, 2014, 12 – 3 p.m.
- Gar-field HS, Woodbridge, Virginia
- About 100-120 colleges from around the world who are coming to meet you!
- If you are interested, you can register at http://ibmidatlantic.org/Fair.html