

# The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Shore Regional High School, West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

Most colleges and universities throughout the United States award course credit to students who do well on the various IB exams. For instance, a student might receive a score of 5 (out of a possible 7) on the English exams and receive credit for at least one freshman English class. This is comparable to the manner in which universities reward students who do well on the AP exams .

As of September 2009, only three high schools in Monmouth County offer the IB Diploma Programme. Shore Regional High School was the first in the county to be awarded the distinction of "IB World School."

Students enrolled in the IB program receive special attention from the admissions counselors at major colleges and universities throughout the world. (See the chart on the back page.)

Some institutions automatically award special scholarships to students who receive the IB diploma.

Students who willingly challenge themselves by pursuing this academically rigorous program find that they are well prepared for life after college, for they learn important life skills in their IB classes and through their participation in their community service projects.



## What's So Great About IB?

Colleges and universities throughout the United States are currently reviewing their admissions requirements and revising their preferences for testing. As they do this, they are examining the standard high school curricula to determine what best prepares a student for success in higher education.

Recently, many schools announced their decisions to drop or to make optional the requirement that students take the SAT; they are also re-evaluating their treatment of the Advanced Placement testing program. As they undergo these assessments and revise their evaluation protocols, college officials are increasingly recognizing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme as one that helps students get ready for college. In fact, most institutions aver that the IB Diploma Programme is the one that prepares students best for success in college.

Shore Regional High School was named an IB World School in April 2007. High achieving, highly motivated students who wish to challenge themselves now have the opportunity to do so in an exciting, effective new way.



Students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme often find that new doors are open to them in the admissions process. More importantly, they discover that the interdisciplinary courses open the gates to their minds and help them become more globally aware and more tolerant of others.

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In the IB program, students are asked to think for themselves and to work collaboratively, as they explore the traditional academic disciplines interactively through class projects and through individual research projects.

Students develop tolerance for others who might not have the same experiences, attitudes, or opinions as they do.

Students refine their study skills and master the research process, preparing them well for success in college.

Students become better "global citizens," since they are taught to consider all issues from at least two different perspectives.

Students become more intrinsically motivated to learn.

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# How Do I Get the IB Diploma?

To complete the requirements for the IB Diploma, students must enroll in three courses on the high level (HL) and three courses on the standard level (SL). Additionally, each student must complete 150 hours in community service, physical activity, and creative efforts. Finally, each student must write an extended essay and an essay for Theory of Knowledge. Students receive the diploma if they earn at least 24 points out of a possible 44; and the scores are derived from exam scores, internally administered assessments, performance in the Theory of Knowledge class, and completion of the extended essay.

The IB Diploma Programme's curriculum meets all graduation requirements mandated by the State of New Jersey.

Students must take classes in six academic areas: mathematics, history, English, visual arts, world language, and science. During the spring semester of the junior year and fall semester of the senior year, students will also take a course entitled "Theory of Knowledge."

The typical schedule for a currently enrolled IB Diploma candidate is, as follows:

- English AI, HL
- History of the Americas, HL
- Math Studies, SL
- Shore Regional High School science course (juniors) OR  
Environmental Systems and Societies SL (seniors)
- Spanish, French, or Italian SL
- Visual Arts HL

For more information on the IB Diploma Programme at Shore Regional High School, visit the school's website at <http://www.shoreregional.org>. From the tabs at the top of the home page, select "Academics" and then click on "International Baccalaureate." There you can freely explore related websites, documents, and articles on the importance of this exciting curriculum and its value to the Shore Regional High School community.

## University Acceptance Rates: A Sample Fall 2002

A Case for Implementing the IB Diploma Programme in U. S. High Schools  
(Data Published in *Supertest* by Jay Mathews and Ian Hill)

Institution	All Applicants	IB Applicants
Harvard University	11%	14.4%
United States Naval Academy	11.67%	42.9%
Columbia University	12%	18.3%
Stanford University	12.6%	16.9%
Yale University	13%	19.5%
Brown University	17%	20.8%
Dartmouth College	20.7%	35.1%
California Institute of Technology	21%	40.7%
Washington University St. Louis	23.5%	68.5%
University of California at Berkeley	24%	47.6%
Northwestern University	32.9%	57.7%
University of Notre Dame	34.2%	41.4%
College of William and Mary	37%	55%
University of Virginia	38.1%	63.3%
Emory University	42%	82.1%
University of Maryland	43.5%	87%
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	49%	73.4%
Reed College	55%	90.9%
Brigham Young University	60%	86.2%
Baylor University	81%	100%

As the chart to the left indicates, enrollment in the IB Diploma Programme significantly helps students in the admissions process at highly selective institutions.

An application for admission to the IB program at Shore Regional High School is available for download at the school's website on the "International Baccalaureate" page under the "Academics" tab.

Anyone interested in participating in this program should see Linda Ensor, the coordinator, in A7 for more information about the coursework and the associated assessments.

This program is open to any student willing to commit time and effort to academics, community service, physical activity, and related research.