



F.W. Springstead High School

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FAQs

1. What is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme?

- A. The IB program is a 2 year Diploma Program (11th and 12th grades) housed at Springstead High School. The IB emphasizes academic rigor, college readiness, developing student attributes of the IB Learner Profile, and student development of International-mindedness. Students work towards earning the IB Diploma at the conclusion of their senior year.

2. How does the IB work at SHS?

- A. Picture the IB program as being a school within a school. Over the course of 4 years, students will follow a prescribed course progression through their 4 years (see SHS IB Course Progression). They will take regular, Honors, Advanced Placement, and IB classes in 5 core subjects- English, Foreign Language, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Additionally, students will take a 6th subject of study in their sophomore and junior years. As 9th and 10th graders, students are labeled as “pre-IB”. During these years, students will sit in blended classes with IB and non-IB students. When students enter the IB Programme in the 11th grade, they will begin taking classes exclusive to IB students. Students will sit for 1-2 of their IB exams in the junior year, and 4-5 exams in their senior year. In total, students will sit for 3 exams offered at the Standard Level (SL- 1 to 2 years of instruction, 120 hours) and 3 exams offered at the Higher Level (HL- 2 years of instruction, 240 hours). Students are also free to take any other IB 6th subject exam to potentially earn additional college credit during their junior or senior years. Please see the Springstead High School IB Programme Course Progression Schedule for class options.

3. What are the prerequisites for a student to be considered for the IB Programme?

- A. Students applying for the IB Programme need to meet the following criteria for consideration:
- Completion of Algebra 1 before the first day of the 9th grade
 - Completion of Spanish 1 before the first day of the 9th grade (students who opt to take Latin have no prerequisite course).
 - Level 3 or higher FSA scores in ELA and Math
 - Participation in extracurricular or community activities
 - A positive attitude
 - A desire to learn

4. How do I apply for the IB Programme?

A. To apply for the IB Programme, parents and students should:

- Attend one of the IB Informational Nights for 8th grade parents and students OR review all IB materials in the SHS IB website.
- Following the presentation or review of IB materials, sign up for an interview with the IB Coordinator. Interviews will be held at SHS between the hours of 7:30 am and 11:00 am, and both the parent(s) and student are to attend.
- Complete the Springstead High School IB DP Student Application, SHS IB Student Honor Code, and the SHS IB Mature Content Form. Bring these documents to the interview.
- Attend the IB student interview. We will discuss academic history, extracurricular activities, complete a student schedule, and answer any concerns about the IB Programme at SHS. Furthermore, information regarding busing and school choice will be discussed.
- For out of zone students, apply for school choice during the January-February window.
- Students will be notified about acceptance in late March via written correspondence. Space will be limited in the program. Students who are not accepted into the program for the following year will have the option of being waitlisted for future consideration.

5. Will there be an orientation for incoming 9th grade pre-IB Students?

A. Yes- there will be a specific 9th grade pre-IB orientation on the Friday before school starts. Students will have an opportunity to run through a mock schedule and meet their teachers. This process helps students acclimate to the school campus, teacher expectations, and allows them to meet their classmates.

6. Can students pick and choose classes that are not identified on the Course Progression Schedule?

A. Students must follow the Course Progression Schedule for the 5 core areas. However, students are afforded the opportunity to choose their elective class and 6th subject of study. In rare cases, we may need to find alternative class for students who are advanced in an area of study.

7. Are there any classes that IB student do NOT have to take within the Programme?

A. Students who participate in, and successfully complete, the IB Programme at SHS do not have to take classes identified by HCSB as required for graduation. However, students who withdraw from the IB Programme at SHS, either by choice or IB Coordinator directive, or who do not successfully complete the IB Programme, must complete these classes to meet Hernando County Graduation requirements. These classes are:

- An online class
- HOPE
- Physical Education
- Fine Arts
- Government & Economics

8. How do students earn college credit in the IB Programme?

- A. Students earn college credit through performance on individual AP and IB exams, not the successful completion of a class. Students who earn a score of 3 or better on AP exams (out of 5) or a 4 or better on IB exams (7 or better) may qualify for college credit. Although there is no one definitive answer, most of our students exit the program having satisfied the equivalent of the 1st year of college. State universities will cap the amount of credits students may apply to their major at 45 credit hours. Furthermore, AP and IB credit are accepted nationwide. For specific college policies regarding AP and IB credits, search that institution's website for AP or IB college credit equivalency.

9. Do IB students earn the equivalent of an Associate's Degree through the IB Programme?

- A. No- as stated in FAQ #7, students earn college credit through the college credit equivalency policy of a given institution.

10. Can students take Dual Enrollment (DE) classes as part of the IB Programme?

- A. Dual Enrollment classes are NOT a part of the IB Programme (with the exception of DE Spanish in the sophomore year). Students are free to take DE classes if they choose during the school year or during the summer at a PHSC campus. However, DE classes will not satisfy the SHS IB Programme requirement for a given subject.

11. How do students earn the IB Diploma?

- A. Students earn the IB Diploma by meeting the following criteria (covered at IB Informational Night):
- CAS requirements have been met.
 - The candidate's total points are 24 or more. (Total of 45 points possible)
 - There is no "N" awarded for theory of knowledge, the extended essay or for a contributing subject.
 - There is no grade E awarded for theory of knowledge and/or the extended essay.
 - There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
 - There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL).
 - There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (HL or SL).
 - The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
 - The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL).
 - The candidate has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.

12. Do students still graduate and get a high school diploma from SHS if they do not earn the IB Diploma?

- A. As long as a student successfully **completes** the IB Programme at SHS, that student earns a traditional high school diploma, and will walk at graduation. Students, who do not successfully complete the IB Programme by May of their senior year, default to traditional Hernando County School Board requirements for graduation. Successful completion means just that- students have sat for every IB exam, submitted all required IB components, and completed CAS.

13. What are the benefits of an IB education and the IB Diploma?

- A. There are several key benefits to an IB education at SHS and the IB Diploma:
- The primary benefit of an IB education at SHS is college readiness. Therefore, our teachers emphasize learning and developmental skills- critical reading, writing and analysis, collaborative learning, personal responsibility, time management, school involvement, and developing a greater sense of international mindedness to name a few. Although college credit and GPA opportunities are associated with the program, they are not our primary emphasis. Rather, we want our students to enter university with a certain skill set, both academic and intrapersonal, that will increase their opportunity for success.
 - Furthermore, an IB education emphasizes the importance of involvement and awareness, ranging from community to a global scale. IB students are exposed to multiple perspectives and global challenges. The international mindedness component of IB challenges students to develop an understanding of competing views and values, and discuss possible solutions to challenges facing modern societies.
 - Lastly, an IB education carries significant financial incentive. Students who earn the IB Diploma qualify for the Bright Futures Academic Scholarship. This scholarship pays 100% tuition and \$300 per semester for books at Florida public universities over 4 years, a savings of nearly \$26,000! Students who do not earn the IB Diploma default to traditional Bright Futures requirements to meet scholarship options.

For further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at one of our IB General Informational Nights this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Imhof

IB Coordinator