

IB Admissions and Progression Policy



BEARDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL & WEST HIGH SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate
Middle Years Program Partnership
Career-Related Program (WHS)
Diploma Program (WHS)

revised June 2024

Bearden Middle School and West High School share a combined mission: IB for All.

Admission to International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs

Both Bearden Middle School (BMS) and West High School (WHS) are public schools within the Knox County Schools system. Any student who lives within each school's zone becomes a part of the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) beginning with 6th grade at BMS through completion of the 10th grade at WHS. After completing the MYP, students are encouraged to register for KCS College Preparatory (CP), Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and IB courses as they choose, based on their individual needs, interests, goals, and levels of preparation.

In addition to the state of Tennessee/Knox County Schools' College Preparatory (CP) programs and courses, West High School offers three International Baccalaureate program options: IB course certificates, the IB Career-Related certificate, and the IB Diploma. Equal access to all IB program options is available to every student. Students who live outside the West High School zone, or those who attend private schools, may apply for a full-time transfer to West High School to pursue an IB education upon qualification through an IB screening exam. Please visit the KCS transfer website for more information regarding application for an IB/Program of Study Magnet) transfer to West High School. <https://www.knoxschools.org/domain/1109>

Progression through IB at West High School

Middle Years Program (MYP)

As the IB MYP is a 5-year program, progression through all years of that program is non-optional for students who are zoned for both BMS and WHS. Students who transfer to WHS from a non-MYP middle school are not penalized for non-participation in the first three years of the MYP.

IB Career-Related Program (IB CP)

The IB CP focuses on a Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway which is endorsed by the Tennessee Department of Education and is offered at WHS. Along with the CTE pathway courses, which IB CP students must pursue for three years of their high school experience at West (10th - 12th), these students must meet **IB CP Core requirements and IB content coursework; see all tables, below.**

IB CP students cannot progress to the next year of the CTE pathway or through the IB CP with less than satisfactory scores/final averages in each of the CP pathway and IB content courses.

The IB content coursework chosen should be relative to the IB CP student's intended pathway. For example, "IB Theatre" would not count as one of the two required IB courses for an IB CP student in the Nursing Pathway. However, that course could certainly be selected as an additional IB course option.

In addition to the two required IB courses, **IB CP students must register and sit for the IB assessments that correspond to those two courses. For example, students must submit their Internal Assessment work and attend all external assessment "papers" to qualify for the IB CP certificate.**

Table I: IB CP Pathway Options (2024-2025)

Student Year	STEM Pathway		Human Sciences Pathway	
	<u>Coding</u>	<u>Engineering</u>	<u>Nutrition & Dietetics</u>	<u>Nursing</u>
9th	Computer Science Foundations	Principles of Engineering	Intro. to Human Studies	Health Science
10th	Coding 1	Engineering Design 1	Nutrition Across the Lifespan	Medical Therapeutics
11th	Coding 2	Engineering Design 2	Nutrition Science	Anatomy & Physiology
12th	Coding Practicum	Engineering Practicum	Human Services Practicum	Nursing Education

IB Diploma Program (IB DP)

The IB DP offers a broad and comprehensive approach to college preparatory and/or collegiate-level coursework during the final two years of the high school experience (11th - 12th grade). Students interested in pursuing the IB DP follow a minimum of six IB DP courses, each from a specific content “group” along with IB DP Core requirements. As the IBO requires a mix of “Standard” and “Higher” level courses, **no student will be allowed to take more than four Higher Level IB DP courses without the approval of the IB DP coordinator and a signed parental waiver on file.**

IB DP students cannot progress to the second year of any IB DP course with less than satisfactory scores/final averages in that course.

IB DP students must register and sit for the IB assessments that correspond to any course they use to qualify for the IB Diploma. For example, students must submit their Internal Assessment work and attend all external assessment “papers” to qualify for the IB Diploma or any IB certificate course.

Course Planning and Counseling/Guidance

Every effort is made to provide students with college and career preparation and guidance through our Student Services office. College and Career Counselors, Guidance Counselors, and the IB Coordinator(s) work with students and parents to craft an individualized, student-centered, program to meet the needs of each IB MYP/CP/DP student.

Students and families are encouraged to speak to IB content teachers, Counseling/Guidance staff, and the IB Coordinator(s) regarding the rigor of IB coursework and program options.

- ❖ Once a plan and schedule has been designed, implemented, and begun, **an IB CP/DP student’s schedule may not be changed after the end of the first grading period.**
- ❖ An IB CP or DP student may choose not to pursue the second year of that program at the end of their 11th grade year.
 - IB DP students who do not continue with the second year of the IB DP will be removed from the Theory of Knowledge course.

- IB CP students who do not continue with the second year of the IB CP will be removed from the Personal and Professional Skills course.

Table 2: IB Course and Program Options Compared

<u>IB Certificate Course(s)</u>	<u>Career-Related Programme</u>	<u>Diploma Programme</u>
Any IB course (or combination of courses)	2 IB courses: (1 must span two years)	6 IB courses: 3 SL + 3 HL
One-year or two-year courses	Personal and Professional Skills (class) Junior and Senior year	Theory of Knowledge (TOK) (class) Junior and Senior year
Complete the necessary coursework	Reflective Project 3,000 words on ethical dilemma in career	Extended Essay (EE) 3,000 - 4,000 words (student choice)
"Sit for" all the IB exams for that course (Internal & External Exams)	Service Learning 50 hours Community service related to career	Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) 7 learning outcomes over 2 years
Earn +.5 quality points to your WHS course grade	Language Development Portfolio Must take world language junior year	IB Language B: Acquisition (French or Spanish)
If you earn a passing score on the IB exam, you <u>may be able to</u> earn college credit for that course. Check the college/university website.	Career-related Studies/CTE Pathway (9-12), work-based learning senior year, industry certification/capstone attempt Current Pathways: Coding, Engineering, Health Science, Nutrition and Dietetics Must begin in 9th grade	Diploma Candidates: * minimum of 24 points (average of 4 out of 7) on 6 subject exams: - 12 pts HL - 9 pts SL - 3 pts (CAS, EE, TOK)

Table 3: IB Course Options

<u>Group 1</u> Language & Literature (Language A)	<u>Group 2</u> Language Acquisition (Language B)	<u>Group 3</u> Individuals & Societies	<u>Group 4</u> Experimental Sciences	<u>Group 5</u> Mathematics	<u>Group 6</u> The Arts
Language & Literature SL*	French SL & HL Spanish SL & HL	Global Politics HL History of Europe HL	Biology HL Chemistry HL	Math: Applications and Interpretations †SL & HL	Theatre † SL
Language & Literature HL*	**Ab initio (SL)	Psychology † SL World Religions † SL Environmental Systems & Societies SL	Physics HL Environmental Systems & Societies SL	Math: Analysis and Approaches HL	Visual Arts SL & HL

*SL (Standard Level) courses require a minimum of 150 contact hours. HL (Higher Level) courses require a minimum of 240 contact hours.

** Group 2 / Language B: an additional SL course called "Ab initio" may be offered to students who transfer into the DP programme with little to no prior contact with the new language; it is a two-year course. In this unique situation, the course may be offered, on a case by case basis, to students interested in pursuing the IB DP, with appropriate teacher/coordinator approval.

† Psychology SL, World Religions SL, and Theatre SL are all one-year courses that test at the end of that course.