



Inspiring Excellence in Arts and Academics

Minneapolis Southwest High School IB Program
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Website: http://southwest.mpls.k12.mn.us/International_Baccalaureate.html

Welcome to Southwest High School. We are nestled in the southwest quadrant of Minneapolis, three blocks directly west of Lake Harriet. We are grades 9-12 and serve students who live in the south half of Minneapolis, or the Southwest, Washburn, and Roosevelt High School attendance areas, as well as many open-enrolled students living throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area. In addition, we enroll IB students from other countries who either move into the area or are involved in a study abroad program.

The Southwest IB Program began in 1987 and has grown steadily. Currently, about one-third of our student body (about 750 students) is involved in IB. Most 11th and 12th grade IB students are enrolled in 3-6 IB courses, and about 20%-25% of our seniors fulfill the requirements of the IB Diploma. Each year about 250 juniors and seniors take at least one IB exam, totaling about 715 exams. Many of these students also take Advanced Placement exams.

Most, if not all, of our IB students are extremely active in extracurricular activities, inside and outside of school. This dispels the myth that because of the academic rigor of the IB Program, students have little or no time for participation. Quite the contrary! Involvement in theater, student government, music, community service, athletics, civic organizations, employment, and a wealth of other activities is the norm. Southwest IB students epitomize the "IB way" of enhancing their lives and the lives of others through academics, civic responsibility, a healthy body and creative expression through the arts.

One hundred percent of IB students who apply to a wide range of colleges and universities are accepted. Southwest IB students attend an array of schools such as: Northwestern, Columbia, Carleton, Stanford, Harvard, Chicago, St. Olaf, Notre Dame, Yale, and the Universities of Oregon, Minnesota, Puget Sound, Iowa, Colorado, and Michigan. Most important, our students, both Certificate and Diploma Candidates, report being extremely well prepared and confident to handle advanced college coursework. They know how to study, to question, to think independently and think critically. They also report having received an abundance of college credit and placement in advanced courses, as well as scholarship aid.

We welcome inquiries about our IB Program and invite you to come to Southwest and visit with our IB students, faculty, and their families. Interested students are welcome to schedule a day in which to "shadow" one of our students. Call the Southwest IB office for details and to make an appointment.

FACT SHEET:

- Program established in 1987
- Total School Student Population: 1,650
- Total IB Student Population: 750
- Number of open-enrolled students: 25
- Percentage of IB students who come from a non-public middle school: 25%
- Enrollment Process: Southwest IB believes in the “IB for all” concept; however, due to supply and demand constraints, priority is given to students who: (1) have a sibling in the IB Program, (2) have attended an established IB Middle Years Program and (3) live in the Minneapolis Southwest High School attendance area.
- Number of 11th and 12th graders taking at least one IB exam: 250
- Southwest Advanced Placement Courses offered: English Language and Composition, U.S. History, Calculus, Physics
- Number of IB exams administered in 2007: 715
- Number of IB Diploma Candidates who earned the IB Diploma in 2007: 38
- Number of teachers who teach at least one “Pre-IB” or IB course: 27
- Maintenance of IB Program: Coordinator (.5/.5 teaching), Assistant to the Coordinator (28 hours/week), IB parent support organization
- Southwest IB Modern Language Courses: Japanese, French, Spanish
- Southwest IB “Sixth Subject” (elective) courses: Dance, Visual Arts, Theater Arts, Computer Studies, Music, Psychology
- Southwest is in the process of applying for and implementing the IB Middle Years Program in the 9th and 10th grades.

Sampling of 2005 Extended Essay Topics:

- Segregation and Unequal Education Fifty Years After Brown vs. Board of Education
- Limits of Western Power to Prevent Genocide: A Case Study of Rwanda, 1994
- The Role of Yiddish Theater in U.S. Popular Culture in the Early Twentieth Century
- Is the Pen Mightier? A Comparison of Violent and Non-Violent Revolution Using the Scottish War for Independence and India’s Independence Movement
- How the Forces of Physics Affect the World’s Gas Usage
- The Misrepresentation of Cesare Borgia in *The Prince*
- Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: How it Affects the Community and Becomes a Perceptual Cycle