



International Baccalaureate Office

Our actions will ignite the genius and nurture the goodness within us all

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Alignment to Programme Standards and Practices

Standard A.1 → The school's published statements of mission and philosophy align with those of the IB.

Standard A.6 → The school promotes open communication based on understanding and respect.

Standard A.9 → The school supports access for students to the IB programme(s) and philosophy.

Standard B1.5 → The school develops and implements policies and procedures that support the programme(s).

Standard B2.9 → The school has systems in place to guide and counsel students through the programme(s).

Method of Communication

All policies available to the community and staff on the Cherokee Trail Website. Staff are allowed editing privileges via Google docs and encouraged to revisit policies yearly.

Authors

Karen Slusher, IB Coordinator
Jean Incitti, Principal
Julian Jones, Assistant Principal
Molly Robbins, Instructional Coach
Paul Whipple, Librarian
Kris Atkin, CAS Coordinator
Shannon Cobb, TOK Teacher

Support of Full Diploma

Cherokee Trail High School's mission, "To Ignite the Genius and Nurture the Goodness within Us All," aligns with the IB Mission in that it promotes inclusivity, caring, respect, and intellectual understanding. Central to the IB classroom is the notion that "other people, with their differences, can also be right."

Cherokee Trail supports the full Diploma. Cherokee Trail High School students are not allowed to engage in a partial IB education; for that they have Advanced Placement or Concurrent



International Baccalaureate Office

Our actions will ignite the genius and nurture the goodness within us all

Enrollment. Exceptions apply only to French, Math HL, Design Technology, Film, Sports Exercise Health Science, Visual Art, and Business & Management, where there is no AP or CE alternative. Cherokee Trail High School believes that the full IB experience, including the Extended Essay, CAS, and TOK, are foundational in promoting critical thinking, problem solving, and inquiry skills. The International Baccalaureate Program at Cherokee Trail High School believes in roundedness, both curricular and extra-curricular. The full IB experience can only be achieved when students engage in the full program.

Advisement of Options

[Per our website](#), the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is a comprehensive and rigorous two-year curriculum for junior and senior students, which leads to international exams in six subjects and the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The aim of the IB Program is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who will help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The student who satisfies the demands of the IB curriculum demonstrates a strong commitment to lifelong learning, both in terms of the mastery of subject content, and the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success at the university level and in the competitive world.

Students who are admitted are encouraged to take challenging courses in their freshman and sophomore years of high school to prepare them for the rigors of IB. Specifically, it is expected that students will take Cherokee Trail's Pre-IB English, Advanced Placement social studies, Honors or Advanced Placement science, and level appropriate math and language. During their sophomore year, students are advised of their IB options, primarily as they relate to science and level (SL or HL), and students have access to an [IB Planning Tool](#) to use at home or in guided sessions at school. At this point, students are again reminded of the Diploma requirements and parent meetings are initiated as necessary.

Admission Criteria Publication

Students are evaluated for success in the IB based on their application, three teacher recommendations, available GPA, and standardized test scores, where available. The following is the introductory material on the application:

Cherokee Trail supports the full Diploma. Cherokee Trail High School students are not allowed to engage in a partial IB education; for that they have Advanced Placement or Concurrent Enrollment. Exceptions apply only to French, Math HL, Design Technology, Theatre, Sports Exercise Health Science, Film, and Business & Management, where there is no AP or CE alternative. Cherokee Trail High School believes that the full IB experience, including the Extended Essay, CAS, and TOK, are foundational in promoting critical thinking, problem solving, and inquiry skills. The International Baccalaureate Program at



International Baccalaureate Office

Our actions will ignite the genius and nurture the goodness within us all

*Cherokee Trail High School believes in roundedness, both curricular and extra-curricular.
The full IB experience can only be achieved when students engage in the full program.*

The students are required to provide the following information on their application:

- Demographics information
- Most recent grades on core subjects (English, Math, Social Studies, and Science)
- Reflections or explanations for any of the grades
- A short response as to their desire to be an IB Diploma student
- Information on their extracurricular activities and interests

The [IB application and information](#) can be accessed on the Cherokee Trail High School website.

Recommendation Criteria Publication

Students are evaluated for success in the IB based on their application, three teacher recommendations, available GPA, and standardized test scores, where available. The following is the introductory material on the teacher recommendation:

- Does the student grasp new or different concepts easily?
- Does the student challenge, speculate, make unusual associations or conclusions?
- Does the student take initiative in his/her own learning?
- Does the student communicate soundly in writing and speaking?
- Does the student demonstrate quick recall and mastery of factual information?
- Does the student show excitement and enthusiasm for learning?
- Does the student strive toward perfection, and is he or she self-critical?
- Is the student intellectually playful and imaginative?
- Is the student self-confident, emotionally secure, and self-assertive?
- Do you recommend this student for the IB Program? (Absolutely!, Yes, Yes with reservations, or No)

After applications are collected, a committee led by the IB Coordinator convenes to examine the likelihood of success of each applicant. Generally speaking, students who have poor applications, poor teacher recommendations, and poor grades are not initially admitted, though they are encouraged to work hard their freshman year of high school in order to achieve academic success and reapply. Likewise, students who score poorly in two of the three categories are often denied, though the committee often seeks additional information on which to base the decision. Students who score poorly in one of the three areas are generally put on probation, which simply means that they must have monthly progress meetings with the IB Coordinator and counseled accordingly. Students who have no poor areas are accepted unconditionally.



International Baccalaureate Office

Our actions will ignite the genius and nurture the goodness within us all

Procedures for Access

While there is an application process for entrance into the International Baccalaureate at Cherokee Trail High School (see application and teacher recommendation requirement), it is not meant to be a gate-keeping process. There is no limit to the number of students in the IB at Cherokee Trail. We are a full Diploma school with exceptions in classes where there is no AP or CE equivalent, namely French, Math HL, Design Technology, Film, Sports Exercise Health Science, and Business. This said, we provide multiple pathways to rigor, so IB is not for everyone. Students who are not working at a high level and not experiencing some form of academic success might be denied entry into the IB or asked to demonstrate success in 9th or 10th grade before being admitted. Others, who want to try IB but do not quite have the academic résumé, might be admitted to the IB Program with probationary status, which requires monthly check-ins with the IB Coordinator.

All students who have demonstrated success in rigorous courses are targeted for entry into the IB, especially students of color and/or those who are traditionally underserved. These students receive letters commending them for their middle school successes and recommending them to consider IB. After the first quarter of school, grade reports are generated, and teachers are consulted to find additional students who might benefit from the IB experience, again especially students of color and/or those who are traditionally underserved. Successful students who elect not to do IB are encouraged to participate in other rigorous programs, such as AP Capstone.

Student who pursue the IB Diploma Program are offered a variety of supports:

- CAS advisors
- Initiate regular group and individual meetings to explore ideas and encourage creativity
- Contact parents to update progress
- Approve or deny activities based on IB policy
- Inform students of possible CAS activities
- Act as liaison between community and school to promote community involvement in CAS projects
- Extended Essay Supervisor
 - Coordinates EE advisors with student topic compatibility
 - Organizes EE Camp: Week-long research camp where students meet with advisors at a university library and research/write their Extended Essay during the summer between junior and senior year.
 - Meet regularly with students to establish timelines for product submission.



International Baccalaureate Office

Our actions will ignite the genius and nurture the goodness within us all

- Schoology: Online submission/transmission tool that includes calendars, homework, resources, quizzes, tests.
- Managebac: Online tool utilized for tracking CAS, exam registration, and external assessment uploads for teacher review.
- Class meetings: Regular meetings with IB classes to remind of deadlines and processes.
- IB Minority Club: A club that meets regularly to organize supports for students of color.
- Clubs with community service focus
- World Awareness Week: Yearly event that provides venue to explore cultural heritage and share that heritage with the school
- Junior Induction Ceremony: IB Juniors are honored by the IB Coordinator and principal in front of parents and other guests as they embark upon their IB journey
- IB Recognition Ceremony: For IB seniors, this ceremony takes place in May of the final year of IB. The superintendent of schools, multiple school board members, the head of school, and the IB coordinator honor these students in front of parents, faculty, IB underclassmen, and other guests. While the focus in this ceremony is on the IB Diploma candidates, the indirect benefit is that it allows underclassmen to see the reward that will be bestowed upon them.

Final Considerations

In order to establish goals and to maintain the current admissions philosophy, a committee will review and revise this policy annually. This committee will consist of IB parents, the librarian, the DP coordinator and the principal. Cherokee Trail will review and revise the admissions policy annually because of the changing needs of our population and to ensure that it continues to be central to our DP mission. The reviewed, revised version of the policy will remain housed on our website. Our hope is that a transparent admissions policy will encourage more students to engage in the Diploma Program education. Our primary concern regarding the admissions policy is to avoid elitism and encourage traditionally under-represented populations not only to apply but also to graduate as IB Diploma recipients.