



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.

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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."



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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 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 in order to prepare them for the rigors of IB. Specifically, it is expected that students will take 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). 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:



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STUDENTS INTERESTED IN IB AT CTHS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION. We welcome your interest in the IB Program of Cherokee Trail High School. Application to this program is open to students who will attend (or already attend) CTHS and are looking for a rigorous educational experience that leads to the IB Program in the junior and senior years of high school.

If you are a motivated student who enjoys academic challenges...if you like to learn and have your parents' support...if you would like an international education and can manage your time well...IB IS FOR YOU!

Application Deadline: THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH

In order to be considered for IB, you must...

- *Complete and submit a Cherokee Trail Pre-IB application.*
- *Honestly report grades of four core classes below.*
- *Request recommendations from three current teachers (language arts, math, and a teacher of your choice). Teachers can fill out recommendations online (see link on CTHS website). Teachers should NOT return recommendations to student; recommendations should come directly to Cherokee Trail High School IB through the online window. The link for the teacher recommendation can be found on the CTHS website--> academics-->IB -->*

The IB application attempts to gauge a student's preparedness and willingness to engage in the rigors of IB. Besides basic demographic information, the application asks students to self-report grades in language arts, social studies, math, and science. It asks students to account for any underperformance or success. And the application asks for writing samples on extracurricular interests and why they want to do IB. Finally, students are asked to confer with their parents and acknowledge familial support.

Teachers who recommend students are expected to rate a student's learning characteristics and motivation based on the following questions:

- Does the student perform well on class assignments, tests, projects?
- Does the student complete homework and outside class research on time and thoroughly?



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- 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.

The following is a link to the IB application and other published information:

<http://cherokeetrail.cherrycreekschools.org/Academics/ib/Pages/default.aspx>

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 with regard to the admissions policy is to



Cherokee Trail High School



Cherry Creek Schools
Dedicated to Excellence

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avoid elitism and encourage traditionally under-represented populations not only to apply but also to graduate as IB Diploma recipients.