

## **Admissions Policy**

### **Philosophy**

Participation in the Abby Kelley Foster IB Diploma Programme is encouraged for all students through either the full diploma or selective candidate courses. Starting in freshmen year, subject teachers begin introducing and developing the underlying skills emphasized within the IB programme. Abby Kelley Foster promotes individualized student participation focused on students' interests and academic goals.

### **Full Diploma Application Process**

Any student applying for the full Diploma Programme must currently have a minimum 3.0 GPA. All students interested in participating in the full Diploma Programme must complete and submit an application and three teacher recommendations, one must be from their math teacher and one must be from their English teacher. The application includes a 250 word essay in which the students describe why they are interested in and would be a good candidate for the IB programme. In addition, the application requires that parents sign off in support of their student's desire to participate in the full Diploma Programme. Once the applications and letters of recommendation are submitted the Programme Coordinator reviews the complete application. All students meeting the minimum 3.0 GPA requirement are interviewed. The Programme Coordinator conducts the interviews accompanied by various IB teachers. At times the principal or vice principal will sit in on the interviews. The Programme Coordinator discusses any concerns about individual applicants with the high school principal, and vice-principal. The Coordinator will communicate the concerns to the student and the parent/guardian but ultimately allow the parent and student to have the final determination on whether or not to attempt the program. This aligns with the school's mission statement in which the parents are seen as the primary educators of their students and the school works in partnership with the parents.

### **Individual Courses**

There is no grade or GPA requirement for participation in individual certificate courses. During the scheduling process at the end of their sophomore year, students choose the course levels they desire with suggested input from their sophomore teachers. Student's are counseled on their choices by the guidance office and are encouraged to talk to the IB Coordinator and the IB subject teachers. Factors including future college plans are considered when advising students on their subject choices and participation.

## **Promotion of the Programme**

- The IB Programme Coordinator conducts an IB Informational Night in February geared toward informing freshmen and sophomore students and their parents about the IB program and the benefits of participating in the IB Diploma Programme. This includes current IB students' presentation of their perspectives on the programme and its benefits. Solicited Diploma graduates testimonials on the benefits participation in the programme in college and beyond are presented.
- Applications for the full diploma programme are provided during the Informational Night and available in the high school office throughout the application period.
- The coordinator visits the freshmen at the start of the school year to talk about the programme, provide guidance on how they can start preparing now, and answer any questions the students may have.
- During the annual Alumni Panel held by the Guidance Department, former IB Diploma students discuss the benefits of the program in dealing with college level course loads and expectations.
- Provide Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant money to offset costs of IB examination fees for economically disadvantaged students.
- Although students pay for their registration and assessment fees, the administration works with families on an individual basis to develop payment options and requirements. No student is denied participation in the program based on economic difficulties.