



International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Oscar F. Smith High School

APPLICATION PACKET

Application Deadline: January 15, 2015

Program Description

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB) is a rigorous, pre-university course of studies that meets the needs of **highly motivated** secondary students in the eleventh and twelfth grades. The goals of IB are to ensure “intellectual rigor and high academic standards, to teach young people to relate the experiences of the classroom to the outside world, and to assist students in becoming critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and informed participants” in their communities and in the world. The program fosters an international perspective by encouraging students to understand and to value others’ cultural perspectives. Oscar F. Smith High School was accepted as an IB world school by the Director General of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) of Geneva, Switzerland in February 2003, thereby authorizing the school to offer the Grade 11-12 Diploma Program beginning in the fall of 2004.

Through successful completion of an IB program at an authorized IB World School, students earn the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma (and in Virginia, the Advanced Studies Diploma). The requirements of the program include successful completion of IB courses in English (or the student’s native language), a foreign language, history, science, mathematics, and an IB elective. Students must take three or four of these subjects at what IB refers to as the “higher level” and two or three at what is called the “standard level.” This is similar to having majors and minors. In each of the six IB courses, the student must complete required internal assessments and sit for an external examination. The exams, written and scored by the International Baccalaureate Organization, measure student performance according to established international standards for excellence. In addition to the course work and satisfactory performance on all assessments, students must also take the **Theory of Knowledge** seminar class, submit a 3,000 to 4000-word **Extended Essay**, and complete 150 hours in **Creativity, Action, and Service** activities in order to be eligible to earn the IB Diploma.

Students can find that they are not prepared for the rigors of an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program; therefore, the Chesapeake Public Schools Pre-IB Academy at Oscar F. Smith High School provides preparation for ninth and tenth grade diploma candidates. CPS Pre-IB ninth and tenth graders take intensified courses in English, history, government, mathematics, science, and a foreign language (French or Spanish).

Students accepted for the International Baccalaureate program become bona fide Oscar F. Smith High School students beginning in the ninth grade where they have full eligibility for extra-curricular activities. They also earn their high school diploma from Oscar F. Smith High School; however, a student who leaves the program for any reason will be required to return to his/her home attendance zone high school.

Note: Students in the IB Program who reside outside of the Oscar Smith High School attendance zone are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at their home high school while enrolled at Oscar Smith. Also, according to the VHSL Transfer Rule, 28A-7-2(14), a student cannot transfer from one school and enroll in another school without a corresponding change of address in the residence of his/her parent or guardian or he/she will be ineligible for VHSL interscholastic competition until he/she has been enrolled in the new school for 365 calendar days. This rule also applies to students who withdraw from the IB Program at Oscar Smith High School and return to their home school.

Application Process

Each student who wishes to participate in Chesapeake's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program must submit a **completed** application for the CPS Pre-International Baccalaureate Academy at Oscar F. Smith High School. Applications are available in all middle school guidance offices or from the IB coordinator beginning in November. The 'Application Form/Admissions Agreement' sheet and teacher recommendations are due **to the middle school counselor by January 15, 2015**. All applicants must also participate in a writing sample session at Oscar F. Smith High School following the submission of the application in order for the application to be complete. See the enclosed flyer for writing session dates and times.

Prerequisites for the CPS Pre-IB Academy

Prerequisites for the Pre-IB Academy include the following:

- Algebra I - Accepted ninth graders who haven't completed Algebra 1 by the end of eighth grade **will be required to take it in summer school before the ninth grade**.
- French 1 or Spanish 1 - Accepted candidates who have not already earned one credit in Spanish or French may take Spanish 1 or French 1 during the first term of ninth grade. It is, however, strongly recommended that students begin study of the language prior to ninth grade, if possible.

Selection Process

To be eligible for the program, students should fulfill the following minimum requirements:

- Grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above with a grade of A or B in each core subject.
- Scores at or above the 85th national percentile on standardized tests.
- Favorable recommendations from four current teachers as follows: (1) English, (2) mathematics, (3) social studies, and (4) science.
- Evidence of desire to be challenged through enrollment in honors and high-school equivalent courses, such as the first year of a foreign language, Algebra I, and/or Geometry.
- Passing scores on all Grade 8 Standards of Learning Tests.

An admissions committee scores each student's application using a rubric, which incorporates the previously listed requirements and the student's writing sample and ranks applicants according to score. A personal interview with the applicant at the student's middle school will be scheduled if there is inadequate information on which to base a decision.

Up to sixty (60) applicants from the top of the ranked list will be offered admission into the CPS pre-IB program. The remaining students will be placed on a waiting list of alternates to be considered in the event that a student who is offered a position in the program chooses not to accept. This selection process, as well as the application, are modeled after ones used to select students in IB world schools throughout the United States. The process has proved to be effective in selecting students who can succeed in the rigorous IB Diploma Program.

Please note: Applications received after January 15, 2015 will not be considered in the first round of acceptances. Late applications will be placed on the academy waiting list to be considered if any vacancies occur. Before forwarding any late applications, please clearly mark the top of the first page with "late" and indicate the date received.

Minimum Grade Point Requirement

Each student in the program is expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0. Counseling will be available to assist each student not fulfilling his/her potential. During the ninth grade, any student with a GPA below a 3.0 will be encouraged to schedule parent/teacher conferences and to seek tutoring to assist in attaining the minimum GPA. At the end of ninth grade, any student with a GPA below a 2.6 will be placed on Academic Probation. Any student with a GPA between 2.6 and 2.9 will be notified that he/she has until the end of the first term of the sophomore year to meet the minimum requirement or be placed on Academic Probation. A student on Academic Probation has one term to meet the minimum GPA requirement or face removal from the program.

Any student who has not met the minimum GPA requirement after one term of Academic Probation will be scheduled for Academic Review. Unless there are highly valid extenuating circumstances, the Academic Review Committee will recommend transfer from the program. The minimum GPA requirement of maintaining a 3.0 will also apply to the eleventh and twelfth grade Diploma Program.

Note: To maintain the integrity of the program, repeated violations of the Admissions Agreement signed by the student and his/her parents/guardians in the application process can warrant removal from the program.



International Baccalaureate Program

Oscar F. Smith High School, 1994 Tiger Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320

APPLICATION FORM

Application Deadline: **January 15, 2015** -- Please submit to your middle school guidance counselor.

Student's Legal Last Name	Legal First Name	Middle Name	Preferred Name
Student's Residence – Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
Parent's/Guardian's E-mail Address	Current Middle School	Present Grade Level	
Student Number	Birth Date	Gender (M or F)	Home Telephone Number
Mother's/Guardian's Name	Mother's/Guardian's Work Telephone Number		
Father's/Guardian's Name	Father's/Guardian's Work Telephone Number		
Student's Native Language	Student's Home High School		

Academic Areas of Interest

Rank the following subjects according to your interest from 1 to 6 (1 is the highest; 6 is the lowest). Subjects may be ranked equally if you wish (more than one ranked as 1, for example).

_____ Foreign Language	_____ Language Arts	_____ Mathematics	_____ Other Sciences
_____ Social Studies	_____ Art	_____ Computers	_____ Music
_____ Psychology	_____ Theatre	_____ Environmental Science	

Major Awards/Honors, if any (Please list below.)



1. Why do you want to become an IB student? What aspects of the program most appeal to you? How do you feel that the IB Program may help you reach your future goals?

2. The IB Program is a program for students who are highly motivated academically. Please provide an example of something that you do, or have done, that demonstrates that you are an academically highly motivated student. Include a brief explanation.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
Oscar F. Smith High School, 1994 Tiger Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320

ADMISSIONS AGREEMENT

The International Baccalaureate Program is a rigorous, comprehensive program designed for the academically motivated student with the potential to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma. For a student to be successful in this program and to be prepared for IB examinations, the student must be committed to a high quality education. Therefore, the Chesapeake Public Schools Pre-International Baccalaureate Academy requires the student and the family to make the following commitment:

I (we) agree to the following terms and conditions for participation in IB. I (we) will:

1. Follow the rules of Oscar F. Smith High School as specified in the *Student Handbook*. A copy may be obtained by contacting the IB coordinator or the main office at Oscar F. Smith High School.
2. Meet the expectations of each class by participating in daily activities including completing homework, listening attentively, offering relevant comments, posing insightful questions, and taking notes.
3. Work seriously to improve reading and writing skills.
4. Submit high quality work at deadlines.
5. Maintain a 3.0 GPA and abide by the Academic Review Process.
6. Exemplify the highest degree of academic and personal integrity. Cheating and repeated class disruptions are grounds for dismissal from the program.
7. Exert concerted effort to schedule recreational trips and all appointments (such as medical and dental) outside of the school day.
8. Remain in the program unless released by the recommendation of the IB coordinator and the Academic Review Committee. Motivation, attitude, and progress will determine continued involvement in the program.

I realize that I must meet the standards of the program and abide by my signed commitment. If the quality of my work and/or the level of my commitment to my education do not conform to these standards, I may be asked to withdraw from the program to be placed in a program more suitable to my performance. **If I leave the program for any reason, I realize that I will be required to return to my home attendance zone high school.**

I also realize that by applying for the program, I will become a bona fide Oscar F. Smith High School student eligible for extra-curricular activities at the school and that I will earn my high school diploma from Oscar F. Smith High School. **I realize that if I reside outside of the Oscar Smith attendance zone, I will not be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities at the home attendance zone high school while enrolled at Oscar Smith High School. I also realize that, should I decide to withdraw from the IB Program and return to my original high school attendance zone (if not Oscar Smith) without a corresponding change in residence, I will be ineligible for VHSL interscholastic activities for one calendar year per the VHSL Transfer Rule 28A-7-2 (14).**

Student Signature

Date

I grant permission for my son/daughter to be enrolled in the IB Program at Oscar F. Smith High School and agree to all the terms and conditions of this contract. Also, I will support my child's academic growth and encourage development of independent study skills.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The Chesapeake Public School System is an equal educational opportunity school system. The School Board of the City of Chesapeake also adheres to the principles of equal opportunity in employment and, therefore, prohibits discrimination in terms and conditions of employment on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, religion, age or disability.

DETACH
THE FOLLOWING FORMS
&
SUBMIT TO
SCHOOL PERSONNEL
AS SPECIFIED.

**ENGLISH**

International Baccalaureate Program

Oscar F. Smith High School**TEACHER RECOMMENDATION – CONFIDENTIAL**

Student _____ Counselor _____

English Teacher

Directions to Student: Write your name and your counselor's name in the spaces above. Give this form to your current English teacher.

Directions to Student / Parent / Guardian: Teacher recommendations are confidential. Please do not ask teachers to reveal the contents of their recommendation.

Directions to Teacher: The student whose name appears above is applying for admission to the CPS Pre-International Baccalaureate Academy at Oscar F. Smith High School. Please complete the chart below and make additional comments in the space provided. The criteria are explained in detail in the IB learner profile on the back of this form. Please return the completed form to the counselor named above.

	Outstanding (one of the best I have ever known)	Excellent (top 10%)	Above Average	Average	Below Average
Inquiry and independence in learning					
Knowledgeable in subject area					
Applies thinking skills critically and creatively					
Communicates effectively with others					
Demonstrates integrity and honesty					
Open-minded to others' ideas, opinions, and values					
Demonstrates empathy, compassion, and respect toward others					
Approaches new and unfamiliar situations with courage/is willing to be challenged					
Seeks intellectual, physical, and emotional balance					
Gives thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience					

Please make any additional comments that you think will assist us in assessing this student's suitability for the CPS Pre-IB Academy.

Please check one:

Highly Recommend ☐Recommend ☐Do Not Recommend ☐

Teacher Signature _____ Teacher's name (printed) _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Your input is invaluable to the selection committee.

Questions may be directed to Kerri Lancaster, IB Coordinator, at 548-3286.



THE IB LEARNER PROFILE

The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers: They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable: They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers: They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators: They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled: They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded: They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring: They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers: They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced: They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective: They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

**MATH**

International Baccalaureate Program

Oscar F. Smith High School**TEACHER RECOMMENDATION – CONFIDENTIAL**

Student _____ Counselor _____

Math Teacher

Directions to Student: Write your name and your counselor's name in the spaces above. Give this form to your current math teacher.

Directions to Student / Parent / Guardian: Teacher recommendations are confidential. Please do not ask teachers to reveal the contents of their recommendation.

Directions to Teacher: The student whose name appears above is applying for admission to the CPS Pre-International Baccalaureate Academy at Oscar F. Smith High School. Please complete the chart below and make additional comments in the space provided. The criteria are explained in detail in the IB learner profile on the back of this form. **Please return the completed form to the counselor named above.**

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Gives thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience					

Please make any additional comments that you think will assist us in assessing this student's suitability for the CPS Pre-IB Academy.

Please check one:

Highly Recommend ☐Recommend ☐Do Not Recommend ☐

Teacher Signature _____ Teacher's name (printed) _____

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SCIENCE

International Baccalaureate Program Oscar F. Smith High School TEACHER RECOMMENDATION – CONFIDENTIAL

Student _____ Counselor _____

Science Teacher

Directions to Student: Write your name and your counselor's name in the spaces above. Give this form to your current science teacher.

Directions to Student / Parent / Guardian: Teacher recommendations are confidential. Please do not ask teachers to reveal the contents of their recommendation.

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Please check one:

Highly Recommend ☐

Recommend ☐

Do Not Recommend ☐

Teacher Signature _____ Teacher's name (printed) _____

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SOCIAL STUDIES

International Baccalaureate Program Oscar F. Smith High School TEACHER RECOMMENDATION – CONFIDENTIAL

Student _____ Counselor _____

Social Studies Teacher

Directions to Student: Write your name and your counselor's name in the spaces above. Give this form to your current social studies teacher.

Directions to Student / Parent / Guardian: Teacher recommendations are confidential. Please do not ask teachers to reveal the contents of their recommendation.

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Please check one:

Highly Recommend ☐

Recommend ☐

Do Not Recommend ☐

Teacher Signature _____ Teacher's name (printed) _____

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International Baccalaureate Program Application
Oscar F. Smith High School

COUNSELOR CHECKLIST

Directions to Student: Write your name and the name of your school on this form. Return it to your counselor along with your completed 'Application Form/Admissions Agreement' sheet by **January 15, 2015.**

Student Name _____

Student ID Number (Chesapeake) _____

Current Middle School _____

Directions to the School Counselor: Please complete this form, make sure that each item on the checklist below is included, and send the application packet to

Kerri Lancaster, IB Coordinator
CPS Pre-International Baccalaureate Academy
Oscar F. Smith High School
1994 Tiger Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Telephone: 548-3286

E-mail: Kerri.Lancaster@cpschools.com

COUNSELOR CHECKLIST

Student Items:

1. _____ **Application Form/Admissions Agreement sheet (signed)**

Teacher Items:

2. _____ **Four (4) Teacher Recommendations (English, social studies, science, & mathematics)**

Counselor Item:

3. _____ **Counselor Checklist (this sheet)**

Private/Home schools only:

_____ **Grades for 7th grade and 8th grade to date**

_____ **Any standardized test data that may assist the committee in evaluating the applicant**

Chesapeake Middle Schools: Student SOL test scores and grades for 7th and 8th grades will be obtained directly from Information Technology. The counselor need not supply this data.

Thank you for assisting this student with his/her application.

Please Note: Applications received after January 15, 2015 will not be considered in the first round of acceptances. Late applications will be placed on the academy waiting list to be considered if any vacancies occur. Before forwarding any late applications, please clearly mark the top of the first page with "late" and indicate the date received.

Counselor's Signature _____ Date _____

**Please detach this sheet
and keep it as a reminder.**



**International Baccalaureate Program
Oscar F. Smith High School**

REQUIRED WRITING SAMPLE

**REPORT TO OSCAR F. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL FOR ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING WRITING SAMPLE SESSIONS.
(IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RSVP.)**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria

---or---

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria

**Turn in at the stoplight and follow the road to the back parking lot adjacent to the
gymnasium. Students should enter through the doors by the gymnasium.**

INFORMATION

- The student will be given a writing prompt and asked to write a composition of more than one paragraph on the topic provided. The purpose of the writing sample is to determine if the student possesses competent writing skills necessary for success in the program.
- The student should bring two pens (pencil is not permitted) and, if desired, bottled water, a snack, or change for soda/snack machines. Paper will be provided.
- If a student submits an application for the IB Program but does not complete the required writing sample, his or her application is considered to be incomplete and cannot be evaluated by the IB Admissions Committee. If you have a conflict with both of the above dates, please contact the IB Coordinator.

Please contact the IB Coordinator if you have additional questions or concerns.

Mrs. Lancaster

548-3286

Kerri.Lancaster@cpschools.com