

# **Latta High School IB World School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Admissions Policy**



## **Admissions Philosophy**

Latta High School's philosophy of admissions has been driven by the foresight of our district superintendent, school board, and staff. It is an open-enrollment program that, at its core, believes that our students should have the same access to an internationally-recognized education as those students who live in more economically-advantaged areas of our state and country. In recognition of this philosophy, Latta High School does not expect or require any financial remuneration from candidates who complete their coursework. Students are encouraged to enroll in the full IB Diploma Programme; however, any student may take as many IB courses as their interest and commitment allows. LHS does not limit the number of students in the Diploma Programme as we are interested in providing the best educational opportunity available to as many of our students as are willing to accept the challenge.

## **Admissions Procedures**

Prior to 2020, in the spring of each school year, Latta High School has held two important meetings. The first meeting is for students who are interested in participating in one or more IB courses. LHS IB Diploma Programme alumni have been invited to come and talk with these students during an in-school interest meeting. They typically explained why they chose to complete IB coursework and how they felt it benefitted them in their college courses. Time was always given to allow current students to ask questions of the graduates.

After the student interest meeting, an evening meeting was held where parents/guardians could come and hear about the IB Diploma Programme from LHS administration and faculty. Topics presented included the IB philosophy at LHS, anticipated schedules for the two years, and study skills and work ethic. Each of the subject areas, including the core, were given a brief overview by the subject teacher. Finally, the application process was reviewed, and time was given for attendees to ask questions of the group and meet and greet the DP teachers.

The unanticipated closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted our normal procedures in March 2020, one week before our scheduled meetings. We have regrouped and created a new process to replace the old face-to-face meetings. The application is now an online form. The meeting has been moved to a video format that is included as a link in the application. Student alumni share videos with us that we incorporate into the main video so

that viewers can hear their comments on the IB Diploma Programme and how it has affected their lives after high school. Parents/guardians may request in-person meetings with any of the staff as a part of the application. Although it may be possible to return to in-person meetings at some point in the future, there is no doubt that the online format is more convenient for many of our families.

## **Admissions Application**

The application for entry to the IB Diploma Programme contains ten brief sections that families must complete.

- Section 1: Student Information – provides basic contact information and inquires whether the student plans to pursue the full IB Diploma
- Section 2: Video – provides the link to the application video which takes the place of the former in-person meeting with prospective candidates and their families
- Section 3: Student Questionnaire – provides a chance for students to reflect on their work ethic and commitment to the IB Diploma Programme
- Section 4: Essay – provides an explanation of the required essay that asks students to read and reflect on the ten IB Learner Profile characteristics
- Section 5: Student Statement of Integrity – requires the student to commit to uphold the expected standards of academic integrity if admitted to the Diploma Programme
- Section 6: Course Selection – asks students to reflect on which courses they are seriously considering taking during the two years of the IB DP
- Section 7: Request Student Transcript – requires students to complete the LHS online transcript request application
- Section 8: Parent/Guardian Questionnaire - provides a place for parents/guardians to reflect on and communicate their commitment to the IB Diploma Programme
- Section 9: Parent/Guardian Statement of Support – requires parents/guardians to commit to supporting the student and their teachers during the IB Diploma Programme
- Section 10: Complete Application Requirements – provides a checklist to ensure they have completed all application requirements, reviewed all LHS IB Diploma Programme documents found on the website, and gives an opportunity to request in-person meetings with the faculty and staff

Once the applications are received, the IB DP Coordinator and the LHS Counselor meet to review the requested courses and the transcript for each individual. There are courses that act as prerequisites that students are encouraged to take as preparation for their IB Diploma Programme participation. If students have completed those courses successfully, then they are accepted into the program. If students have either not been as successful in those classes as expected or failed to take a prerequisite course, then a meeting is scheduled with the student and parent/guardian in order to determine the student's interest and commitment level. Those students and parents who are committed to the program in spite of these disadvantages are accepted with the understanding that the LHS faculty and staff will be checking with them periodically to ensure that they are achieving success at their ability level.

### **Admission for Students with Access and Inclusion Needs**

In accordance with the principles stated in the LHS Access and Inclusion Policy and Languages Policy, students with special needs will be encouraged to participate and supported throughout their time in the Diploma Programme. Accommodations for their instruction will be made, guided by the student's Individual Education Plan, 504 plan, IB policies and procedures, and classroom use of differentiated instruction.

### **Admissions Policy Review**

The DP Admissions Policy is a living document, subject to ongoing review and revision with the IB DP Coordinator taking the lead role in keeping the school informed of the principles and practices established by IB. As such, the policy will be reviewed annually after the May exam session by the collective DP faculty.