OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL · INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

# Oakland IB at a Glance

What 8th, 9th and 10th grade families need to know and keep handy.

**IB Information Night · November 2, 2026**

## WHAT IS IB?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a world-recognized program for 11th and 12th grade that prepares students for college and life by teaching them **how to think, not just what to memorize.**

## Oakland is Rutherford County's only IB World School

IB was founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland · Used in thousands of schools worldwide ·

## Why IB at Oakland? A school within a school

**Big-school opportunities**
IB students take part in career and technical courses, fine arts, athletics, and clubs and organizations.

**Small-school feel**
Students learn with the same classmates all four years, building friendships and a built-in support system.

## Oakland IB class of 2026 stats

| 30+ | $5M+ | 1,000+ | 5,000+ |
|---|---|---|---|
| average ACT (Tennessee: 20.1) | in scholarships earned | college credits awarded | community service hours |

Tip: search a college's name plus "IB credit policy."

## Two pathways, one starting point

GRADES 9–10 · OAKLAND PROGRAM

**IB Preparatory (Pre-IB)**

Advanced Honors and AP courses with your IB cohort, plus a start on a world language

→

GRADES 11–12 · OFFICIAL IB

**Diploma Programme (DP)**

A broad academic challenge across six subjects

GRADES 11–12 · OFFICIAL IB

**Career-related Programme (CP)**

IB courses plus a hands-on career pathway

**You don't have to decide tonight.** Official IB courses begin in 11th grade, and students choose DP or CP in the spring of 10th grade.

# DP vs. CP at a glance

| | Diploma Programme (DP) | Career-related Programme (CP) |
|---|---|---|
| **Best for** | A broad academic challenge across all subjects | A career interest plus IB-level academics |
| **IB courses** | 6, one from each subject area; 3–4 at Higher Level | At least 2, often at Higher Level |
| **Career study** | Not part of the DP | BioSTEM, Agriculture, Health Science, or Business & Marketing |
| **Core** | Theory of Knowledge, 4,000-word Extended Essay, CAS (creativity, activity, service) | Skills class, Reflective Project, language study, community service |
| **Earns** | The IB Diploma | The IB Career-related Programme Certificate |

**In college terms** **DP:** IB is your major and minor. **CP:** your pathway is your major; IB is your minor.

## Which one sounds like your student?

**They might love the DP if they…**

- ✓ Enjoy lots of different subjects
- ✓ Like reading, writing and, debating big ideas
- ✓ Aren't sure yet what career they want
- ✓ Are interested in attending larger universities or pursuing college opportunities outside of Tennessee or internationally

**They might love the CP if they…**

- ✓ Have a career interest, like agriculture or health science
- ✓ Learn best by doing
- ✓ Want IB rigor plus real-world skills

## The four-year IB journey

IB PREPARATORY · OAKLAND PROGRAM | OFFICIAL IB · DP OR CP

### 9th

- Advanced Honors and AP courses
- Begin a world language
- Join a club, team or art

### 10th

- Continue preparatory courses
- Explore DP vs. CP
- Choose a pathway in spring

### 11th

- Begin DP or CP courses
- Start the Core
- Start the Extended Essay or Reflective Project

### 12th

- Finish IB work
- IB exams, late April–May
- Graduate with IB distinction

**Why apply now?** 9th and 10th grade courses build the foundation that 11th grade IB courses depend on, and IB students are placed in classes together to stay on track.

# How do I apply? Who can apply, and where

### Successful applicants have

- ✓ A **3.0 cumulative GPA** in core subjects
- ✓ Scores at or above the **80th percentile in two areas** of the most recent state test or another national standardized exam

GPA isn't calculated until freshman year, so current 8th graders submit their last two years of report cards.

### Where to apply

**ZONED FOR OAKLAND?**

Use the OHS IB Application Form on the OHS website. No zone waiver required.

**ZONED FOR ANOTHER RCS SCHOOL?**

Apply through SchoolMint. If accepted, you will get a zone waiver. You can apply to several programs at once.

# Applying in five steps

**1 Explore**
Come tonight, attend a Tour Day and ask questions

**2 Apply**
The correct application is on the OHS website

**3 Submit**
Complete and submit the application by Jan 31, 2027

**4 Review**
The IB Coordinator and administration review all applications

**5 Hear back**
Early Feb: check your mailbox for a decision letter

# Accepted! Your checklist to day one

**SPRING OF 8TH GRADE**

- ☐ Confirm your spot by March 1, 2027
- ☐ Out of zone? Accept your seat in SchoolMint
- ☐ Register for 9th grade IB Preparatory courses

**SUMMER**

- ☐ Attend the incoming family orientation in May
- ☐ Save your IB team's contacts (below)
- ☐ Plan transportation: Bus 215 or family drop-off

**AUGUST: 9TH GRADE**

- ☐ Start your preparatory classes
- ☐ Join a club, team or art
- ☐ Ask questions early and often

# Mark your calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dec 1, 2026** | Application opens |
| **January 2027** | Tour Days (30 spots per day) |
| **Jan 31, 2027** | **Application deadline** |
| **Early Feb 2027** | Decisions sent by letter in the mail |
| **March 1, 2027** | Deadline to accept seat |

**TOUR DAYS · JANUARY 2027**

## Be an IB student for a morning

- Pair with a current IB student
- Follow their schedule, 8:30–11:45 am
- 30 spots per day; sign up with the Tour Day form
- Parents provide transportation

## Questions families ask most

**Will my student still have a life?**
Yes. IB students play sports, perform, and lead clubs, and IB rewards those activities.

**What if my student struggles?**
Reach out early. Teachers, the IB Coordinator, and a personal success plan help students get back on track.

**Does IB get college credit?**
Many colleges award credit for qualifying IB scores and even more for the IB Diploma; each college sets its own policy, similar to the process for AP courses.

**Is IB only for straight-A students?**
No. It's for curious, motivated students who are willing to work hard and ask for help.

**Is IB the same as AP?**
Both are college-level. AP is individual courses; IB is a connected program. Pre-IB students take AP too.

**Does IB cost anything?**
Around the world, yes. At Oakland, NO. IB exam fees apply only in 11th–12th grade, and Tennessee fee assistance helps qualifying families.

**You won't do it alone:** teachers who know IB, a dedicated IB team, protected IB Core work time in 11th–12th grade, ManageBac for deadlines, monthly newsletter, family calendar, and a cohort that studies together.

## Ready? Here's what to do next.

1 **Apply** by Jan 31, 2027 (OHS website or SchoolMint)

2 **Tour Oakland IB** on a January 2027 Tour Day

3 **Ask us anything** tonight in the Annex Commons or by email

## Who to contact

**Mrs. Crago**
**IB Coordinator**
Program questions and applications
cragob@rcschools.net

**Mrs. Mallari**
**IB Administrator**
Registration and fee assistance
mallarik@rcschools.net

**DP CAS:** Ms. Tucker
**DP Extended Essay:** Mrs. Moisant
**CP Liaison:** Mrs. Baxley
**CP Lang & Cul Studies:** Ms. Denney
**CP Reflective Project:** Dr. Burke

Find more information, including the full IB course list offered at Oakland, on the OHS IB website.

OHS IB Information Night: Nov 2, 2026

OHS IB Student Shadowing Sign-Up