OHS IB Information Night: Nov 2, 2026

IB INFORMATION NIGHT

# Your IB journey starts here.

A friendly guide for 8th, 9th, and 10th grade families to the International Baccalaureate at Oakland High School

November 2, 2026 •

Diploma Programme

Career-related Programme



TONIGHT'S ROADMAP

# By the end of tonight, you'll be able to answer five questions

**1**

**What is IB?**

**2**

**Why IB at Oakland?**

**3**

**Which pathway fits me?**

**4**

**How do I apply?**

**5**

**What happens after I'm accepted?**

Along the way: what 9th and 10th grade look like, what life is like as an IB student, and answers to the questions families ask most.

# Your OHS IB team

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

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

**IB Leadership Team**
CAS – Mrs. Baxley & Ms. Tucker
EE – Mrs. Moisant
CP Liaison – Mrs. Baxley
RP- Dr. Burke
Lang & Cul Studies- Ms. Denney

**Language and Literature**
Literature: Ms. Shadburn
Lang & Lit: Ms. Denney

**Language Acquisition**
Latin: Mr. Lovett
Spanish: Ms. Lopez

**Individuals and Societies**
Business Management – Mrs. Greene
Global Politics and History – Mrs. Baxley
Psychology – Mrs. Liddle

**Sciences**
Biology and ESS – Ms. Tucker
Chemistry – Ms. Brank
SEHS – Mrs. Zaccarelli

**Mathematics**
A&I (HL) – Mrs. Jackson
A&I (SL) - Mr. Baldree
A&A – Ms. Gillespie

**The Arts**
Art – Mr. Baugh
Film – Ms. Shadburn
Music – Mr. Jessup

01

QUESTION 01

# What is IB?

The big picture, in plain English.



01 · WHAT IS IB?

# IB in one sentence

**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.**

### Founded in 1968

Created in Geneva, Switzerland, for students who moved between countries.

### Used around the world

The same program and standards in thousands of schools across the globe.

### Right here at Oakland

Oakland is an authorized IB World School- the only one in Rutherford County.

# How is IB different from a typical high school class?

| TYPICAL APPROACH | THE IB APPROACH |
| --- | --- |
| Learn the facts for the test | Ask why, and connect ideas across subjects |
| Mostly worksheets and tests | Essays, labs, research, presentations, and exams |
| Graded only by the classroom teacher | Major work also scored by IB examiners around the world |
| Activities happen outside of school life | Service, creativity, and activity are part of the program |
| Prepares for the next test | Prepares for college-level independence |

# What does an IB class feel like? Let’s try one.

YOUR CHALLENGE • 2 MINUTES

***“Imagine a world where clean drinking water is becoming scarce. With the people around you, brainstorm the most creative solution to make sure every community has safe drinking water.”***

**Then an IB class would push further:**

- Whose perspective is missing?
- How would this work in another country?
- How do we know our solution works?
- What would it cost, and who pays?







01 · MORE THAN HARD CLASSES

# IB is about who your student becomes

Every IB school worldwide works toward the same 10 qualities, called the **IB Learner Profile**. Students: which one sounds most like you?

**Inquirer**
Curious and loves to learn

**Knowledgeable**
Explores big ideas

**Thinker**
Solves problems creatively

**Communicator**
Shares ideas with confidence

**Principled**
Acts with honesty

**Open-minded**
Values other views

**Caring**
Shows compassion

**Risk-taker**
Tries new things bravely

**Balanced**
Cares for mind and body

**Reflective**
Learns from experience

The goal of IB is to develop the WHOLE student. Not just his/her academics.

02

QUESTION 02

# Why IB at Oakland?

What your student gains, and what to realistically expect.



02 · WHY OAKLAND?

# A school within a school: the best of both worlds



BIG-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

## Everything Oakland offers

IB students take part in the full life of a large, comprehensive high school.

- Career and technical courses
- Fine arts
- Athletics
- Clubs and organizations




SMALL-SCHOOL FEEL

## A close-knit community

IB students learn alongside the same group of classmates throughout their time at Oakland, building lasting friendships and a built-in support system.

02 · WHY IB?

# What will my student gain?

### Critical thinking

Ask good questions and weigh evidence before deciding.

### Writing and research

Research and write at a college level before college.

### Time management

Plan long projects and juggle deadlines with confidence.

### Independence

Own their learning, the skill college demands most.

### Communication

Present, discuss and defend ideas with confidence.

### Global perspective

Understand people and ideas beyond their own.

Official IB Diploma

Official IB Career-Related Certificate

02 · WHY OAKLAND?

# Oakland IB, by the numbers: Class of 2026

**30+**

**Average ACT score for IB students**

Tennessee average: 20.1

**$5M+**

**in college scholarships earned**

**1,000+**

**college credits awarded**

**5,000+**

**community service hours**

# “Oh, the places you’ll go!”



# College credit, scholarships and admissions: the honest answer

### Admissions

Colleges know IB and respect its rigor. It shows a student chose to challenge themselves.

### 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.

### Scholarships

Strong preparation helps students compete for merit scholarships.

**Visit the OHS Counseling Table tonight to ask questions.**

02 · COMMON WORRIES

# “But what about…?”

### “Is it too much work?”

It is challenging, and it is built to be manageable, with planning time and a and a team that helps students stay on on track.

### “Will my child still have a life?”

Yes. Our IB students play sports, sing, act, dance and lead clubs, and IB values those experiences.

### “Is it only for straight-A students?”

No. IB is for curious, motivated students who are willing to work hard and ask for help.

We’ll dig into each of these later tonight.

QUESTION 03

# Which pathway fits me?

03

Oakland offers two IB programs in 11th and 12th grade.






# Two pathways, one starting point

Grades 9–10 • Oakland

## IB Preparatory

Advanced Honors and AP courses that build the foundation for IB.

Grades 11–12 • Official IB

## Diploma Programme (DP)

A broad academic challenge across six subjects.

## Career-related Programme (CP)

IB courses plus a hands-on career pathway.

OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL

# THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

BROAD AND BALANCED

Diploma Programme

## Six subjects, one from each area

1. **Language and Literature**
2. **World Language**
3. **Individuals and Societies**
4. **Sciences**
5. **Mathematics**
6. **The Arts, or a second subject from another area**

3–4 at Higher Level (deeper), the rest at Standard Level

## Plus the DP Core

**Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**
A class about how we know what we know.

**Extended Essay**
A 4,000-word research paper on a topic the student chooses.

**CAS: Creativity, Activity, Service**
Growing outside the classroom through the arts, sports and service.



03 · FOCUSED AND HANDS-ON

# The Career-related Programme (CP)

**2+**

**IB courses**

Often taken at Higher Level

**+**

**A career pathway**

Oakland career courses listed below.

**+**

**The CP Core**

Four parts, listed below

### Personal and Professional Skills

A class on workplace and life skills

### Reflective Project

Research an ethical question in your career field

### Language and Cultural Study

Build skills in another language

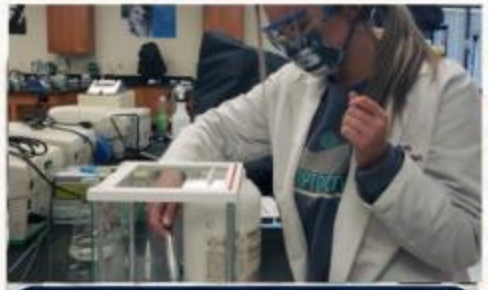
### Community Engagement

Service in the community




## BIO Stem. Agriculture. Health Science. Business and Marketing. Mechatronics.

# Career Pathways That Connect Learning to the Real World



## BioSTEM

- Biotechnology
- Laboratory Research
- STEM Applications

SkillsUSA

***Industry Certifications + Dual Enrollment Opportunities***

Hands-on research and career-connected science experiences




## Agriculture

- Agricultural Science
- Animal/Plant Systems
- Ag Mechanical Engineering

FFA | State + National Winners

***Industry Certifications + Dual Enrollment Opportunities***

Large animal science lab on campus



## Health Science

- Healthcare Careers
- Clinical Skills
- Patient Care

hosa | Future Health Professionals

***Industry Certifications + Dual Enrollment Opportunities***

Career preparation for health and medical fields



## Business & Marketing

- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing
- Business Management

DECA

***Industry Certifications + Dual Enrollment Opportunities***

Real-world business and professional skill development



## Mechatronics

- Automation
- Robotics
- PLCs
- Advanced Engineering Concepts

SkillsUSA | State + National Winners

***Industry Certifications + Dual Enrollment Opportunities***

Pathway toward substantial college credit and an associate degree

## Academic Rigor + Career Experience + Proven Success

IB Coursework • Hands-On Learning • Leadership • Competition • Industry Certifications • Dual Enrollment

03 · SIDE BY SIDE

# DP vs. CP at a glance

**Both are official IB programs. Both are rigorous. Both prepare students for college.**

**In college terms:**

DP= IB is your Major and minor

CP= CTE pathway is your major and IB is your minor

| | 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 | At least 2 |
| Career study | Not part of the DP | An Oakland career pathway |
| Core | TOK, Extended Essay, CAS | Skills class, Reflective Project, language, service |
| Earns | The IB Diploma | The IB Career-related Programme Certificate |
| Prepares for | College and beyond | College and careers |

# Which one sounds like you?

## You might love DP if…

- You enjoy lots of different subjects
- You like reading, writing, and debating
- You aren’ t sure yet what career you
- You want the full IB Diploma
- You are interested in attending larger universities or pursuing college opportunities opportunities outside of Tennessee or internationally

## You might love CP if…

- You have a career interest, like agriculture or health science
- You learn best by doing
- You want IB rigor plus real-world skills
- You want room for a career pathway

You don’t have to decide tonight. Students choose a pathway in 10th grade.

04

QUESTION 04

# What about 9th and 10th grade?

The part that confuses most families. Let’s clear it up.



04 · THE KEY IDEA

# IB courses officially begin in 11th grade

Oakland program

## Grades 9–10: Pre-IB Cohort

- Advanced Honors and AP courses
- Taking classes sooner than peers
- Strong habits in writing, study and time
- A start on a world language
- Part of the IB family from day one

Official IB requirement

## Grades 11–12: Official IB

- IB courses and IB exams
- The DP or CP Core
- IB Diploma or CP Certificate

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

04 · A SAMPLE SCHEDULE

# What 9th and 10th grade looks like

**These are samples

## 9th grade

- English 1 AH
- Algebra 1 AH
- Biology AH *(sophomore level course)*
- AP Human Geography *(soph level & College Credit)*
- Spanish 1 AH
- Computer Science
- Volleyball S&C
- Fine Art/CTE course

## 10th grade

- English 2 AH
- Geometry AH
- Algebra 2 AH *(junior level course)*
- AP U.S. History *(junior level course & College Credit)*
- Spanish 2 AH
- Chemistry 1 AH *(junior level course)*
- Volleyball S & C
- Fine Art/CTE course

AH = Advanced Honors.
AP = Advanced Placement



**Red = room for passions.** Electives, arts and athletics fit in.

04 · THE BIG PICTURE

# The four-year IB journey

IB PREPARATORY • OAKLAND

OFFICIAL IB • DP OR CP

## 9th

- Start IB Preparatory courses (AH + AP)
- Build study and writing habits
- Begin a world language
- Join a club, team or art

## 10th

- Continue preparatory courses
- Explore DP vs. CP
- Choose an IB pathway in Spring
- Register for 11th grade IB courses

## 11th

- Begin DP or CP courses
- Start the Core (TOK or PPS)
- Begin the Extended Essay or Reflective Project
- Possible first IB exams in May

## 12th

- Finish IB coursework and projects
- IB exams in late April – May
- Graduate with an IB stole
- IB results arrive in July

04 · A SAMPLE SCHEDULE

# What 11th and 12th grade can look like

## Diploma (DP) student

- IB English HL
- IB Biology HL
- IB History HL
- IB Math SL
- IB Spanish SL
- IB Music SL (Choir)
- Theory of Knowledge / IB Core
- Volleyball / Baseball

## Career-related (CP) student

- IB Biology HL
- IB Math HL
- Career study: Health Science
- Career study: Health Science
- Dual Enrollment English
- Dual Enrollment Psychology
- Personal and Professional Skills
- Volleyball / Baseball

IB courses run for two years, so the schedule is similar in 11th and 12th grade.

*Samples only.*

05

QUESTION 05

# How do I apply?

Who can apply, the steps, and the dates to know.



# Who can apply?

Oakland program

## Successful applicants have:

- A **3.0 cumulative GPA** in core subjects.
  GPA is not calculated until freshman year – current 8th graders will submit their past 2 years report cards to the application.
- Scores at or above the **80th percentile** in two areas of the most recent state test or another national standardized exam.

## Zoned for Oakland?

Apply for the IB program through the OHS IB Application Form.

No Zone Waiver required.

## Zoned for another RCS school?

Apply for the IB program through SchoolMint. If accepted into the program, you will get a Zone Waiver.
***You can apply for multiple programs/schools at the same time on SchoolMint.*

05 · THE PROCESS

# Applying in five steps

1

**Explore**

Come tonight, attend a Shadow Day and ask questions.

2

**Find the correct application**

On the OHS website

3

**Submit it**

Complete and submit application by Jan 31, 2027.

4

**Review**

IB Coordinator and Administration review all applications

5

**Hear back**

Early March – check mailbox for a letter with decision details.

**Questions at any step?** Contact: IB Coordinator Mrs. Crago, cragob@rcschools.net or Mrs. Mallari, mallarik@rcschools.net

05 · MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# Key dates and Shadow Days

| | |
|---|---|
| **Application opens** | December 1, 2026 |
| **Tour Days** | Jan 2027• 10 spots per day |
| **Application deadline** | Jan 31, 2027 |
| **Decisions sent** | Early Feb via letter in mail |
| **Confirm your spot by** | March 1, 2027 |

## Be an IB student for a morning

- Pair with a current IB student
- Follow their schedule, 8:30–11:45 am
- Parents provide transportation
- Sign up: FORM on handout & Website

QUESTION 06

# I’ve been accepted! Now what?

06

Your checklist from acceptance letter to the first day of 9th grade.

06 · YOUR CHECKLIST

# “I’ve been accepted!” What’s next?

## SPRING OF 8TH GRADE

- [ ] **Confirm your spot**
  Check your letter for details on accepting your seat
- [ ] **Out of zone? Complete the transfer**
  Accept seat in SchoolMint
- [ ] **Register for 9th grade IB Preparatory courses**
  OHS Counselors

## SUMMER

- [ ] **Attend the incoming family orientation in May 2027**
- [ ] **Plan transportation**
  Bus or family drop-off

## AUGUST: 9TH GRADE

- [ ] **Start your preparatory classes**
  Ask questions early and often
- [ ] **Join a club, team or art**
  Balance starts on day one
- [ ] **Save your IB team’s contacts**

07

QUESTION 07

# What’s life like as an IB student?

Spoiler: they still have a life.

# A community, not just a program

07 · COMMUNITY

“Being an IB student means finding a family in all the chaos. We lean on each other through every hard deadline, support each other every step of the way, and build tight bonds just from spending so much time in it together!”

– Zion Gebru IB DP Class of 2027

# Yes, IB students do it all

## Athletics

Football • Basketball • Baseball • Softball • Volleyball • Soccer • Swimming • Tennis • Golf • Bowling • Cross Country • Track & Field • Wrestling • Cheerleading • Dance Team

## Fine Arts

Marching Band • Concert Band • Choir • Theatre • Musical Theatre • Visual Arts • Film

## Clubs, Leadership & Organizations

Student Government • DECA • Beta Club • Chess Club • Spanish Clubs • Big Brothers Big Sisters • IB Student Association • Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) • International Thespian Society • Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society)

## Additional Athletic Opportunities

Lacrosse • Flag Football














**Oakland IB students are athletes, artists, musicians, and leaders.**

07 · THE HONEST TRUTH

# What does the workload really look like?

### More reading, writing and discussion

IB classes ask students to think on paper and out loud, not just complete worksheets.

### Big projects, broken into steps

Oakland sets check-in dates for major assignments so work is spread out, not crammed.

### Built-in work time

In 11th–12th grade, an IB Core period in the schedule gives protected time for projects.

**The secret?** It isn’t being the smartest. It’s planning ahead and asking for help early.

07 · SUPPORT

# You won’t do it alone

### Teachers who know IB

Small IB classes with teachers who know your student.

### The IB team

A coordinator and staff dedicated to IB students.

### IB Core period

Protected work time in the 11th–12th grade schedule.

### Deadlines in one place

ManageBac, an online platform, tracks IB work and dates.

### A plan if you fall behind

Students meet with the IB Coordinator to build a success plan.

### Classmates who get it

A cohort that studies, laughs, and celebrates together.

# Meet some of our IB students

Our students will introduce themselves. They will be available to answer questions in the Annex Commons.

**Ask them anything!**

- How was the transition from middle to high school?
- What does a typical week in IB look like?
- What surprised you most about IB?
- What do you wish you had known in 9th grade?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Your questions, answered

### Is IB only for gifted or straight-A students?

No. IB is for motivated, curious students willing to work hard. Oakland's application criteria are a 3.0 core GPA and strong test scores.

### Can my student do athletics, band, theater or clubs? clubs?

Yes, and we encourage it. Our IB students do all of these, and IB rewards activities through CAS and community engagement.

### How much homework should we expect?

More than a typical schedule, spread across the week, semester, and two years.

### What if my student struggles?

Reach out early. Teachers, the IB Coordinator and a personal success plan help students get back on track.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Your questions, answered

### Is IB the same as AP?

Both are college-level with exams. AP is individual courses; IB is a connected program with a core, research and internationally graded work. Pre-IB students take AP courses too.

### Does IB guarantee college credit?

Many colleges award credit for qualifying IB scores, but each college sets its own policy.

### Do students begin IB classes in 9th grade?

No. 9th and 10th grade are Oakland's IB Preparatory years. Official IB courses begin in 11th grade.

### What is the difference between DP and CP?

DP: six IB subjects for a broad academic challenge. CP: at least two IB subjects plus a career pathway.

YOUR NEXT STEP

# Ready? Here’s what to do next.

## 1. Apply

Submit the application by Ja 31, 2027

## 2. Shadow Day

Sign up to Shadow an IB student

## 3. Ask us anything

Talk with us tonight or email

Tonight you learned:

- ✓ What is IB?
- ✓ Why Oakland?
- ✓ Which pathway?
- ✓ How to apply
- ✓ What comes next

We can’t wait to welcome your student to the Oakland IB family!

