

Application Process  
Gulf High School IB Diploma Program

Timeline of Recruitment, Application and Decision:

- In the fall of the students' eighth grade year, the IB Coordinator, IB Counselor and several IB senior students visit the middle schools in our district. We invite all students currently taking Algebra I or Geometry to view the presentation. An overview of the program is discussed with the students and they are given a pamphlet and an application to discuss with their parents.
- After all of the middle school visits have been completed, we hold several parent nights where parents of interested students are invited to attend and learn more about the IB program. The IB Course Sequence, the IB Core Requirements and scholarship opportunities are discussed among other topics.
- At the end of the first semester, we ask all interested students to come to Gulf High School on a Saturday morning to take an Algebra I, semester 1 exam. It covers only the material that the students were exposed to during the first semester. There are 15 questions on the exam, one for each standard to be taught during that time frame. The students are also required to give a writing sample on a prompt provided to them. The prompts change from year to year, but they are written by our English department and are graded according to a rubric also created by them.
- Once grades and other data have been entered into the myStudent electronic platform following first semester, I am able to use the PIB Entrance Rubric to determine whether or not a student would be a good fit for our program. This past year, we established the cut-off score to be 15 out of 24 possible points. However, we look at each student individually and some students with scores higher than 15 were not accepted and some with scores below 15, were. For example, one student scored a 17 on the rubric, but he had several discipline referrals for defiance and disobedience. He was not accepted, but was encouraged to apply again the following year. Conversely, we accepted a student who scored a 14 on the rubric but had medical reasons for absences and low grades.
- All students who apply receive a letter in February stating whether or not they were accepted into the program. The letters to the students who were not accepted state the reasons why, and encourage parents to contact us if there is a discrepancy.

The only requirement that we will not make an exception for is that the students must have a minimum of Algebra I completed prior to beginning the ninth grade. That level of math must be met before the students take the high school math required of IB students.