

MRHS IB Diploma Programme Admissions Policy

This admissions policy applies to any students who will graduate before or during June of 2022.

Philosophy and Aims

This application process is designed to ensure that students are prepared with the prerequisites to meet North Carolina Public Schools' graduation requirements and will be able to incorporate the IB curriculum into their junior and senior years successfully. This process also aims to help students make informed decisions about whether the IB Diploma Programme would be the best fit for their educational goals.

Policies and Procedures

Who can apply to the IB Programme at MRHS?

Any sophomore who can establish residency in Union County is eligible to apply to the program. *(Also see prerequisites below.)*

Who should apply to the IB Programme at MRHS? What type of student excels in the program?

The IB Programme is best suited to curious students who are intrinsically motivated and love to learn for learning's sake. The program works well for students who like to learn through speaking and collaborating with others and then expressing what you have learned through a variety of assessments including open-ended questions. This dialogical approach requires good communication skills and an open-minded attitude towards other people's opinions. Students who apply must be interested in the school within a school, smaller learning community, knowing you will share the same classes and same teachers for the duration of the 2-year program. The long-term projects and assessments require self-management skills and autonomy. Students should be open to honest, critical feedback based on rigorous global standards.

How and when do I apply to the IB Programme at MRHS? What is the process for applying?

MRHS currently offers the full IB Diploma Programme, which is completed during your junior and senior year of high school. Any sophomore who can establish residency in Union County may apply during the application window, which usually opens halfway through January and closes during the first week of February. Please see the specific dates on the current application, which becomes available in December before the application window opens on the MRHS IB website: <https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Page/5410>.

The application includes detailed information about the process. Applicants must complete a transcript request, obtain recommendations from their core teachers, answer short answer questions about their educational goals and strengths, and have parent approval. From the transcript, the applicant's GPA is noted, a review of prerequisites is conducted, and subject credits for North Carolina's graduation requirements are confirmed. An informational meeting is held each December to answer specific questions concerning the International Baccalaureate Program, the application process, curriculum requirements, and related timelines.

How are candidates selected during the application process?

Much like college applications, the criterion we examine are teacher recommendations from all core content areas, GPA, class rank, and answers to application questions. Students must also meet prerequisites by the time they plan to enter the program.

What are the prerequisites for entering the program?

These are the minimum requirements:

- Honors Math 1, 2, and 3 (though we strongly suggest Pre-Calc)
- Honors Earth Science, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Biology
- 3 units of a foreign language (see further elaboration about languages below)
- Honors English 1 and 2
- Honors World History and Honors Civics & Economics

Students who have experience with success in honors level courses are more likely to succeed taking a rigorous course load of 7 advanced courses at one time. When possible, it is highly recommended that these prerequisites be completed in a face-to-face classroom, not virtually, as students tend to be less prepared for the rigors of the program when they complete online courses.

How many candidates are usually selected, and how many apply?

The number of applicants varies from year to year. Our cohorts range in size, but the last several senior cohorts have averaged in the 50's. We do not have a set number of students that we accept. We compare each student who applies against a metric based on the success of former students to determine who we would recommend participating and who we counsel against participating in the program. Students who disagree with our recommendations have the opportunity to appeal our decision by following steps outlined in the notification email.

How many foreign language credits do I need to complete before I apply to the IB Programme? Can I take those credits online?

There are 2 foreign language pathways in our program. The recommended pathway, which involves taking a course called Language B, requires that students complete at least 3, preferably 4, units of a foreign language before entering the program. We also strongly recommend those courses be completed face to face, not virtually, as students who complete their foreign language credits online tend to struggle making the transition to a course that is taught exclusively in the foreign language.

If a student does not meet the minimum expectation of 3 units of foreign language, he or she will be enrolled in an IB course called French Ab Initio which means "French from the beginning." Because this is a beginning French class, students will only receive college prep credits for their North Carolina transcripts during the 2 years they take the class, but they will still take IB exams in the class, and their scores will count towards their IB diplomas.

MRHS IB Pathway Program Admissions Policy

This admissions policy applies to any students who will graduate after June of 2022.

Philosophy and Aims

This application process is designed to ensure that students are prepared with the prerequisites to meet North Carolina Public Schools' graduation requirements and will be able to incorporate the IB curriculum into their junior and senior years successfully. This process also aims to help students make informed decisions about whether the IB Diploma Programme would be the best fit for their educational goals.

What is the IB Pathway Program?

The IB Pathway Program is designed to prepare students to participate in the Diploma Programme as 11th graders. Students enrolled in the IB Pathway Program will take the necessary prerequisites to be eligible for the Diploma Programme while experiencing the level of rigor necessary for future success. Please see the [MRHS IB Diploma Programme website](#) for more information about the Diploma Programme.

Why did Union County Public Schools develop the IB Pathway Program?

Traditionally, enrollment in the Diploma Programme of students outside Marvin Ridge High School is low. The IB Pathway Program was established in an effort to make the Diploma Programme more accessible to students from across Union County by removing the barrier of changing schools between 10th and 11th grade and ensuring that prerequisites for the program will be met.

What type of students are a good fit for the program?

The IB Programme is best suited to curious students who are intrinsically motivated and love to learn for learning's sake. The program works well for students who like to learn through speaking and collaborating with others and then expressing what you have learned through a variety of assessments including open-ended questions. This dialogical approach requires good communication skills and an open-minded attitude towards other people's opinions. Students should be open to honest, critical feedback based on rigorous global standards.

Policies and Procedures

Where is the IB Pathway Program available?

The IB Pathway Program is only available at Marvin Ridge High School. Because the IB Diploma Programme is housed at Marvin Ridge High School, enrolling in the IB Pathway Program removes the need for students to change high schools between 10th and 11th grade in order to enroll in the IB Diploma Programme.

What are the requirements to apply for the IB Pathway Program in 9th grade?

Students must have a minimum of level 3 on the 7th grade End of Grade tests, have an 80% average across all classes, and be passing all current courses to apply.

How do you apply?

You should apply using Scribbles, the online platform used to process school choice and transfer requests. Parents will need to create an account, log in, and help their children complete the application. Part of the application requires you to submit teacher email addresses so that those teachers can provide recommendations. The link to the application can be found on the MRHS IB website:

<https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Page/5410>.

When and how will families be notified?

Families are contacted via email several times throughout the process, using the address provided in the application. The window to apply is open the months of December through February. Families will be notified via the email that the application was received. After the window closes, families will be notified in March via email as to whether or not their child met the requirements and will be entered in the lottery, which takes place in April. Families are contacted with either the offer of a seat in the program or a place on the waitlist. They have a set time to accept or reject the seat before the seat is offered to another person from the waitlist. Registration for high school courses begins in April for 8th grade students, so the lottery process needs to be resolved quickly so that everyone can register at the appropriate high school.

Will all students enrolled in the IB Pathway Program be grouped together in classes in 9th and 10th grade?

No. Students will be enrolled in classes with all Marvin Ridge High School students in 9th and 10th grades. They will not be grouped as a cohort until they join the IB Diploma Programme beginning in 11th grade.

Can I opt out of the IB Pathway Program once I am enrolled?

If you determine by the end of 9th or 10th grade that you do not want to continue with the IB Pathway Program or IB Diploma Programme, you are allowed to withdraw. If you live outside of the Marvin school cluster and choose to leave the program at any time, you must return to your district designated school.

Will I automatically get into the Diploma Programme as an 11th grader if I am enrolled in the IB Pathway Program?

In order for students to enter the Diploma Programme as 11th graders, they must demonstrate that they are equipped to handle the rigor and demands of the DP. Students must pass all classes, maintain a minimum of 80% class average, and meet the behavior and discipline expectations during the IB Pathway Program. Students will complete an interview at the end of 10th grade to determine readiness. Transfer students who do not maintain the necessary GPA or who do not enroll in the Diploma Programme will return to their home high school. Students will be asked to return to their home high school at the end of 9th or 10th grade if they do not meet the requirements.

If I don't enroll in the IB Pathway Program as a 9th grader can I still apply for the IB Diploma Programme as an 11th grader?

The only application period is in 8th grade. After that, student enrollment in either program will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to availability.