

Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Admissions Policy

Admissions Philosophy

Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy prides itself on preparing its students for a number of rigorous courses of study both during high school and in their post-secondary endeavors. We encourage our students to be academic risk-takers and to follow a challenging program of studies that addresses their interests while at the same time requires them to be well-rounded. All students at PMSA will be invited to apply for admissions into the Diploma Programme and will be well-prepared for admission to this program because of the manner in which their 9th and 10th grade classes are developed, constructed, and instructed. The inquiry-based, experiential, rigorous, and collaborative environment of all these classes reflects the IB philosophy and therefore will require very little (if any) acclimation on the part of the students.

IB Diploma Programme Outreach

In order to promote the availability of the Diploma Programme, the IB Coordinator and PMSA Counselors will attend elementary/middle school 8th grade open house nights and will be available to discuss the Diploma Programme with faculty, parents, and students who are interested in attending PMSA. As part of PMSA's three 8th grade open houses in the fall of each school year, the IB Coordinator and PMSA IB Counselor will host a presentation and question/answer session regarding the IB Diploma Program and will distribute the PMSA IB Diploma Programme brochures.

To promote the availability of the Diploma Programme to PMSA 10th graders who must choose their course of studies, there will be a fall IB Diploma Programme informational meeting. Students and their parents will have the opportunity to ask administration, faculty, counselors and current 11th and 12th graders about the IB Diploma Programme and learn about the requirements and benefits of participating in it.

Upon advisement, students may choose to participate as a full IB DP Candidate, or may elect to take IB DP academic courses or IB core options for Certificates.

Application Process

Applications to the Diploma Programme will be due by December 1 of the Candidate's 10th grade (sophomore) year. Prior to course selection time, 10th grade PMSA students in good standing¹ will be encouraged to apply to the Diploma Programme and invited to the outreach events.

Students may self-select to apply to the program or students may be recommended by faculty and/or counselors to consider the program and encouraged to apply because of their academic potential.

Participation in the PMSA Pre-IB program is not a requirement for Diploma Programme application; nor is it a guarantee of admission. *Successful* completion of the PMSA Pre-IB course of studies will serve as an indicator of success in the Diploma Programme and

¹ Good standing is defined as a having a cumulative grade of a B- average or better and no serious disciplinary infractions.

participation in the PMSA Pre-IB program will facilitate the transition of students from grade 10 to grade 11. Students who successfully complete the PMSA Pre-IB program will be encouraged to apply for admission to the Diploma Programme.

Although there is no exam for admission to the IB Diploma Programme, PMSA recognizes that there are traits that will certainly ease the path to Diploma Programme success; the primary being student motivation and a desire to be challenged.

For all students applying for admission to the PMSA Diploma Programme, the following six areas will be taken into consideration:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Regular Attendance
- Clear Disciplinary Record
- Response to Learner Profile Prompt (see Appendix A)
- Math, Science and English Teacher Recommendations (sent to teachers electronically)
- Meeting with the applicant, IB Counselor, and DP Coordinator (may be waived for those students who meet all of the above requirements)

Students who are admitted into the IB Diploma Programme will be scheduled for 11th grade IB courses and registered as IB Diploma Programme candidates. Additional information is available in the Student Application for Candidacy packet, which is available on the PMSA website, from the counselors and IB DP Coordinator, and at the 10th grade informational meeting.

This admissions policy will be subject to annual review and revision by a committee composed of administration, the IB DP Coordinator, and the counseling faculty. This policy may additionally be subject to district approval.