

ACADEMIC RIGOR: AP & IB



Myers Park offers many options for the student planning to further his/her education after high school. “Honors” classes, which examine a subject a little more deeply than standard classes, are generally available in all core subjects and languages. We also offer the International Baccalaureate (“IB”) Diploma Program and Advanced Placement (“AP”) classes.

AP: Advance Placement (AP) is a national program of the College Board. Classes are taught at the college level, and students are challenged to develop and use critical thinking skills that will help them in college and beyond. Taking AP courses demonstrates that a student is up for the challenge that rigorous college level work requires and has the time management skills needed to succeed. AP courses and teachers will help the student handle challenging issues and problems. Additionally, AP courses give the student insight into what to expect in the next level of education and help build confidence needed to succeed. AP students sit for national exams in every AP class they take. Performing well on these AP exams can earn a student college credit, accelerated placement, and help students prepare for college because success in AP demonstrates readiness to tackle college level coursework.

Myers Park offers twenty-nine AP courses. Courses are offered in all core subject areas, music, and art. Our students routinely outperform their state counterparts on the annual AP exams. AP classes run as year-long, A-Day/B-Day courses in preparation for national exams in the late spring. Beginning sophomore year, students can select to include AP courses in their class schedules. Juniors and seniors can select from one to eight AP courses each year. Most AP students average between three and four AP classes annually due to the workload involved to complete a college-level course. There is flexibility in course selection and no required service component to an AP course of study.

IB: Myers Park is home to the first public International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program in North Carolina and the first Middle Years Program (IBMYP) in the United States. Myers Park is proud to join the 3,661 IB schools and more than 1,132,000 students in 146 countries to promote academic excellence, responsible world citizenship, and respect for diverse cultures and attitudes.

The IBMYP prepares freshmen and sophomores to meet the academic challenges of the IB Diploma Program. The fundamental concepts are holistic learning, intercultural awareness, and communication. The curriculum consists of eight subject groups integrated through five themes, providing global contexts for learning. In grade 10, students complete an independent Personal Project that demonstrates the development of their skills and understanding.

The IB Diploma Program is a comprehensive two-year course of study for highly motivated juniors and seniors. Students study in six different academic areas. They take at least three, and not more than four, subjects at the higher level (HL), and the others at the standard level (SL). Students are thus able to explore some subjects in depth (HL) and others more broadly (SL). Additional requirements include a special course in the Theory of Knowledge, a 4000- word Extended Essay, and participation in creativity, action, and service activities (CAS).

**PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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What kind of student tends to be successful in the IB program?

Generally, students who have been successful in middle school Honors classes, who are self-motivated, possess a strong work ethic, and who can efficiently complete their work will likely be successful IB diploma candidates. Students must be able to balance their academic responsibilities with participation in extracurricular activities and community service.

Do colleges and universities grant credit for IB and AP courses taken in high school?

Colleges and universities vary greatly in how they recognize AP and IB examinations and scores. You can check the website of a particular college or university to determine its course credit policy.

Could my student elect to join the IB program after he's gotten a little high school under his belt?

Because of the specialized sequence of coursework taken in the IBMYP, it is difficult to transition into the IB Program after 9th grade. Exceptions are made for students who transfer to Myers Park and/or who have completed IB diploma prerequisites comparable to the IBMYP. Conversely, a student may choose to take or not take the AP version of a class, generally beginning in 11th grade.

Could my student obtain a higher GPA (and therefore class rank) by excelling in one program over the other?

One-half (.5) additional quality points are assigned to all Honors and IBMYP courses (except IBMYP Art, IBMYP Drama, IBMYP level two foreign languages, and IBMYP Health & PE). All foreign language courses receive an additional quality point after the second level. One additional quality point is assigned to IB and AP courses. Students in the IB Diploma program will usually take a full course load of classes carrying one additional quality point, therefore they have the potential for the highest weighted grade point averages.

Need more information?

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