



# Admissions Policy & Procedure

## Leamington District Secondary School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The intent of this Policy is to ensure students who are considering pursuing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) at Leamington District Secondary School (LDSS) have a clear understanding of conditions necessary to successfully earn an IB Diploma.

At Leamington District Secondary School, we believe it is essential to provide as many opportunities as possible to prepare students for success in the IB Diploma Programme. We offer a two-year LDSS Pre-IB Program that creates intentional links between what students learn in Grades 9 and 10 and what they will learn in Grades 11 and 12, when they will be engaged in the IB Diploma Programme.

As part of the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB), LDSS supports equity and inclusion when considering which students should pursue the Diploma Programme. To that end, the school board will cover the fees and resource costs associated with the implementation of this internationally recognized program. We believe it is important to remove economic barriers so that all students, regardless of socio-economic standing, can be successful.

### **Selection of Candidates:**

Prior to Grade 9, all Grade 8 students in our catchment area are introduced to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. There are no pre-determined number of spots for each year of both the LDSS Pre-IB Program and the IB Diploma Programmes. Students may enter the LDSS Pre-IB program in Grade 9 or 10. Classes will be adjusted according to the number of students enrolled. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to consider the following criteria to ensure the greatest probability of success in both the LDSS Pre-IB Program and the IB Diploma Programme.

### **Considerations for Students Prior to Applying:**

- **Academic Performance:** Have you met with academic success consistently? Are you a dedicated student who values hard work, perseverance, and has a true love of learning? The IB Diploma Programme is designed to develop the critical thinking and research skills necessary for success at university.
- **Conduct:** Do you act with integrity, honesty, and demonstrate good citizenship?
- **Community Engagement:** Do you regularly seek opportunities to get involved in positive initiatives in your community, both as a leader and a participant?
- **Global Mindedness:** Do you love to explore new ideas? Are you a student who sees unfamiliar ideas and cultures as fascinating opportunities to gain new knowledge and understanding?
- **Self Reflection:** Are you a student who regularly reflects on your own learning and the implications of your actions on a global scale?

Students may enter the Diploma Programme in various ways to accommodate transfers to our school and the language acquisition process of our multilingual learners. Students can participate in LDSS's two-year Pre-IB Program beginning in Grade 9 or Grade 10, or they can enter Year One of the Diploma Programme (Grade 11). Students who join in Grade 11 must have already completed the Grade 11 Advanced Functions course (MCR3U).

The most traditional route of entry will be through the LDSS Pre-IB Program, which has been specifically designed to prepare students for success in the IB Diploma Program. Each November, the LDSS IB Coordinator visits all GECDSB Grade 8 classes within our catchment area to deliver a presentation about the LDSS Pre-IB Program and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The IB Coordinator explains the benefits of the Diploma Programme and students are encouraged to ask questions following the presentation. At this session, students are shown how to complete the online application for the LDSS Pre-IB Program using a link provided on our school website <https://www.publicboard.ca/en/ldss/index.aspx>. All GECDSB Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited by email and SynerVoice message to attend an IB Information Night at LDSS. This event is also advertised on the GECDSB website and through social media channels. IB Information Night normally takes place during the last week of November. At this event, the IB Coordinator delivers a more in-depth presentation about the LDSS Pre-IB and Diploma Programmes. Families may tour the school and ask questions of the Coordinator, Administrators, IB-trained teachers as well as students enrolled in Pre-IB and Diploma Programmes. Interested students coming from outside the GECDSB may also spend a day at LDSS shadowing current Grade 9 Pre-IB students to determine if the program is a good fit. Students unable to participate in an information session at their elementary school or at LDSS may contact the school by phone at (519)326-6191 to set up an appointment to meet with the IB Coordinator either in person or by telephone.

During IB Information sessions, we provide the following guidance to those interested in joining the LDSS Pre-IB and IB Diploma Programmes: All are welcome to apply to LDSS Pre-IB Programs. Our experience is that students who do well and continue in the program to graduate with an IB Diploma are generally earning As (80-100%) and Bs (70-79%) in their current grade, have good or excellent learning skills, and are motivated to learn. **A minimum mark of 70% in each of the courses offered at our Pre-IB level (English, Math, Science and French) is required to continue from Grade 9 Pre-IB to Grade 10 Pre-IB and from Grade 10 into the IB Diploma Programme.**

The online application available on the school's website includes instructions and the December submission deadline. Along with the completed application, students will submit a copy of the final Grade 7 report card. Each applicant is invited to have an *Admission Suitability* discussion with the IB Coordinator. Grade 8 teachers may also be contacted to provide their perspective. Students who apply after the deadline will be added to a waitlist and there is no guarantee that they will be admitted. Admission in semester 2 of a school year may be considered if a spot in the program is available.

All applications are reviewed by the IB Coordinator and Head of School (Principal). Candidates will receive an email message offering a place in the LDSS Pre-IB Program (in either Grade 9 or 10) or Year 1 (Grade 11) of the Diploma Programme. This email will detail next steps, including the registration procedure and the requirement that the student confirms their intent to pursue the program.

At the conclusion of each admissions cycle, the IB Team at LDSS will complete a review and feedback process of the Admissions Policy and Procedure to ensure we meet our goals as stated. The review and feedback cycle will include parents, students, IB staff and administrators. Any changes to the policy or procedure will be implemented the following school year.

**This policy document was last reviewed and updated in the month of June, 2023.**