



## Lakewood High School IB Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### ***What is IB?***

The International Baccalaureate, founded in 1968, is a highly academic, rigorous course of study focusing on conceptual learning, critical thinking and presentation skills (written and oral). The program currently has 3041 schools in 139 countries, serving over 857,000 students.

### ***Why IB?***

IB not only prepares students for higher learning in a university setting, but helps students prepare to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. The mission is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who become active, lifelong learners through a shared academic and community service experience.

### ***Why IB at Lakewood High School?***

Lakewood is the longest running and most successful IB Diploma program in Jefferson County and offers the largest full IB diploma program in Jefferson County. Lakewood's inclusive community reinforces the value of "better together" and encourages students to explore varied interests, clubs, student senate, extracurricular activities and sports outside of their academic focus. Lakewood boasts a 95-99% IB diploma pass rate. The Junior and Senior classes have become a close knit, open-minded, high-achieving peer group.

### ***What are the major differences between IB and AP?***

The IB curriculum takes a more holistic approach to learning by evaluating students not only on subject matter knowledge, but it also emphasizes critical thinking and essay writing capability. IB classes are part of an interdisciplinary curriculum, with the ultimate goal of an IB diploma or certificate, while AP classes are taken a la carte and tested on factual knowledge.

### ***What is the difference between Pre-IB and IB?***

Freshman and Sophomore students are considered Pre-IB and typically take general honors/AP classes. Students begin the formal IB coursework when they enter their Junior year.

### ***Are grades weighted for IB classes?***

Yes. GPA for IB courses is calculated on a 5 point scale.

### ***Can I participate in performing arts and still pursue the full IB diploma?***

Yes! Many current IB students participate in both community and Lakewood HS visual and performing arts offerings in art, theater, choir, orchestra, band and more.

### ***Will I have time to participate in sports?***

Yes! Many of our current IB students are varsity athletes. IB is a rigorous pathway, but organized students can excel at both sports and IB.

### **What type of support is available for IB students?**

Social, academic and mental health support is available through the IB Coordinator, the IB Parent Association (IBPA), IB Secretary, and the counseling staff (including a dedicated freshman counselor). IBPA hosts regular meetings to support IB students and families with topics such as “Top 5 Best Practices for IB Students” and “IB and College” as well as free social activities such as an annual Chalk Festival and Online Bingo.

### **What is the cost to participate in the IB Diploma?**

There is no cost to take IB classes at LHS. For Full Diploma Candidates, there are exam costs equalling approximately \$715. This covers exam fees for 6 of your IB courses. Each course exam costs about \$120 (similar to AP exam costs).

### **Can I earn college credit for my IB classes?**

Yes and No. Colleges and universities look favorably on IB courses, but not all courses qualify for credit at all schools. Most schools offer credit for successful scores on exams for High Level (HL) courses. Some schools offer credit for scores on Standard Level (SL) exams and for some or all of the IB core. Some schools even grant sophomore status to students who earn the IB diploma. Please refer to individual colleges to understand their credit requirements (google “college name ib credit”) or check <https://recognition.ibo.org/> for a list of countries, territories and universities where IB is recognized. All state schools in Colorado award 24 college credit hours for earning the IB diploma.

### **What makes a good IB student?**

IB students are curious, open-minded thinkers that continually explore ideas and solve problems. IB students care deeply about their studies, their friends, and their communities and their compassion for others helps drive their work ethic. IB students are also self-starters who believe learning involves action. Through service, physical activity, and creativity, IB students act to improve themselves and their communities. The IB diploma is rigorous and requires sustained dedication and effort.

## **Lakewood HS IB Program 2022-23 Parent Survey Quotes**

*“LHS’s IB program provided a rigorous and well-rounded program for my son. At the same time he was still able to find time to earn his black belt in Taekwondo and serve on LHS’s theater props crew.”*

*“The Lakewood IB program has taught our children to be critical thinkers, and has fully prepared them for college.”*

*“As an educator, I was anxious about finding a good high school program for my three kids. I was thrilled when my oldest was accepted into the IB program. It has been and continues to be an amazing experience. My recent IB grad is thriving at college and even received an academic scholarship! Thank you LHS IB!”*

*“I love talking with my kids about what they are learning in class, especially in the social sciences. The European History course is especially amazing. My kids are learning how to think and how to articulate those thoughts in ways that are both respectful and compelling. I also love that their classes are smaller and they have a community of academically engaged cohorts in the context of a larger, very diverse student body.”*