



# North Hagerstown High

## International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP)

### Mr. James Aleshire, Principal

#### Program Contact:

Chris Downs

[downschr@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:downschr@wcps.k12.md.us)

301.766. 8238 x78223

#### Program Description:

To prepare students for the 21st century, the International Baccalaureate has developed the IB Career-related Programme, an academic qualification designed to support schools and colleges that offer career-related course to their students. The newest of the four IB programs, the IBCP is offered in over 200 schools worldwide. The addition of the IBCP to North Hagerstown High School provides students another path to support specific interests (rather than the broadened spectrum of the IB Diploma Programme), while still allowing students to challenge themselves academically through the completion of IB Courses.

Along with the preparation for university entrance, the IBCP provides the basis for effective collaboration in the workplace, additional training in a career-related field, as well as improved mobility and flexibility in one's employment. The IBCP offers a learning and assessment programme that promotes access to an IB education, school retention, responsibility for one's own actions, skills development, reflection of life experiences and self-esteem through meaningful achievements. NHHS offers participation in conjunction with the following career-related studies: Foods, Hospitality and Tourism, the Teacher Academy of Maryland, Computer Science, and Interactive Media Production, and Digital and Sound Engineering! These pathways are supported by IB courses selected by the student.

#### Fast Facts:

1. **Personal and Professional Skills (PPS)** is a required interdisciplinary course intended to stimulate critical reflection. With an emphasis placed primarily within the context of work, PPS promotes the development of transferrable skills such as communication, critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and personal development to improve skill sets to operate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The PPS course seeks to develop a coherent approach to learning that bridges the gap between practical and knowledge skills while promoting self-awareness and cross-cultural connections.
2. **Service Learning (SL)** is a fundamental part of the IBCP curriculum. Participation in service learning activities emphasizes service as a vehicle that has academic value, reflects upon the career-related studies and relates to the Reflective Project. This involvement allows young people to share their energies and talents while developing awareness, concern, and the ability to work cooperatively with others. The goal of educating the whole person and fostering a more compassionate citizenry comes alive in an immediate way when students reach beyond themselves.
3. IBCP candidates are required to undertake original research and produce a reflective work known as the **Reflective Project (RP)**. The reflective project can be submitted in a variety of formats such as an essay, short play, storyboard, and/or webpage and varies in length and image requirements (750 to 3,000 words, 5 to 15 images). This project offers the opportunity to investigate an ethical dilemma associated with a career-related study and acquaints students with the kind of independent research skills expected beyond high school.
4. The **Language Development (LD)** aspect allows students to expand their awareness of cultural diversity through another language. This component encourages the importance of developing knowledge and skills in a foreign language relevant to their background, context, and career-related study. With the help of their LD mentor, students will create an original language development portfolio in a format determined by the school.

Open House: TBD

Application Deadline: Accepted on rolling basis depending on availability of chosen pathway

