

How much staff time is spent on IB planning in lieu of basic City High activities?

The IB unit planning and lesson writing is part of basic City activities. The staff meets weekly in departments to discuss teaching and learning. Our IB conversations are part of these typical instructional conversations.

My students are going into 10th and 11th grade next year (2010-2011). Will they benefit from the IB program?

All students at City will benefit from the core philosophies of the IB – International-mindedness, inquiry, critical thinking, and the Learner Profile. The Learner Profile is “the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century” (www.ibo.org/programmes/profile). All students will benefit from the Learner Profile as this will help guide teaching and learning in the building.

Teaching and learning will also be impacted by a more constructivistic approach in the classroom. Constructivism is a learning theory espousing the construction of knowledge as opposed to memorization of facts. Students learn through doing and through relating what they know to the new information. More information on constructivism can be found at <http://www.learning-theories.com/constructivism.html>

Will the current students at City (7-12) graduate with any IB designation on their diploma?

Our plan for City is that the graduating class of 2014 will receive the IB Diploma in addition to their high school diploma. The IB Diploma is a separate entity and requires students to complete coursework in six core areas (English, World Language, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics & the Arts) plus a Theory of Knowledge course, a 4000 word Extended Essay, and 150 hours of Community, Action and Service. More information can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/>

How are you preparing teachers for AP courses?

All AP teachers are trained by the AP board during the summer.

Do colleges look at students with IB Diplomas in any different light? Please explain.

Colleges do recognize the IB Diploma but policies vary by universities. The IB Diploma Programme is still growing in the United States. Every year more universities offer credit for IB courses.

More information can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/>

Information about University of Michigan IB credits can be found at http://www.admissions.umich.edu/admitted/freshmen/adv_credit/ib_guidelines.php

Information about Michigan State University IB credits can be found at http://admissions.msu.edu/documents/MSU_IB_Equivalencies.pdf

Information about Wayne State University IB credits can be found at <http://transfercredit.wayne.edu/pdf/ib.pdf>

Information about Grand Valley State University IB credits can be found at http://www.gvsu.edu/images/intl_bac.pdf

Information about Ferris State University IB credits can be found at http://academicenate.cmich.edu/Policy/TRANSFER_CREDIT_POLICY.pdf

Will the State of Michigan fund the IB program or is funding coming from another source?

The state FTE (funds allocated per pupil) will not compensate the IB programme. We are currently examining funding sources including foundations, corporations, and alumni.

Will the teachers have websites for their curriculum?

Teacher websites are not compulsory at City or in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. Teacher websites are also not part of IB pedagogy but are strongly encouraged.

How will we provide second language classes for all students to meet requirements and requests for choice?

All students are required to take at least four years of a world language. When the Diploma Programme becomes implemented, students in grades 11 and 12 will also have to take a world language. Our three world language selections are Chinese, French, and Spanish.

With arts as part of the requirements, how will be sure that this remains part of the school day?

Currently, for the school year 2010-2011, performing arts courses will occur during sixth hour. This is the 'HUB' model for Grand Rapids Public Schools.

My 11th grader is completely absorbed in homework and has had to give up piano. If IB means more homework, how is a student able to handle this?

The IB program is not a program that just loads on a lot of homework. This is a big misconception that many people have of the IB program. Keeping in mind that each child is different, the homework assigned is not overwhelming AND kids still have time for a variety of after school activities. Long-term and large projects are given ample time and warning to complete.

For more information, please visit

http://grpublicschools.org/city/images/stories/ibmyp_faq.pdf