

Admissions Policy: p. 24 of From Principles to Practices:

2. Determining admission to the Diploma Programme (The Diploma Programme: From Principles into Practices)

“For schools with open enrollment policies, the role of the coordinator is to develop processes for widely informing potential students and their parents about the programme so that they can make appropriate choices about whether to enroll and what options within the programme to select. In many school contexts the DP coordinator may work alongside an admissions director.” (p 24)

Since becoming an authorized IB Diploma Programme school in 2004, Hutchinson High School has not had an official Admissions Policy. The philosophy at HHS is to make all IB courses accessible to every student who wants to take them knowing that some students might need to be counseled against it. The HHS counselors and IB Coordinator hold talks with Year 8 students to inform them of the IB options and components once at HHS and the rigors of the programme. Discussions continue as the Year 8 students select their Year 9 courses keeping in mind prerequisites for IB courses. The IB Coordinator also conducts parent/guardian information meetings two evenings during the school year. He also visits various Year 9 and 10 classrooms during the school year to promote the IB. The IB teachers are tremendous cheerleaders for the programmes. They contact the counselors and Coordinator with potential IB students. Twice a year the Coordinator speaks to the entire faculty about the programmes so they can help identify potential students. In early January, former IB students (DP, CP, and courses-only) are invited to be a panel at an informal Q&A session for any students interested in learning first-hand accounts of what it is like to be in IB and how it benefits someone once in college. Three of the HHS counselors have attended Counselor Cat.1 training and two for CP counselor training. While working with all of the students on their four-year plans, the counselors have a very clear understanding of all aspects of the IB programmes. The Coordinator is consulted when questions arise. Grades are reviewed when students select to take IB courses. Only failing grades will keep a student from being allowed to take a course.

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