Garibaldi Secondary School Admissions Policy

MYP Program

The IB Middle Years Program (MYP) is a whole school program for all students enrolled at Garibaldi Secondary School (GSS) in grades 8-10.

To provide an optimal learning environment for all students, the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 must manage enrolment across all schools, ensuring that enrolment numbers match building capacity. In times where space and facility is determined to be available, the school district has an open boundary policy that allows flexibility in choice regarding which secondary school students may attend (School Act section 74.1 Section 6). Due to increasing enrolment in recent years, however, most students are assigned to their catchment school (School District No. 42)

Participation in the MYP program does not interfere with ability for students to enroll in other Academy programs at Garibaldi Secondary.

DP Program

Philosophy and Access

The IB Diploma Programme at Garibaldi Secondary School is an inclusive district program. We believe that the IB Diploma Programme should be accessible to any student who is interested in challenging themselves through a rigorous, internationally recognized educational experience. Our philosophy is that IB is not reserved for a select group of academically elite students. Students with a range of academic backgrounds, interests, strengths, and learning needs are encouraged to apply.

Students may apply to complete the full IB Diploma or to take one or more individual IB Diploma courses. Both pathways are valued, and we aim to accommodate all interested students wherever possible.

We welcome students with diverse learning needs and recognize that students may require different types of support to be successful. Learning accommodations are facilitated in collaboration with students, families, school staff, and district support services, as appropriate.

Admissions and Placement

The IB Diploma Programme is open to students attending GSS, students residing within the GSS catchment area, and students from other schools within and outside School District No. 42 (SD42) who wish to participate in the program.

Students applying from other SD42 schools to GSS specifically to participate in the IB Diploma Programme are considered separately from SD42 students seeking general school enrolment who are not applying to the program. Out-of-district transfers may be facilitated, subject to district enrolment and transfer procedures.

International students are actively encouraged to pursue the IB Diploma Programme through the SD42 International Education Department, which coordinates their recruitment and placement in consultation with GSS.

Academic Readiness and Student Interest

There are no formal academic admission requirements, minimum grade averages, entrance examinations, or competitive selection processes for the IB Diploma Programme at GSS.

As a general guideline, we recommend that students entering Grade 11 (IBDP year 1) have achieved an average of approximately a B (or equivalent) in their Grade 9 and 10 courses, or a level 5 or higher in the IB Middle Years Programme. These are recommendations rather than admission requirements. Students with different academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply and discuss their readiness with the IB Coordinator.

Success in the Diploma Programme depends on more than grades. We encourage students to consider their interest in learning, curiosity about the world, willingness to take on challenges, commitment to their studies, readiness to develop effective organizational and time-management skills, and how the program may support their post-secondary goals and career aspirations.

Our goal is to support students who wish to participate, helping them make informed decisions about their course selections and the level of commitment involved.

Application Process

All prospective students must complete an IB Diploma Programme application form. The application helps us understand students' interests, goals, language backgrounds, course preferences, and learning needs so that we can plan for appropriate placement and support.

Applications include:

- Student and parent/guardian information.
- Language background and previous language-learning experience.
- One or two teacher references from educators who can comment on the student as a learner.
- Current extracurricular and community activities.
- Intended IB course selections (full Diploma or individual courses).

- A brief statement of personal and academic goals.

Teacher references are intended to help us understand the student as a learner and identify ways to support their success. They are not used as a competitive selection mechanism.

Applications are normally submitted by the first Friday in March for entry the following September. Applications received after this date may be considered where space and scheduling permit.

Course Availability and Enrolment

Our goal is to accommodate the course requests of all interested students. However, placement in particular courses may be limited by class sizes, staffing, timetable constraints, and available resources. Courses may not be offered if enrolment is insufficient to support them.

If a course is oversubscribed, placement will be prioritized as follows:

1. Full IB Diploma candidates.
2. Current GSS students taking individual IB courses.
3. Students transferring to GSS to take individual IB courses.

Students should be aware that not all course combinations can be accommodated because of timetable conflicts.

Financial Accessibility

We recognize that financial considerations should not unnecessarily prevent students from participating in the IB Diploma Programme. GSS makes every reasonable effort to keep program fees modest and to reduce financial barriers to participation wherever possible.

Current program fees are outlined in the IB Diploma Programme application package.

Our Commitment

Garibaldi Secondary School is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible IB Diploma Programme. We believe that students should have the opportunity to discover what they are capable of achieving through the IB, rather than having that opportunity determined solely by their previous academic performance.

We will make every reasonable effort to accommodate interested students, whether they pursue the full IB Diploma or individual IB courses, while recognizing that school capacity, staffing, course viability, and timetable limitations may occasionally restrict placement.

Policy Review

The Garibaldi Secondary School Admissions policy will be reviewed every 3 to 4 years or as needed.

IB MYP and DP Admissions Policy – v.2 November 2026

References

School District No. 42. *Student Registration, Transfer, and Withdrawal Requests*. November 2026. 12 November 2026.