

West Vancouver Secondary School offers a Pre-Diploma Programme and the IB Diploma Programme. The majority of students apply for admission in the second term of grade nine, for admission into the Pre-Diploma Programme. Students may also apply in the second term of grade ten, for admission into the IB Diploma Programme.

The Pre-Diploma Programme and Diploma Programme are promoted at the end of January with an information night for parents and students and at course planning assemblies and presentations in the school. The information night is advertised on the school website and on social media. The evaluation criteria are shared with parents at the information night and in school assemblies and course planning sessions. The criteria is also available on the school website. The school accepts qualified students from outside the school's immediate catchment.

The first step for students is to write a critical thinking test. The IB Coordinator considers the result of the test, the student's most recent report card, work habits and motivation. Work habits are reported on the report card and the interview is used to evaluate motivation and readiness. The IB Coordinator meets with all students interested in taking the full Pre-Diploma or Diploma Programme and makes a holistic evaluation of the student's suitability for the program. Students who move from the Pre-Diploma Programme to the Diploma Programme are screened by the IB Coordinator at the end of grade ten.

In the Pre-Diploma Programme, students who qualify for the full programme are given first priority. All other students are put on a waitlist. If there is room in the class after full Pre-Diploma students are placed, qualified students are placed in the class. The critical thinking test score and grades and work habits in the pre-requisite course are used to determine who is given a place.

In the IB Diploma Programme, Course students are allowed to take up to three IB courses. WVSS is a dual track school, offering both the BC Dogwood Diploma and the IB Diploma. The BC Dogwood Diploma courses are similar in difficulty to IB Standard Level courses. Time and experience have proved the best option for students not interested in taking the full Diploma is a blend of BC High School courses and IB Diploma courses. These students take courses up to three courses and are encouraged to take HL courses.

WVSS has a large population of international students and a large population of students who are English language learners (ELL). In general, it is recommended that students have at least four years in a school with English as the language of instruction before entering the IB Diploma Programme. However, students who are ELL are allowed to apply for the full programme. They are asked to complete an English language assessment. The IB Coordinator also consults with the ELL teachers on the suitability of the programme for specific ELL students. With the appropriate selection of courses, ELL students have been very successful in the IB Diploma Programme.

The number of students in the program fluctuates according to the size of the class and the number of qualified students. Classes are capped at 30. The program is a program of choice. Usually two or three classes run at the grade 10 level, depending on numbers. The number of classes determines the number of students admitted to the program. West Vancouver Secondary School welcomes all students to apply for the program and accepts students with a variety of needs. Please see our inclusion policy for details.

This policy is updated every January by the administration and IB Coordinator, prior to intake and course planning.