



THE IB at CA

**The only boarding school in Connecticut
offering the International Baccalaureate Programme® Diploma**

Cheshire Academy's IB Programme provides students with a high-quality, wholistic education – and an opportunity to earn college credits.

IB students develop a capacity for curiosity, research, collaboration, and problem solving that makes them better learners and better people. Recognized as the leader in international education, the IB is another way that **Cheshire Academy prioritizes an individualized approach to education.**

What is the IB?

International Baccalaureate (IB) is an internationally consistent, global education program that is recognized throughout the world. Founded in 1968, the IB emphasizes creativity, synthesis, critical thinking, and deep understanding. The IB develops inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect.

Academic experience is broadened beyond constrictive exam-based approaches. Students are encouraged to formulate ideas and come to their own conclusions, leaving room for independent thinking, greater self-expression, and personal exploration.

The IB at CA

Cheshire Academy became an IB World School in 2011, joining a community of more than 5,000+ schools around the globe. CA provides a rigorous curriculum designed to develop graduates with an unrivaled breadth and depth of knowledge.

As an internationally minded school with an individualized approach to learning, Cheshire Academy aligns with the IB's philosophy. The Programme seamlessly enhances our challenging academic curriculum, and serves the priorities and high standards of a diverse student body. The IB at CA supports students in balancing all aspects of their lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional – with a focus on well-being for ourselves and others.

Who is Best Suited for IB?

The IB is for students who think globally, want to take ownership of their learning, and seek to become more determined, mature learners. All students at CA take at least one IB course – standard level (SL) or higher level (HL) – during their 11th- and 12th- grade years.



**Research shows that U.S. IB
Diploma Programme students
are outperforming students
nationally in university enrollment,
persistence, and graduation.**

The College Advantage

The IB has the respect and recognition of the world's leading universities. Many colleges and universities in the U.S. offer benefits to IB graduates, such as credit for IB scores, scholarships, and/or tuition assistance. IB students stand out in the college process; college admission officers know and recognize that Diploma Programme candidates are eager, focused, and prepared to handle the requirements of university-level courses.

The Curriculum

In the IB curriculum, students can select their courses from six areas: language and literature, sciences, language acquisition, mathematics, individuals and societies, and arts. Students choose courses based on their interests, and in turn, become resilient and self-motivated, with the knowledge, skills, and sense of purpose necessary to thrive throughout their lives.

Diploma candidates complete three core elements:

The Extended Essay: independent, self-directed research culminating in a 4,000-word paper

Theory of Knowledge: course that develops an approach to learning and helps students understand knowledge as a human construction

Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS): activities pursued in tandem with academics, including the arts, physical activity, and community work

Mandarin Bilingual Diploma

Cheshire Academy offers our students with a native-level fluency in Mandarin the unique opportunity to earn the IB Bilingual Diploma. Through the IB Chinese A: Literature SL course – taught exclusively in Mandarin – students gain a



second IB Group 1 subject on their transcripts, a challenging and impressive designation that allows students to learn and build their skills in their home language. In addition, fluent Mandarin speakers in grades 11 and 12 can take the literature SL course, even if they are not pursuing the bilingual diploma.

Studying in Mandarin offers students a chance to truly delve into and concentrate on the material, not the delivery. This path is part of our ongoing, multi-pronged approach to becoming a linguistically inclusive community.

How are IB Students Graded & Assessed?

Assessment is a key difference between IB and traditional high school and AP programs. Rather than grading with final exams and peer comparison, IB grading is based on each student's performance measured against recognized criteria based on the aims and objectives of the subject. Students are evaluated over the program through multiple modes of assessment, including oral, written, and group projects, that make up the final grade – not final exams.

How Do Students Benefit from the IB?

IB Diploma students gain rigorous and balanced academic preparation, an ability to draw on knowledge and understanding of various cultures and histories, and exemplary writing skills. They learn how to think critically and apply what they have learned in different contexts and across disciplines. **IB Diploma graduates flourish intellectually, emotionally, and ethically among their peers.**

College Outlook

The acceptance rate of IB students into **Ivy League universities is up to 18% higher** than the total population acceptance rate. The gap is even more significant for **top-ranked universities** outside of the Ivy League, where it is **22% higher**, on average.