

The International Baccalaureate Magnet Diploma Program at Richard Montgomery High School

The International Baccalaureate Programme at Richard Montgomery High School, established in 1987, is a Whole School IB Programme. All 9th and 10th grade students participate in the Middle Years Programme. Students in the Magnet Program were selected through a competitive, countywide student selection process.

STUDENT SELECTION

The IB Magnet Diploma Program at Richard Montgomery High School is a four-year International Baccalaureate continuum program which blends an intensive two-year IB Middle Years preparatory program (grades 9 and 10) with the rigorous international standards of the full Diploma Program (grades 11 and 12). As the IB Magnet Program at Richard Montgomery is a countywide program, entrance is competitive. The IB at Richard Montgomery attracts many of the best students from Montgomery County, Maryland, a community of over a million outside of Washington, DC, with one of the finest public-school systems in the nation. Academically exceptional and motivated students are offered entry to the program after a highly selective process that evaluates standardized admission test scores, a writing assessment, and academic grades. Approximately 1,000 students apply annually for admission; the average freshman class is 125 students.

EXPECTATIONS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

As a result of the selection process, classroom expectations and exam performance are substantially higher than that of comparable programs worldwide. For the May 2025 testing season, IB scores at Richard Montgomery exceeded worldwide averages in 26 subjects.

Individual performance records, e.g. high school transcripts, should be considered in light of the extraordinary nature of the program and its students, who continue as academic community standouts in college. IB students also take advantage of the many AP classes offered at the high school and sit for both AP and IB examinations. IB Magnet students make up approximately 25% of the school population. Richard Montgomery Magnet and IB courses are advanced level classes and are designated “RMS” and “IB” on student transcripts.

- Richard Montgomery High School’s IB Diploma Program continues to rank among the most successful in the world. Student performance on the IB exams reflects the high classroom expectations.
- 96.8% of Richard Montgomery’s 129 IB candidates in 2025 earned the IB Diploma; (81.26% worldwide.); RM Diploma Mean Grade 5.4 (4.7 worldwide); RM Diploma Mean Points 34 (30.58 worldwide).
- Student performance on the Advanced Placement exams reflects the high classroom expectations.
- 615 Advanced Placement Exams Taken by IB Students in the Class of 2025 Score Summary:
5 = 53% 4 = 28% 3 = 13%
- The Mean SAT scores for the RMIB Class of 2025: 1468
- Evidence Based Reading and Writing: 740 Mathematics 738 Total - 1468
- National Merit Scholarship Competition Finalists - Class of 2025 - 23
- National Merit Scholarship Competition; Semifinalists - Class of 2025- 25
- National Merit Scholarship Competition; Commended Students - Class of 2025- 46
- 2025 Presidential Scholar Candidates – 11

IB Magnet Course of Study at Richard Montgomery High School

THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM (MYP):

Students in the MYP Program engage in a rigorous course of study in six or more subject areas. In grade 10, students undertake a long-term, independent research project called a Personal Project. The Personal Project provides students with the opportunity to put into practice the skills and knowledge developed over the course of the program under the guidance of a staff supervisor.

THE FRESHMAN YEAR:

All 9th grade magnet program students are enrolled in an academic program which includes the International Baccalaureate MYP instructional model. These courses are taught at the advanced level: English 9; French, Spanish, or Chinese levels 2 or 3 or 4; AP Government; Biology or Chemistry; Geometry, Analysis and Applications of Functions (AAF), or IB Pre-Calculus. The accelerated speed of these courses allows time for in-depth analysis and sophisticated content more commonly associated with grade 11 and grade 12 high school honors and advanced placement courses. Comprehensive program courses with similar titles at Richard Montgomery do not offer the same content.

THE SOPHOMORE YEAR:

All 10th grade magnet program students continue the IB Diploma preparation. Courses include: English 10; French, Spanish, or Chinese levels 3, 4 or 5; AP U.S. History; RMS Chemistry; AAF, IB Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB or BC. Prerequisites for IB electives begin in 10th grade. Again, comprehensive program courses with similar titles at Richard Montgomery do not offer the same content. Students in year 5 of a world language and advanced mathematics sit for the AP equivalent exams.

THE DIPLOMA PROGRAM (DP):

All students complete an Extended Essay (EE), Theory of Knowledge (TOK), and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS). This program core is above and beyond the academic requirements and is the signature experience of the IB Diploma model. Diploma candidates complete the EE research essay of 4,000 words in one of the subjects of the IB curriculum. The TOK course is an interdisciplinary course that leads students to reflect on the basis of knowledge and experience. Finally, all students participate in and reflect upon CAS experiential learning experiences.

THE JUNIOR YEAR:

In 11th grade, students begin preparing for their six IB subject exams, two of which may be taken in their junior year. Students show strengths in college-level exams in five required disciplines (English, World Language, Social Studies, Science and Math) and one elective discipline (a second world language, a second science, second social science or Computer Science, Film, Theater or Visual Arts). Unlike signature and magnet programs that allow specialization in one or two disciplines, IB expects students to demonstrate cross-curricular strength, which creates an intensely rigorous program for all students. All students must complete at least level 5 of French, Spanish, or Chinese to be able to test in world language. The highest-level world language is 7 and requires a bilingual fluency test.

THE SENIOR YEAR:

In the senior year, IB diploma candidates have demonstrated commendable motivation, determination, and academic achievement. Students complete Higher Level coursework in three or four disciplines and complete coursework leading to additional Standard Level exams. Higher Level offerings include English, Chinese, French, Spanish, History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Film, Theatre and Visual Arts. Standard Level course offerings include Chinese, History, Economics, Social Anthropology, Sports, Exercise, & Health Science, Philosophy, Global Politics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems, Mathematics, Computer Science, Film, Theater and Visual Arts. Student coursework is assessed throughout the two-year program, with final examinations in May.