IB Programme Opens World of Opportunity for APS Students

Aurora Public Schools is committed to providing all students with rigorous learning opportunities that better prepare them for life after high school. For years, the International Baccalaureate Programme has helped do just that, and today, IB continues to thrive in APS.

IB offers students high-quality educational programs focused on developing their intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to flourish in a rapidly globalizing world. Joanelle Núñez, an IB coordinator at Gateway High School who helped usher the program into the school, believes it gives students the confidence needed to accomplish whatever they set out to do in life.

“Students can perform; you just have to challenge them,” Núñez said. “If you push them further and further, they’re able to reach those places.”

Six APS schools in elementary through high school offer the IB Programme. However, Gateway’s structure is unique, as all incoming freshmen and sophomores are placed into IB’s Middle Years Programme. Under MYP, classes are taught within the IB framework, giving students a glimpse at what the full Diploma Programme would look like. At that point, students can decide to pursue an IB diploma or simply take a few IB courses during their junior and senior years, and by passing the assessments, students can earn college credit.

IB is meeting the needs of highly motivated students throughout APS, leading to a qualification that is recognized by universities across the world. Locally, earning an IB diploma can provide students with a minimum of 24 hours of college credit at any university in Colorado. It is just one example of how students are earning credentials in alignment with the district’s strategic plan, APS 2020: Shaping the Future.

Gateway IB Students: In Their Own Words

On the benefits of the program and the doors an IB diploma could open for you:

“I’ve been better with procrastination because it really helps with time management skills. There’s also a lot of support we get from teachers and fellow IB students. Being in this program separates me from the pack and increases the chances of me getting into good colleges.”

– Rychen Ly, junior

“It teaches me to manage my time and prioritize. It also taught me to be a leader. I’ve been accepted to Colorado Mesa University, and I attribute that to the IB classes I’ve taken. Beyond that, it’s my intention to get into medical school, and I feel this experience will help me with that as well.”

– Charles Reigies, senior