

Ballston Spa parents, students learn about IB program



Ballston Spa High School hosted an information session Wednesday night on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Maureen Werther — For The Saratogian

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BALLSTON SPA, N.Y. >> Ballston Spa High School students and parents gathered Wednesday evening at the Ballston Spa High School to learn about the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme the school offers to juniors and seniors.

The program, which is an alternative to the more traditional Advanced Placement program, offers students an opportunity to enroll in university-level courses that focus on developing students' critical thinking and communication skills, as well as empathy and open-mindedness.

The program of study includes language and literature, language acquisition, history, environmental and social sciences, mathematics and the arts and is designed to foster more well-

rounded and globally-focused learning. The IB program also affords students the opportunity to connect with other IB students on both the national and international level.

To be eligible to receive an IB diploma, students must successfully complete three core requirements during their two-year course of study: Creativity, Activity and Service; Extended Essay; and Theory of Knowledge.

A diploma is granted, based on the students' performance scores in their program of study, along with completion of the three core elements.

According to its website, www.ibo.org, students who participate in the IB Programme perform better at the university level and have a greater chance of being accepted into higher ranking universities. Ninety-five percent of IBDP graduates in the United States enroll in four-year colleges and universities, compared to the 60 percent national average, and 89 percent of IBDP alumni recommend the program to other students.

The IBDP curriculum has been offered at Ballston Spa High School since 2011 and students who have received IB diplomas while attending Ballston Spa High School have gone on to attend colleges and universities such as Clarkson University, Brandeis University and Trinity College Dublin.

Other informational meetings and lunches with current IB students will be held throughout the rest of January and completed applications to IB are due by Feb. 3.

Students and parents with additional questions may contact one of the IB coordinators at Ballston Spa High School: Christy Knapp at cknapp@bscsd.org or 884-7150, Ext. 2367; or Nicole Stehle at nstehle@bscdc.org or 884-7150, Ext. 2366.