

International Baccalaureate in Action

The June 2016 commencement ceremonies will mark the third year full International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme candidates will graduate from Ballston Spa High School. This rigorous college-level program for students is completed during the last two years of high school and provides a curriculum and degree that are recognized around the world. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and Ballston Spa Central School District are dedicated to developing these global citizens and life-long learners who are committed to serving their communities, through intercultural understanding and respect. Additional information on the IB Programme at BSHS is on the website or available from the HS Guidance Office. Here is a quick look at what's happening in the program:



IB Theatre – An Original Student Production

In mid-November, an adaptation of the charming fairy tale *East of the Sun and West of the Moon* was produced by the IB Theatre students and captivated all ages. Each member of the IB Theatre course took a special leadership role in an aspect of presenting the play, including writing, directing, producing, marketing and design.



Through IB Creativity, Activity & Service (CAS) Students are Making a Difference

Students in the IB Programme complete a community service project as part of their studies and have already made an impact on the community while learning valuable lessons. Graduating student Mari Robinson collected over 200 shoes for Soles4Souls, an organization that gives gently used shoes to people all over the world who cannot afford them.

Bailey Benson collected book donations for a local Red Bookshelf. The Red Bookshelf Project provides people around the country with easy access to books that do not require being returned. Benson also assembled 4-H Club members to create handmade, colorful bookmarks to accompany the book donations. "The bookmarks were a way to add a personal touch to the project, and also engage the younger members of the club, so they would view acts of service in a positive light," says Benson.

Thanks to IB senior Stephan Washburn, students throughout the High School were able to meet Missy Payne, a former Survivor contestant and founder of the Warrior Project, on November 5, 2015. Many students have joined the Ballston Spa Warriors, a local team formed by Washburn, which is currently raising funds for teens through competitive physical and service challenges. All proceeds will go to teens who cannot pursue their dreams due to financial restraints. To find out more, visit www.cheer4yl.com.



Theory of Knowledge – The Ways of Knowing

Through Theory of Knowledge (TOK) IB students dig deep to find out how we know what we know and how reliable the knowledge is that we possess. This past December, Year Two students visited SUNY Albany for an interactive performance lecture called *Choreophysics*. Produced by The Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company, it focused on a communion of the arts and sciences, creating a routine that utilized more than a dozen laws of physics. Students were able to deeply intertwine science with dance.



How do Colleges, Universities and Alumni View the IB Programme?

University admissions officials say the IBDP is the best qualification for developing students' non-academic skills (independent inquiry, open-mindedness, global awareness, self-management skills) and preparing them for further education and careers. IBDP alumni report the IB has profound, long-lasting effects on students' lives. It helps them develop critical thinking, analytical and writing skills and a broader world view. In addition, they point out that they earned advanced credits for university.

Colleges & Universities Accepting Ballston Spa IB Diploma Programme Candidates (IBDPC)

An interactive map, available on the IB Acceptances page of the High School webpage, shows the ever-growing list of colleges that our full IBDPC students are being accepted to. Graduates from the programme have attended a range of colleges and universities throughout the country including Dartmouth College, Oberlin College, Hofstra University and Northeastern University.

Information Shared with Prospective Students and Families

Prospective IB students and families were able to Meet the IB Team on January 12, 2016 to discuss IB courses of interest. This forum brought to life both how and what students may explore in all 7 groups of the IB Programme: Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, and the Inner Core. More detailed information regarding the IB Programme requirements and opportunities is available under IB Programme overview within the High School webpage.

How to Become a Full IB Diploma Programme Candidate

All those interested in pursuing the full IB Diploma Programme can obtain an application in the guidance office or on the IB Announcements portion of the High School webpage. The application is due the beginning of February in the guidance office. For additional details regarding the IB Programme, please contact the IB Coordinators, Christy Knapp cknapp@bscsd.org or Nicole Stehle nstehle@bscsd.org.

