



The School District of Osceola County, FL

Terry Andrews, Superintendent

Press Release

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Informational Meetings To Be Held For Osceola School District's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

For the 2012/2013 school year, the Osceola School District will offer the Pre-Diploma Program at Gateway High School and Celebration High School. The two-year Pre-Diploma Program leads to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. Parents of highly-motivated eighth-grade students at all Osceola middle schools are encouraged to attend an informational meeting outlining the Pre-Diploma requirements, the program features and advantages, the application and selection process, and the rigorous curriculum on any of these following dates:

--**January 12, 2012** - **Neptune Middle School**, located at 2727 Neptune Road in Kissimmee, at 6:30 p.m.

--**January 19, 2012** - **Celebration K-8 School**, located at 510 Campus Street in Celebration, at 6:30 p.m.

--**January 26, 2012** - **Horizon Middle School**, located at 2020 Ham Brown Road in Kissimmee, at 6:30 p.m.

--**February 2, 2012** - **Denn John Middle School**, located at 2001 Denn John Lane in Kissimmee, at 6:30 p.m.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepare students for success at a university and beyond. The IB Diploma is awarded to students who pass external examinations in six academic subject areas, complete a course of study in the theory of knowledge, successfully prepare an extended essay reflecting independent research and analysis, and who participate in Creative, Action, and Service (CAS) endeavors. Requirements for the IB Diploma are structured to meet the entrance requirements for the best universities throughout the world while striving to meet the ideals of an international education. Students gaining passes in IB exams earn college credits.

The recruitment process for the Pre-Diploma Program at both Gateway High School and Celebration High School will start in January with the informational meetings open to all parents of prospective applicants. Any eighth-grade student residing in Osceola

County may apply to the program. Applications will be available at these meetings, on the high schools' websites, and from middle school guidance counselors. Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- a completed application form;
- high grade point average and standardized test scores in the higher percentile in seventh and eighth grades;
- a signed Honor Code; and
- strong recommendations from eighth grade academic teachers.

IB attendance zones have been adopted by the Osceola County School Board. Parents/guardians can visit

<http://www.osceola.k12.fl.us/depts/Facilities/Rezoning2.asp> to determine whether their child is eligible to attend the the Gateway High School IB Diploma Program or the Celebration High School IB Diploma Program. If a student is accepted into the IB Program at his/her zoned school, transportation will be provided.

Applications are due to Gateway High School or Celebration High School by February 16, 2012.