



# FIRESTONE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

470 Castle Blvd., Akron, OH 44313  
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### Welcome to Firestone CLC International Baccalaureate!

2021-2022

We know that choosing a high school program is both exciting and stressful, and we want to help as much as we can in your selection process. We are part of a program that is offered in 90 countries around the world and follows international guidelines. It is built on the curriculum of no one country, but is a deliberate blend of the best from around the world. The IB Program structure can be difficult to understand, so our first job is to try to explain some of the basics. We want you to make an informed decision on your high school curriculum.

**Firestone Pre-IB** is a uniquely designed program for ninth and tenth graders. This preliminary program prepares you for success in the two-year actual IB Diploma Program, which is offered only to juniors and seniors. In our PIB Program, you are expected to take the following academic courses listed, plus the state-required physical education and health classes.

9th Grade	10th Grade
Honors English	Honors English
Honors Geometry / AP Statistics	Honors Algebra II/Trig
*FPIB Foreign Language (Spanish or French)	*FPIB Foreign Language (Spanish or French)
Honors Biology	*Honors Chemistry / Physics 10
Honors U.S. History	Honors Government

*\*Exclusive to Firestone PIB students.*

**IB Diploma** – Earning a diploma is a challenging route to take, but there is no better preparation for the demands of college. When IB students meet in college, they find they share many common experiences.

Students who aspire to earn the diploma take their junior and senior courses in the IB program and are externally assessed in six different areas. Up to two exams may be taken in May of the junior year; the remainders are taken in May of the senior year. In addition, a diploma candidate writes a 4,000 word extended essay on a topic of interest, takes a Theory of Knowledge course, and completes 150 hours of community service and extracurricular activities in the junior and senior year. After receiving the required

high school diploma at graduation, the diploma candidates learn whether they earned the IB diploma sometime in July.

Recognition of IB varies from college to college. Some colleges and universities offer sophomore status for earning a diploma, and others grant advanced credit for successful performance on IB exams. Participation in the IB program is definitely an asset in college application; colleges recognize the rigor of IB and make decisions accordingly. Participation in the IB assessments facilitates the student's adjustment to the demands of college.

## About the application - **\*\*Please read this carefully!\*\***

We have a 3-part application form, which should be returned to your counselor, or principal for completion and submission to the IB office at Firestone. Make certain to...

- check all deadlines for submission
- make certain that your sections are complete
- plan to give your counselor and teachers plenty of time to complete their sections
- make certain that all parts of your application are turned in to the IB office on time

**Writing Sample** There is a separate form for a writing sample included. This is a very important part of your application. Give some thought to what you want to say and try not to rely on the words “academic challenge” and “preparation for college.” These words, though they may be true, will not set you apart from other applicants. Tell us instead what interests you have—sports, academics, community service, outside-of-school activities. Tell us your potential career plans, or tell us about the world you live in, how you fit into it, and why it directs you toward the IB Program. If you would like a different prompt, write about one of these three topics: (1) With what historical figure would you like to have lunch; (2) What two inventions of the twentieth century had the greatest impact on American life and why; (3) What would a day in the year 2040 look like? We will be looking for evidence of clear, unique thinking, a well-rounded personality, and good writing skills. Use all the space provided.

**Three (3) teacher recommendations.** Please complete the student portion of the recommendation form and give it to the appropriate teacher. One of the teachers must be a teacher from Category A (Math, Science, Computer), one from Category B (English, Foreign Language, Social Studies). The third teacher may be from either category.

## Want to visit?

Many students make application to the IB program at FCLC. Prospective students are welcome to spend a day going to classes. Please have your parent call the school office at least two weeks in advance of the time you wish to visit. Visitation requires a parent consent form with a parent signature. We will make arrangements with a current Firestone Pre-IB student, one who is taking a class schedule similar to the one you will be taking, to be your escort for the day. Again, give us a couple of weeks to make arrangements with staff.

## Admissions policy

The IB Program is committed to cultural diversity. Admission is limited to qualified students with access based on available space. Since we may receive more applications than we can accept, it is important that your application be complete and on time, especially if you are applying for Open Enrollment. Families will be notified as soon as possible of acceptance or non-acceptance.

We will work hard to give you the opportunity to have four fulfilling years at Firestone. You are making a commitment to work toward the same goal.

If you have questions, please feel free to call the IB office at (330) 761-3270, extension 55412.

Sincerely,

*Larry W. Johnson, Jr.*

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Principal

*Judith Harrison*

Judith Harrison

IB Coordinator

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