



NORTH STAR HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
ACADEMIC PROFILE

General Philosophy:

North Star High School's mission is to educate students to think critically and become virtuous citizen leaders. By weaving business, economics, communication and leadership skills into the fabric of education, North Star will help train and educate business, civic, and community leaders for the future. North Star's educational philosophy believes that having high expectations and an environment that encourages positive peer pressure leads to extraordinary achievement. A goal of "college readiness" will be achieved for all students regardless of their career aspirations.

Curriculum Development:

Developing student's critical thinking skills, intellectual curiosity, and collaboration skills provides the central focus of a North Star International School of Business and Economics' education. North Star K-12 education integrates international business and economics, English composition and writing, and civic leadership into each of the core curriculum classes. The skills and abilities mastered at the early grades provide a foundation for an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (approval pending*) in the 11th and 12th grade.

In the freshman year at North Star ISBE, students explore the theme of *place*, where the emphasis is on gaining a better understanding of the community in which they live and developing a commitment to serving their community. Preparation for IB will include extensive research and writing, increased emphasis on community service (even possibly including summer and spring break service trips) and development of independent learning. Coursework in the tenth grade centers on the theme of *innovation and entrepreneurship*. Economics and business-oriented concepts such as specialization and the division of labor, cultural and trade exchanges enhance students' study of Math, World History, Biology and World Literature, as well as music and art. Students will continue foreign language studies to broaden their international perspective. IB preparation in the sophomore year will encourage students to develop areas of interest and passion in order to begin the selection of their IB courses in their junior and senior years.

In the third year, the theme of *discovery* guides a course in Micro and Macro Economics. Economics class will prepare students to participate in the International Economic Summit, an interactive event held at Boise State University for students from many area high schools. Junior year will mark the beginning of International Baccalaureate (approval pending) classes for all students. Many choices are available for students from among the 6 curricular areas required in the diploma program. As an integral part of the diploma program, students will begin an extended essay on a subject of their choice. Also, an emphasis on community service continues with the CAS requirement of IB. A significant commitment of 150 hours in the areas of Creativity, Action, and Service are integral to the program during the 11th and 12th. The final core element of IB teaches students the intricacies of learning theory in the Theory of Knowledge class.

Under the theme of *research and problem solving*, integrated learning at North Star culminates in an apprenticeship with local businesses. Students will apply core business and economics concepts to complex problems. Students will demonstrate their mastery of mathematics, science and composition to solve problems presented by community experts in engineering, agriculture and banking. International Baccalaureate classes continue through the senior year, as does the Theory of Knowledge class, culminating with exams in each of the core areas.

Diploma with Distinction:

North Star ISBE provides a well-rounded diverse academic education. Each student will graduate with essential academic skills needed for success in their future career choices. North Star also honors students and families who go beyond the classroom in expanding their educational opportunities. Each graduate will be able to earn a “Diploma With Distinction” for participation in one of the following activities: hosting an exchange student, hosting an exchange teacher, participating in an exchange program, participating in a service learning trip, participating in volunteer activities (beyond CAS) helping foreign students or families to acculturate into the Boise area.

Curriculum Standards

Curriculum standards at North Star High School surpass requirements set by the State Department of Education and the Meridian School District. North Star will participate in all testing required by the state. In addition, North Star students will complete internal assessments in each IB class as well as take examinations in each of their core courses. A minimum of ????? credits will be required for graduation. Support services will be provided for all students requesting it. North Star’s commitment to its community is that ALL STUDENTS CAN SUCCEED, and we are prepared to back that philosophy with the academic support each student needs to accomplish his/her goals.

** North Star Charter School is a candidate school for the IB Diploma Program. North Star Charter School is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that (this school) believes is important for our students. Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) as IB World Schools can offer any of its three academic programs: the Primary Years Program (PYP), the Middle Years Program (MYP), or the Diploma Program. Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IBO and its programs, visit <http://www.ibo.org>.*