

Dear Class of 2013,

We enthusiastically invite you to consider the International Baccalaureate Programme, a high school program that prepares students for the global world. As technology and communication systems continue to advance, the world you encounter differs from previous generations. As you move from high school to college, to the work force, or to civic duties, you face increasing job competition, important political decisions, and significant ecological issues at both the local and global levels. Preparing to step into your role as a responsible citizen and as a member of the global community requires a sound education in high school. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is designed to develop responsible citizens in a global society.

The IBDP is among the most comprehensive and rigorous academic programs available. Considered an outstanding preparation for college and life after college (Education Week 32), the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is designed to prepare 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners to become 21<sup>st</sup> Century leaders. The programme is built around the International Baccalaureate mission to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

As an incoming freshman, it is time to consider this important choice so that you are prepared to enter the Diploma Programme your junior year. The IBDP also supports the DCSD Board of Education goal of developing responsible citizens who demonstrate critical thinking and ethical behavior. We are very fortunate in Douglas County to be able to offer two International Baccalaureate Diploma Programmes.

### **What is unique about the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme?**

#### **The IBDP is:**

- ❖ a program aimed at developing inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
- ❖ a holistic program centered on developing the individual in all academic areas including (strengths and weaknesses).
- ❖ a program that includes an intensive study of a second language.
- ❖ an internationally recognized rigorous two-year curriculum, which prepares students to enter college and life with the skills they need to be successful.

#### **How would I benefit?**

- ❖ **IB is an Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** – IB students learn life skills that will be ingrained by the time they leave high school. These skills include critical thinking, time management, public speaking and research. IB students learn to show responsibility towards our global community.
- ❖ **International Community** – The diploma programme focuses on developing responsible citizens who will demonstrate leadership skills and create a future focused on ethical principles and global citizenship.
- ❖ **Preparedness** – An IB Diploma demonstrates a student is serious about learning and is prepared for college level work.
- ❖ **University Scholarships** – A number of universities offer scholarships for IB Diploma holders. (A list of universities that offer scholarships appears on the IBNA website.)
- ❖ **University Admissions** – An IB Diploma is widely recognized by American and International universities as a strong academic curriculum, giving students an “edge” in the admissions process.

- ❖ **College Credit** – Colorado Legislation (HB1108\_L007) requires Colorado colleges and universities to grant at least 24 credits to students who have earned an IB Diploma. For further details and exceptions, refer to each college or university website.
- ❖ **Highly Trained Teaching Staff** – Our IB teachers are highly qualified and have been extensively trained and prepared to educate IB students.

### **What would be expected of me?**

#### **Each IB student will be expected to:**

- ❖ be open-minded to a global perspective.
- ❖ seek a challenging educational experience.
- ❖ demonstrate leadership potential.
- ❖ have a strong work ethic, time management skills and good study habits.
- ❖ become involved in your school (IB students are the most involved students in their schools, participating in everything from athletics, student council, marching band to cheerleading).
- ❖ show a dedication to helping your colleagues achieve their best.

We are excited to offer this outstanding program. Douglas County is one of the few districts in the United States to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at two high schools: Douglas County High School in Castle Rock and ThunderRidge High School\* in Highlands Ranch. We encourage you to access the websites and attend the meetings listed below.

**DCHS IB Coordinator, Steven Fleet PhD**

**TRHS IB Coordinator, Donna Ferguson**

### **Program Information Meetings**

#### **Douglas County High School**

Parent Organization:

<http://www.huskieibpo.com>

School website:

<http://www1.dcsdk12.org/secondary/dchs/index.php>

*IB Assistant, Deborah Wick*

[deborah.wick@dcsdk12.org](mailto:deborah.wick@dcsdk12.org)

303-387-1109

*IB Coordinator, Steven Fleet PhD*

[steven.fleet@dcsdk12.org](mailto:steven.fleet@dcsdk12.org)

#### **Information Nights**

October 15, 2008

Mesa Middle School

6:30 pm

November 12, 2008

Douglas County High School

6:30 pm

#### **\*ThunderRidge High School**

#### **IB Candidate School**

Website:

<http://schools.dcsdk12.org/trhsIB>

*IB Assistant, Jean King*

[jean.king@dcsdk12.org](mailto:jean.king@dcsdk12.org)

303-387-2207

*IB Coordinator, Donna Ferguson*

[donna.ferguson@dcsdk12.org](mailto:donna.ferguson@dcsdk12.org)

#### **Information Nights**

November 6, 2008

TRHS auditorium

6:30 pm

December 2, 2008

Ranch View Middle School

6:30 pm