

International Baccalaureate at Worthington Kilbourne High School  
January 25, 2016

As you know after reviewing the enrollment numbers for IB I became very concerned that this program, while certainly a strong academic program, was not attracting sufficient enrollment to justify continuing the program. After reflecting upon the statements and emails of stakeholders, and working with the staff at Worthington Kilbourne High School, we have decided to move forward with a redesigned IB program that we believe will both attract more students and create some economy of scale.

WKHS has developed a consolidated IB program that maximizes students per section and minimizes co-seating. This revised IB program offers students three pathways to earn the IB diploma: business, standard, and STEM. In the business pathway, students will take courses in business management and economics. In the standard pathway, students will study history and either economics or psychology. In the STEM pathway, students will study design technology. Students in all three pathways will take courses in English, math, foreign language, and science and complete the IB "core." The revised IB program reduces elective options but also makes some helpful additions. The revised program includes Psychology SL and Math Studies SL. WKHS believes these additions will help attract more students to the full diploma program. The IB program at WKHS will be distributing updated information sheets with further details starting at Curriculum Night on Monday, January 25.

Our district will support a comprehensive marketing plan for the IB program. It is important to note that with our changes to the IB curriculum, a wider base of students will meet the prerequisites to earn the full diploma. In order to communicate with this wider base of students, Sean Cooke, the IB coordinator, will present information sessions to students in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade across the district. Additionally, the IB program will develop a slate of new marketing materials. This marketing collateral will include a "parent pack" modeled after the pack created by the IB organization, but tailored specifically to parents at each of our middle schools. Our IB staff and WKHS administrators are already gathering further ideas so we can prepare a complete plan. Sean Cooke will be reaching out soon to invite you to participate in this process.

As a district we will continue to monitor our IB program. For the program to continue indefinitely we need to see enrollment of 15-20 diploma candidates each year and average class sizes above 12. My hope is that within the three year timeline we learn that those targets can be supported and that this learning opportunity can be continued indefinitely in Worthington.

- Trent Bowers, Superintendent