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Statement of Philosophy

As an IB World School and part of a cluster of schools that support a K-12 continuum of IB programs, Julius West Middle School and Richard Montgomery High School are committed to supporting access to the IB programs we offer to all students. While the IB Diploma Programme at RMHS was originally conceived as an application entry pathway only, the programs have evolved over time to ensure that all students can access the benefits of an IB education. This document outlines the structure of the programs at the two schools and how students gain access to the IB programs we offer.

Access to the MYP at Julius West Middle School

The MYP at Julius West is a whole-school program inclusive of all students in grades 6-8 (years 1-3 of the program). To participate in the program, students must live within school boundaries, as outlined in the MCPS zoning requirements, or receive a change of school assignment (COSA) to attend the school. Certain students may be assigned to attend the school based on programmatic needs for Special Education or English Language Learning, or because this is their prior home school in the case of students experiencing homelessness.

Access to the MYP at Richard Montgomery High School

The MYP at Richard Montgomery is also a whole-school program offered to all students in grades 9 and 10 (years 4 and 5 of the program). As is the case at Julius West, students may access the program by living within the school boundaries (as described above) or because they have been assigned to the school due to specific educational needs. In addition, students who would like to participate in the MCPS IB Magnet at Richard Montgomery may apply through the admissions process described below. The Magnet describes an instructional level and pathway within the RMHS Middle Years Programme for grades 9 and 10.

Admission to the MCPS IB Magnet in year 4 (grade 9)

The MCPS IB Magnet at Richard Montgomery is a selective countywide application entry program. The program application process is administered by the MCPS Division of Consortia,
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Choice, and Application Program Service (DCCAPS). This office determines the timeline and procedures for application and admission, which are [published annually](#) in advance of the fall application deadline. The application is open to all 8th grade students currently residing in Montgomery County, regardless of their current MCPS middle school, private school or homeschool. Students must have completed Algebra I by the end of grade 8 and be prepared to enter Level 2 of one of the Language Acquisition courses offered at the school (Spanish, French, or Chinese).

- MCPS advertises Magnet programs to all eighth graders and their parents.
- Students apply via the ParentVue system
- Applications are processed and include a student writing sample, grades, and previous test scores.
- Selection committees are formed. They are composed of some of the school's teachers across academic programs and departments and central office personnel to reflect a variety of educational experiences and perspectives.
- A blind reading of the applications takes place in late winter and students are selected and notified.
- Invited students are welcomed to an Open House event to address questions prior to accepting or declining their offered place in the program.

Admission to the IB Diploma Program at Richard Montgomery

- IB Diploma courses are open to all 11th and 12th grade students at Richard Montgomery.
- Students from the Magnet program automatically matriculate into the Diploma Programme.
- The IB DP Coordinator shares information with all 10th grade students, parents and counselors regarding the IB Diploma and Certificate program during the final year in MYP.
- Students complete an interest inventory to express interest in pursuing the IB Diploma.
- A school-based committee composed of the MYP Coordinator, Magnet Coordinator, DP Coordinator, teachers, and the IB Office Student Support Specialist review interest inventories.
- We work with the counseling department to analyze data and to identify students who did not express interest and encourage their participation.
- Students are invited to register for DP coursework.
- Coordinators meet with students and parents to discuss course selection.

Procedures for the publication and review of this policy

This policy was most recently revised in Fall 2022. It is published on the school website and distributed in information sent annually to the school community. Changes and revisions to the policy are made on an as needed basis in order to address changes in school and district procedures.