



SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Your World Awaits

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Saint John's Prep Named Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate's Diploma Programme

Collegeville, MN: Saint John's Prep has been named a candidate school* to become an IB World School and to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization's Diploma Programme. This program, created over 40 years ago, has established a reputation for high academic standards, for preparing students for life in a globalized 21st century, and for helping to develop the future citizens who will create a better, more peaceful and just world.

The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily for juniors and seniors. The IB Diploma is internationally recognized by prestigious universities for excellence in college preparation. Completion of the entire IB Diploma Programme may result in priority admission to universities, increase college credit and additional scholarship opportunities. Saint John's Prep plans to begin offering classes in 2011-12, with the first IB Diplomas being presented to the members of the graduating class of 2014.

The IB Diploma Programme has the strengths of a traditional liberal arts curriculum, but with important additional features, including:

- **Curriculum:** The six subject groups represent the major domains of learning across all subject disciplines of the curriculum; language, individuals and societies, mathematics and computer science, the arts, experimental sciences, and a second language. Within this model, students are able to explore some subjects in greater depth and some more broadly.
- **Theory of knowledge (TOK):** The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.
- **Extended essay:** The extended essay has a prescribed limit of 4,000 words. It offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university.
- **Creativity, action, service (CAS):** Participation in the school's CAS program encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena. Students must complete at least 50 hours of community service.

According to Kathy Kockler, Principal, "This is an exciting opportunity for our students to develop the ability to operate in a variety of ways of thinking while engaging in curriculum that is interdisciplinary. It is an optional program for those students who are seriously interested in developing inquiry and thinking skills along with the capacity to reflect upon and evaluate actions critically. This program will challenge students with a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, international understanding and exposure to a variety of points of views."

According to the IBO website, The IB Diploma Programme is now offered by 2,010 schools worldwide. There are only 14 schools in Minnesota offering the IB Diploma Programme, most of which are in the Twin Cities metro area. Saint John's Prep would be the only private school in Minnesota to offer the IB Diploma Programme.

We invite all to attend an informational session about the IB Diploma Programme, which will be held on **Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 7pm at Saint John's Prep**. RSVP's are encouraged by contacting the Admission Office at 320-363-3321.

Founded in 1857, Saint John's Prep is a Catholic/Benedictine private college preparatory school, enrolling students of all faiths, in grades 6-12. Boarding options are available beginning in 9th grade. Busing from the St. Cloud and ROCORI areas is available. For more information, visit www.sjprep.net or call 320-363-3321.

*Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate (IB) as IB World Schools can offer any of its three academic programmes: the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), or the IB Diploma Programme. Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit <http://www.ibo.org>.

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