



## Questions and Answers from the GSIB Program at Edgewood Live Event: October 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00pm

- **Do you offer college credits?**  
*The GSIB program at EHS allows for the students to gain multiple college credits, and in some cases complete their whole first year of college depending where the student decides to go to school. Additionally, students get the opportunity to take both AP and IB courses.*
- **What do you expect in our application essays?**  
*The application essay should be an honest account of why you want to join our program.*
- **What is your retention rate of students throughout all four years of the program?**  
*We typically allow 50 students into our program per freshmen cohort and by the time they are seniors we have around 46 students.*
- **What are some tips you have for getting into the program?**  
*Think about what you want to write in your essay and make sure your voice is honest and unique. Consider your word choice, and double-check for spelling and grammar. Try to show how well-rounded you are in your activity list by show-casing a wide variety of activities.*
- **How many students are accepted into the IB program?**  
*50 to 60 students per year.*
- **How many applications do you get per year?**  
*Around 120-180.*
- **What is the girl/boy ratio?**  
*Currently, about 60% girls and 40% boys.*
- **What are some specific colleges your graduates have been accepted to?**  
*Maryland, Hopkins, Tulane, Loyola, UMD, Towson Honors, Princeton, Rutgers, Georgetown Wellesley...and many, many more, please check out our brochure on our school website to see a full list*
- **Who will get the email that they will move forward to Round 2 and finally acceptance?**  
*All students will get an email whether or not they made it into round 2.*
- **Are there opportunities for other higher-level math like Calculus? Trigonometry? College Algebra?**  
*Yes, our IB Math courses are all at the higher-level that cover Calculus and Trigonometry. In addition, we offer AP math courses as well.*

- Edgewood is not my home school. How would my child get to and from Edgewood High School every day?**

*All Magnet Programs at HCPS offer Bus Depot stops for Magnet students. Your Depot Stop is most often your local High School or library. The bus will pick your child up from the depot spot and take them to EHS, and then drop them off at the Depot spot at the end of the day.*
- I'm not a huge fan of History, would this school still be a good match for me?**

*This program is about critical thinking and global-mindedness in all content areas, so if you do not like one area of study, you can design your schedule to pursue areas of study you prefer more.*
- Are there any Astronomy or space technology studies?**

*We host Technology and computer science classes, as well as AP Comp Sci.*
- What are the options for advanced music courses?**

*In addition to traditional music courses like Band, Guitar, Choir, and Orchestra, students can also join AP Music Theory, and IB Music courses at the Higher Level and Standard Level in which a student can work as a composer, a solo-artist, or a group performing artist.*
- I have a question for the parents. How would you describe your children's emotional state with this program? Do you see them stress, having anxiety, etc.?**

*With all college level courses at the high-school level, you will experience your child having stress and anxiety, but there is also this incredible bond you see with your child's peers, their teachers, and the GSIB community at large, it is a family atmosphere.*
- Is there a specific spot for volunteer hours on the application or would we put in the activity list?**

*No, but if you do volunteer – that is a GREAT thing to put on your activity list.*
- Is there a degree which IB students mostly take up?**

*No. The program is preparing your student for many careers. We have students who have become lawyers, doctors, nurses, college professors, linguists, members of the army and the peace corps, actors on off-Broadway, ministers, and so much more. We encourage you to check out the GSIB page on Edgewood High School at <https://edhs.ss18.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=718232&pageId=1472463> to learn more about our program.*
- If I want to do Drama and Orchestra (both), can I?**

*Yes, as long as it fits your schedule.*
- Is there a variety of options when considering science courses or does everyone take the same science course?**

*Yes, we offer Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Sports Medicine, Environmental Science, and many more.*

- Do I have to pay a cost?**  
*Currently, HCPS covers your IB Exam fees.*
- Are non-IB classes (like band and chorus) with all students at EHS?**  
*Yes.*
- Are there many clubs at EHS? And is your program accepting of diverse students?**  
*Yes, EHS has tons of clubs that our IB students participate in. Literary Magazine, Speech and Debate, Drama Club, Dance Company, Art Club, Student Government, GSA, BSA, FCA, and many many more! We are a very diverse school and our school and program celebrate our diversity.*
- I have a question for the parents; did doing this program help your children figure out what they wanted to do, career wise?**  
*Yes, many students come into the program knowing what they want to do when they leave high school, and the program helps them to prepare for that. But many other students find their career passion while in the program and are able to pursue that.*
- So, I want to do English as my extra class or magnet program specific class. Can I still do a theater class, or do you have a drama club?**  
*We have Drama and IB Theatre options for you at EHS, yes!*
- I'm not super artistic. How challenging is this component of the program?**  
*The arts include a wide variety of options: Visual Arts, Music, Theater, Film. It is ok that creativity looks different for different people. Students also can choose to take another Science or History course if they prefer instead of an art course.*
- How can I sign up on hcps?**  
<https://hcps.org/Schools/MagnetPrograms/Default.aspx>
- Since the World Language classes are more rigorous than in other high schools, would I be less likely to do well if I did not go to one of the middle schools that had 8th grade students take French/Spanish 1?**  
*No, we have different track options for students, and encourage all students to take beginning level courses.*
- If my kid is already doing Algebra II in grade 8, would he still be required to take that in 9th?**  
*No, they can move right into Trigonometry.*
- Is there a waitlist should a student not initially get accepted?**  
*Yes.*
- Do students have time for sports?**  
*Yes, many IB students participate in sports; some for all three seasons.*

- **What standards are used when reviewing the essay and activity list for the score?**  
*They are basic writing standards on voice, idea, fluency, and word choice for the essay. For the activity list we look for the amount of variety and/or well-roundedness of activities.*
- **If I am deciding between SMA and IB, what are key things about IB that I should consider?**  
*You should consider whether you want a global education that seeks to develop creativity, activity, service, critical thinking and writing skills. You should consider if you want to join a program that focuses on the maths and sciences with equal weight of the humanities.*
- **You said something about an essay . . . how many words again?**  
*The essay is 3750-4000 words of the student's choice topic. It is their Capstone project.*
- **Is IB worth it?**  
*Yes! But we encourage you to take a look at our website  
<https://edhs.ss18.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=718232&pageId=5027048>  
and read over the quotations from over 50 of our alumni talking about their experiences! The presentation is called "IB Quotes". We also encourage you on that same page to check out our Informational Brochure.*

*Any additional questions please feel to contact GSIB Program  
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