



Admission Policy

Ross Sheppard School Philosophy

Ross Sheppard High School is a proud community of **inquiring learners** that **embraces challenges and celebrates successes in academics, athletics, fine arts, and service**. WE ARE SHEP represents the pride, tradition, and excellence that is exhibited in our halls on a daily basis. We provide a **caring, safe and inclusive environment** that focuses on **engaged teaching and lifelong learning**. Ross Sheppard High School believes that all students can thrive and be successful in an environment that is **kind, respectful, and safe**. Our key strategies to achieve our success are held within the terms of **RelationShep, ScholarShep, MentorShep, LeaderShep and PartnerShep**. A long-standing tradition that represents our **reflective practice** is **"If better is possible; then good is not enough"** as a means to foster growth and success for all.

IB Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to **develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people** who help to create a better and more peaceful world through **intercultural understanding and respect**.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and **rigorous** assessment.

These programmes **encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right**.

1. Purpose

- To ensure that all students at Ross Sheppard High School have equal access to an IB education.
- To ensure that the school community is aware of the process for admission into IB courses.

2. Philosophy

Our goal is to ensure that students experience success in their high school courses leading to the Alberta Diploma. Students should have the opportunity to enrich their education by completing IB courses and/or the IB Diploma. Students should also have the opportunity to achieve the credentials needed for acceptance into, and success in, post-secondary institutions. To this end, we believe that IB courses should be freely available to all students who have successfully completed the prerequisite courses.

We believe that all students should have access to instruction with an international focus and that all students should further develop the IB Learner Profile attributes throughout their high school years.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

A) Head of School will

- ensure that the community is aware of deadlines for school choice and course selection.
- provide opportunities for parents and students to attend information sessions regarding the IB programme.
- provide opportunities for students to learn about the admission requirements of many Universities.
- provide support services to help students succeed in their IB courses.

B) IB Diploma Coordinator and School Counselors will

- provide information and guidance to students and their parents during program and course selection via group IB Information sessions and one-on-one conversations.
- provide guidance and recommendations to help students select a program that best suits their needs.
- encourage students to attempt IB courses and/or the IB Diploma.
- support students throughout their high school years to help them succeed in their IB courses.
- provide opportunities for students to learn about the admission requirements of many Universities by organizing University fairs and/or visits.

C) Students and Parents will

- attain knowledge about the requirements for an Alberta Diploma, an IB Diploma, and post-secondary school programs of choice before high school program and course selection.
- contact IB Coordinator with questions and concerns.
- access student support systems when needed:
 - student services provides counseling for students during course selection.
 - student services provides support to students having difficulty in their courses, including organization of peer tutoring.
 - student services provides accommodations for students with special needs.

4. Policy Overview

Students living in the Ross Sheppard High School catchment area as defined by the Edmonton Public School (EPSB) district are eligible to attend Ross Sheppard High School for grades 10, 11 and 12.

Students living outside the catchment area may select Ross Sheppard High School as their high school of choice by the EPSB deadline for school selection. If sufficient space is available, the student will be accepted. If the number of students who apply exceeds the school's capacity, a random selection process will be used at the Division level to determine which students are accepted.

Once accepted to Ross Sheppard High School, a student may choose courses in the IB Diploma programme if the following requirements are met:

Grade 10:

- Prerequisite for all grade 10 pre-IB courses is suggested to be 75% in the grade 9 subject. This may be waived with permission from the IB Diploma Coordinator if discussion proves that the student is willing to put in the effort required to be successful.

Grade 11:

- Prerequisite for grade 11IB course(s) is 50% in the prerequisite grade 10 pre-IB subject, although we recommend a grade above 75%.

Grade 12:

- Prerequisite for grade 12IB course(s) is 50% in the same grade 11 IB subject, although we recommend a grade above 75%. Students must also have completed and submitted all IB specific assessments assigned in grade 11.

Students entering from a school that does not have an IB program:

If a student enrolls at Ross Sheppard High School in grade 11 or 12 from a school that does not have an IB program, access to IB courses will be determined by the IB Diploma Coordinator and assistant principal, in consultation with the student and their parents, on a case-by-case basis.

Students who are online (virtual) due to disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic:

The school will accommodate students who choose to enroll as an online student to some degree; however, not all IB courses can be accessed in this way. In all cases, students will be expected to complete much of the IB-specific work on their own.

5. Policy Review

This policy was initially developed by a committee of IB teachers at Ross Sheppard High School. It is reviewed by IB teachers and school administration as needed, or at least once every five years. Amendments are made as needed.

References

- Edmonton Public Schools (2021). *Student Rights and Responsibilities: Ross Sheppard High School*.
- International Baccalaureate Organisation (2021). *IB Programme Standards and Practices*.
- International Baccalaureate Organisation (2015). *DP From Principles to Practice*.