

International Baccalaureate Programme



A child's education in the Somers Central School District is built on two foundational principles: **excellence for all** and the **International Baccalaureate Programme**. These principles ensure that every student meets or exceeds universally high goals in a safe, nurturing, inclusive learning environment.

This is part one of a series exploring how the Somers Central School District uses the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework to provide an excellent education for all students, developing lifelong learners who thrive and make a difference.

What is the International Baccalaureate Programme?

The International Baccalaureate Programme is an internationally recognized educational framework for kindergarten through 12th grade that follows New York State Education Standards. It is not **what** we teach and learn, but rather **how** we teach and learn. Think of a "guide on the side" rather than a "sage on the stage".

The Four Frameworks of the IB Continuum

The **PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME** empowers students to develop and excel as learners as people.

Exploring Primary Years Programme

The **MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME** (accredited) builds a solid academic foundation, develops students' confidence in managing their own learning and makes connections between their learning and the real world.

ib Middle Years Programme

The **DIPLOMA PROGRAMME** (accredited) prepares students for success in higher education and life in a global society. Students can choose to take one or more IB courses, or earn a full IB Diploma.

ib Diploma Programme

The **CAREER PROGRAMME** equips students with future-ready skills and prepares them to follow their career pathways—combining academic subjects with their own professional interests.

Exploring Career-related Programme

IB in Somers

IB complements the SCSD mission, vision, and collective commitments. It is a whole child approach that gives Somers students distinct advantages by:

- ✓ supporting research-based teaching practices
- ✓ building students' critical thinking skills
- ✓ nurturing their curiosity
- ✓ emphasizing creative problem-solving, hands-on projects, inquiry-based learning, and community service

Up next in part two: the seamless fit between the IB framework and the SCSD mission.

Why become an IB Continuum District?

The International Baccalaureate Continuum of programs provides a seamless educational experience for students K-12 and a common language for families and teachers to talk about how we teach and learn.

Focus on Inquiry-Based Learning: Students investigate real-world problems, develop curiosity, and nurture critical thinking skills.

Development of Key Skills: Strong focus on a range of skills including communication, collaboration, research, and self-management.

Emphasis on Personal Development: Committed to students' personal, social, and emotional well-being, fostering qualities such as empathy, resilience, and a sense of responsibility.

Preparation for a Globalized World: Students are prepared to navigate diverse cultures and perspectives in an increasingly interconnected world.

Community Engagement: Students engage in their communities through service, instilled with a sense of social responsibility and belonging.

Inclusive Approach: The IB framework is designed to reduce barriers so that every student can fully participate. Inclusive education is facilitated in a culture of collaboration, mutual respect, and problem-solving.

Learn more about IB at PTA meetings and principal coffees. Dates and times on the district calendar at www.somersschools.org.