



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When did Safety Harbor Middle become an IB school?

A: We were officially authorized as an IB world school at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Q: How can my student be an IB student. My student does not have high enough scores to be in IB.

A: All students at SHMS are IB students. At the elementary and middle school level, the IB program is for all students regardless of background, academic scores, etc.

Q: How can all students be part of IB? I heard that the coursework is really challenging.

A: At the middle school level, IB is not a curriculum. IB is a framework for learning. IB does not tell us what to teach. The IB framework tells us HOW to teach it.

Q: Will my student be following the Florida BEST standards?

A: Yes! The IB program at the middle school level is only a framework. We teach Florida's BEST standards through the framework of IB.

Q: How is IB at SHMS different than other school magnet programs?

A: The framework of IB's middle school program is inquiry based and interdisciplinary. Teachers will be teaching their content conceptually so that students can find connections between the subject groups. The framework is grounded in authentic, student-centered learning that empowers students to be curious about their world and solve problems around them. It also incorporates ten learner profiles that build student character to be lifelong learners and citizens of a highly connected world.

Q: If I am zoned for SHMS, do I need to apply to be in the IB program?

A: No. If you live in the zone for SHMS, you are already part of the program. Only students who live outside of the SHMS zone who live in north county need to apply. You do not need to apply.

Q: If I live in north county, but not in the SHMS zone, how do I apply to go to your school?

A: The District Application Program application period begins on January 6th. There will be a Facebook/YouTube Live Event that explains how to apply on our District website on January 5th. In the meantime, below are important dates to keep in mind:

November 5th: North County District Application Fair at Countryside HS at 6pm

October 25th: All County District Application Fair at Pinellas Park HS at 9am

December 3rd: SHMS Discovery Night at 6PM, come learn about our program and meet teachers.

Q: Can we tour Safety Harbor Middle to see the campus? How do I arrange a tour?

A: We will have three tour dates for students to participate in an interactive school tour with our IB Ambassadors. November 14th, December 12th, January 9th from 10:30-11:30. If you would like to schedule a tour, please contact our IB coordinator, Devin Fitzgerald, fitzgeraldde@pcsb.org