

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Where can I find more details about the program?

Visit our website at <http://northparkvikings.ca>. Most of the answers to your questions will be found there, including a longer list of FAQs. Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the website to receive email notifications of all updates and posts. Subscribing can be done on the website.

2. Where can I get information about transportation options for the IBT program?

Bussing: There will be a booth set up in the Commons area during the information nights for the bussing company Bus to Schools. You can visit their website at www.bustoschool.com. North Park is not affiliated with this company, but they have been working with our IBT parents for many years. All bussing questions should be directed to them.

Carpooling: Set up an account at <http://erideshare.com> and browse to find users in your area.

3. Do universities recognize IBT? Do students receive advance placement?

No. As with the majority of PDSB Regional Programs, we stay within the Ontario Curriculum and as such, no advanced placement is offered from Universities. However, our students usually excel once in university, because of the skills (leadership, technological, communication, business, etc.) they have acquired through IBT.

4. Is there advanced standing for students who attended an IBT program in grade 7/8?

No. All applicants from Grade 8 are considered equally.

5. Is there an interview or an admissions test? No.

6. Can students use a MAC instead of a PC laptop?

Yes. However, students will need to install Microsoft Office (for MAC) onto their MacBook's. Also, the Grade 9 Geography course requires the use of Windows based software, so MAC users will need to partition their hard-drives and install Windows on their computers for this course. Visit <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1461> for information on this. Also, students new to mac should visit <http://www.apple.com/support/mac101/work/> for a beginner's guide. This year's computer specs will be posted on our website in May.

7. Can students use an iPad instead of a laptop?

No. At this time, iPads are not powerful enough to meet the hardware and software requirements of the program.

8. Can you do IBT if you're planning on getting into Science or Engineering at university?

Yes. Many of our graduating IBT students attend university for health sciences and engineering. With their IBT Certificate and Grade 12 Diploma, students can be prepared for any Ontario Post-Secondary option. They should talk to their counsellor to plan grade 11 and 12 courses accordingly.

9. How many language credits do students need to get their IBT certificate?

Students must obtain a minimum of 2 language (French or Spanish) credits.

10. What if we get acceptance offers from two Regional Programs - when do we have to decide?

All regional programs offer their first round of admissions February 8th, 2016. Students can only accept ONE offer by February 12th 2016 – 4pm. Once students have made a program decision, they cannot change their minds and accept spots in different regional programs. A second round of offers goes out February 16th and must be accepted by February 19th. The FINAL cut off for all PDSB regional programs is February 26th, 2016.

11. What do you mean by WiFi in the school?

Some schools have some WiFi in some areas. Most schools are moving to WiFi in all areas - on a limited capacity. We have WiFi all over, so that ANY student wanting online can do so ANYwhere ANYtime. Including ALL students in a given class.

12. What do you do if your laptop doesn't work?

Pen and paper. Get your computer in for repairs asap. Consider a maintenance plan.

13. Do we have to use the IBT bus?

No. Some students/parents car pool, some use Brampton Transit. YOUR choice.

14. How late can students stay if their parents can't pick them up until 5:00pm?

OK until 6:00. Talk to the Vice Principal if you'll be later than that on a regular basis.

15. Can IBT students be involved in extracurricular activities and teams.

They can, they should, they are! Sports, Music, DECA, Drama, Me to We, etc.

16. How often do the students break or lose their computers?

Teenagers need BE CAREFUL to treat their laptops well. Don't "throw" your backpack. One or two "lost a year. Usually picked up by another student for safe keeping and returned to office. Very rarely - one is stolen. The STUDENT is responsible for keeping it safe (same as you would a \$1000 bill!). Parents might want to consider a specific add on to their home insurance policy.

17. What if you're a really good student except for Math - can you still do IBT?

Careful... IBT is an Academic program. If a student is strong in academics, but struggles in ONE area only, we can adjust the timetable to make it work.

18. How many IBT courses do you take in Grade 11? Grade 12?

2 in Grade 11 and two in Grade 12.

19. What are the "other" courses? Do you need your computer for these?

Students choose from a range of courses from Tech, Business, Science, History, French, Computer Studies. Laptops are expected to be in class for all IBT classes unless stated otherwise by the teacher.