

So you want to graduate? What does an IB diploma require?



Great River School

Requirement	GRS graduate	IB diploma graduate from GRS
Community Service	Same as IB diploma graduate	Full IB CAS program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an average of 3-4 hours of CAS per week • a blending of Creativity, Action and Service including one longer term project in which you collaborate with other students and take a leadership role in planning the CAS activity
Show What You Know	Participation in all mandated GRS and standardized tests	Same as GRS graduate and Take 6 rigorous tests mostly or entirely in May of senior year. IB tests challenge you to not regurgitate facts but to use your sharp thinking and writing skills to communicate your ideas about the information you have studied in your IB courses. Test areas include Math, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, Spanish (or another foreign language), and either Art or Music.
Class Requirements	Meet GRS/State of Minnesota credit requirements All students in GRS A3 are enrolled in IB classes.	Same as GRS graduate and Take Theory of Knowledge as a semester-long elective. In this class you explore the nature of knowledge and learning across disciplines while gaining appreciation for other cultural perspectives.
Individual Research and Writing	Not mandatory	Write an Extended Essay on a topic of your choice. You gather information from multiple sources, and write a research paper of about 4,000 words (about 12 pages). Great preparation for college!

Why would I want to earn an IB diploma when it requires more work?!

GRS students are some of the few students in the country who attend a school that uses an International Baccalaureate curriculum for all of its students in grades 11 and 12. Though that may sound intimidating, it actually presents a really cool opportunity.

Did you know that 80% of students who attempt the IB diploma succeed and earn the full IB diploma?



An IB diploma is the badge of honor that you may earn after two years of rigorous, thought provoking work in an internationally recognized curriculum that focuses on global issues. When you earn an IB diploma, you share an accomplishment with students around the world in the global IB community; you can celebrate your success in undertaking and accomplishing meaningful personal challenge; you are thoroughly prepared for college writing and learning; you may earn multiple college credits and/or scholarships; and your high school transcript and resume will reflect your ability to think analytically, and to work independently to meet rigorous goals, which will be welcomed by leading universities and employers around the world.

Our goal in becoming an IB Montessori school is to help you develop into thoughtful internationally minded adults who recognize your common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet to help create a better and more peaceful world. The IB organization shares this goal as well, and this is why we see IB as an opportunity full of exciting potential for GRS.



What is CAS?

From volunteering in a town in Guatemala, to selling beautiful beaded necklaces crafted by Ugandan women to help the women earn money to support their families and send their kids to school, to coaching a kids' sports team right in your neighborhood, to taking a new ceramics class, IB students around the world are making a difference in their neighborhoods and worldwide. GRS students will participate in Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) for 3-4 hours/week for their junior and senior years.

May I earn IB credit for taking tests in some IB classes without pursuing the entire IB diploma?

Yes! You may fulfill IB requirements including passing the IB test in one or a few of your favorite classes to earn an IB certificate in those classes. These IB certificates are a great addition to your college applications and your resumé.

Quotes:

"Students seeking the finest [high school] preparation available for an American college should consider the International Baccalaureate. The IB offers an integrated curriculum that provides students with the skill needed to be world-class scholars and an educational philosophy that prepares them to be first-class citizens. I do not know of a more comprehensive and appropriate learning model."

—Jim Crowder, Director of Admissions, Macalester College

"IB is well known to us for excellent preparations. Success in an IB programme correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Programme on the transcript."

— Marilyn McGrath Lewis, Director of Undergraduate Admission, Harvard University