

Ballantyne Ridge High School FAQs

Q. What is IB?

A. IB, or International Baccalaureate, is an educational program that aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. (Visit ibo.org for more information)

Q. How does IB differ from 'regular' high school?

A. There are some similarities but what makes IB unique is that it promotes personal development, along with the standard course of study. Learning is more than just information from a textbook with the intention that it creates more socially aware humans, strikes a balance between studying and extracurricular activities and emphasizes critical thinking and direct application of the learning.

Q. What is MYP?

A. MYP, or Middle Years Program, is a portion of the IB program that includes grades 9 and 10. In addition to learning the standard course of study for the courses taught in those grades, the approach to teaching that material fosters international mindedness and academic rigor through project-based learning and the IB Learner Profile (see below for more on that).

Q. What is DP?

A. DP, or Diploma Program, is a portion of the IB program that includes grades 11 and 12. The classes include College level coursework in 7/8 classes each year, Creativity, Activity, and Service requirement, independent research projects in all 7 IB classes, and an Extended Essay between 11th and 12th grade. Successful completion of DP provides an opportunity to earn IB Diploma and college credit in 6 DP courses.

Q. What is CP?

A. CP, or Career Program, is an alternative to DP. Rather than a full schedule of DP courses in grades 11 and 12, students will take a *minimum* of 2 Diploma program courses (more can be taken if desired), 1 world language course, Career-related study course (for example, Engineering, Marketing, JROTC, etc), and a Personal and Professional Skills course. Service learning and reflective project components are incorporated as well. Successful completion earns a certificate with potential college credit.

Q. How does the workload compare to 'regular' high school classes?

A. For MYP, the courses are relatively the same as 'regular' high school – it is just the way in which they will be taught is different. For DP, this is the equivalent of taking 7 college level/AP courses in one year. The workload will be comparable as such.

Q. What does "MYP for all" mean?

A. Regardless if a student plans to enroll in DP as an 11th grader, we plan to afford all students the opportunity to be part of the MYP environment as 9th and 10th graders. The approaches used to teach MYP are considered best educational practices and will give all students a chance to connect what they are learning in the classroom with the world outside the classroom walls.

Q. Will teachers/staff be trained to teach IB classes?

A. We will have the opportunity to send our teachers to appropriate trainings and workshops to be prepared for teaching IB classes. Throughout the year, there will also be informal supports given from the IB specialists and other teachers in the district who have taught the program before.

Q. What are the language requirements for DP?

A. To be eligible for DP classes as an 11th grader, a student must have successfully completed 3 years of the same language by the end of their 10th grade year.

Q. What are the math requirements for DP?

A. To be eligible for DP classes as an 11th grader, a student must have successfully completed Math 1, 2 and 3 by the end of their 10th grade year.

Q. How many students will be enrolled? How many teachers?

A. To start, Ballantyne Ridge will have around 1700 students, but that does not include a senior class. Once all 4 grades are at full capacity, it will be around 2200 students total. The goal is to have a 1 to 30 teacher to student ratio, but ultimately, the district uses their formulas to determine teaching allotments for each school.

Q. How many magnet seats will there be?

A. There will be approximately 100 magnet seats per grade level, but in the first year, those seats will only be open to 9th grade students. 10th and 11th grade students cannot magnet in for 2024-2025.

Q. How does the magnet program work?

A. CMS runs a magnet lottery process that begins in early December. If Ballantyne Ridge is not your home school, but you are interested in being part of the IB program there, you can fill out the application for the magnet lottery online. It is a random selection to fill the magnet seats and the results are shared with parents/students in January. If awarded a magnet seat at Ballantyne Ridge, a student **MUST fulfill the requirements of the IB program in order to continue enrollment, otherwise he/she will be sent back to the home school.**

Q. Is transportation provided to magnet schools if a student is accepted?

A. If you are located in the transportation zone of Ballantyne Ridge, and you are accepted to the magnet program, transportation will be provided. If you live in another transportation zone and you are accepted, you will be responsible for providing your own transportation. Below is a link with more information about transportation zone.

[Themes & Schools – CMS School Choice \(cmschoice.org\)](https://cmschoice.org)

Q. How does this apply to juniors for the 2024-2025 school year?

A. Juniors who are zoned to come to BR from AK or SM will have a choice: they can come to BR OR they can stay at their original school IF they can provide their own transportation. If a student intends to stay at their original high school for junior year, they must indicate that in the lottery process.

Q. Will AP classes be offered?

A. Yes, AP classes will be offered. For students enrolled in CP or DP, the college level classes come in the form of the specific IB courses, which carry the same weight as an AP class. We will offer a selection of AP classes that is similar to our neighboring high schools. It will depend on the level of student interest that will determine which specific classes get offered every year.

Q. What are the characteristics a student should possess to be successful in the IB program?

A. Students who enter into the IB program should have an overall love of learning and desire to expand their understanding of the world around them. There is a learner profile on the IB website that is linked below. We understand that students may not start out proficient in all of these areas, so as part of the IB program, students will gain experiences and get stronger in each.

[Learner profile for IB students - International Baccalaureate® \(ibo.org\)](https://ibo.org)

Q. Can students take CTE classes as part of IB?

A. CTE classes will be offered at Ballantyne Ridge. To combine that with the IB program, students will probably want to choose the CP option, which automatically includes taking courses in a career-related field, which can be courses in CTE, JROTC, etc.

Q. Can students participate in the dual enrollment program at CPCC as part of IB?

A. Ballantyne Ridge will have a partnership with CPCC for dual enrollment as other high schools do. This would be an option for CP or non-IB students. There will be limitations on the number of classes a student can take at CPCC, along with stipulations on the specific courses that are permitted.

Q. What is the timeline for registering for classes for BRHS?

A. We plan to complete our registration process the same time as the other high schools and middle schools in the area – February/March. We are working on the details and will share those specific plans during registration nights that we will offer during that time frame.

Q. Will there be sports at BRHS?

A. YES!!!! We will have sports, and at the Varsity level. Not having a senior class the first year, we will be looking to our juniors and underclassmen to fill starting roles on all sports teams.

Q. Will there be clubs at BRHS?

A. YES!!!! This will be student driven. We will be looking to start all the clubs and will need student leaders to do this. The main requirement will be finding a staff advisor, but there will be numerous opportunities for students to initiate the Ballantyne Ridge chapter of all clubs.

Q. Will there be opportunities for parent involvement?

A. YES!!!! We are looking forward to building a strong and supportive community at Ballantyne Ridge and we need parents to do that. We are getting PTSO off and running to start, but we will have booster clubs for our various activities, including sports and fine arts. It takes all of us working together to support our students and we look forward to establishing these relationships and creating these opportunities for parents.

Q. What are the school hours?

A. BRHS hours are 7:15am-2:15pm