

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

IB PROGRAM

The two Portage high schools are affiliated with the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), a non-profit educational foundation with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. This affiliation assures that Portage Public Schools meets international standards through its IB program of studies. The IBO was established to provide an intellectually rigorous and academically challenging common curriculum for 11th and 12th grade students around the world.



The IBO program is internationally recognized and admired for its challenging curriculum. In addition to its emphasis on internationalism, the curriculum develops high-level critical thinking and research skills.

An essential part of the students' IB experience is school and community service. IB courses provide a greater and richer depth of academic study than any other secondary school enrichment program.

Portage Public Schools' IB curriculum is designed to prepare all committed and motivated students for success at any national or international college or university.

IB CURRICULUM

To earn an IB Diploma, students must successfully complete courses from each of six areas of study. Non-diploma candidates can earn an IB certificate for every successfully completed course. Areas of study include:

1. *English*
 - IB English HL I & II
 2. *World Languages*
 - IB French Level IV SL
 - IB French Level V SL/ HL
 - IB German Level IV SL
 - IB German Level V SL/HL
 - IB Latin IV SL
 - IB Spanish Level IV SL
 - IB Spanish Level V SL/ HL
 3. *Individuals & Societies (Social Studies)*
 - IB 20th Century World History SL
 - IB History of the Americas HL
 - IB Business & Management SL (CHS)
 - IB/AP Psychology I
 - IB Psychology II SL/HL
 4. *Experimental Science*
 - IB Biology SL
 - IB Biology HL I & II
 - IB Chemistry HL I & II
 - IB Environmental Systems SL (CHS)
 - IB Physics HL I & II
 5. *Mathematics*
 - IB Math Studies SL
 - IB Mathematics SL/AP Calculus
 - IB Mathematics HL
- **Continued on back panel

6. Electives

- IB Visual Arts SL/HL
- IB Art Studio
- IB Music SL
- IB Theatre Arts SL
- 2nd Subject electives from groups 2, 3 or 4.

All **IB Diploma** candidates are required to take *Theory of Knowledge*, submit an *Extended Essay* of 4,000 words, and participate in CAS (Creativity, Action and Service).

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Our commitment to provide a clearly focused quality educational experience has enabled our students to become lifelong learners. Almost all Portage Public School graduates pursue post-secondary education. During the last four years Portage graduates continued their formal education at colleges and universities all across the United States.

GRADING SYSTEM

The final grades for each 9 week marking period and the grade earned on the semester exam are the only grades averaged in determining the final semester grade.

Grade	Point	Range of Scores
A	4.0	100 - 91.5
A-	3.7	91.4 - 89.5
B+	3.3	89.4 - 87.5
B	3.0	87.4 - 81.5
B-	2.7	81.4 - 79.5
C+	2.3	79.4 - 77.5
C	2.0	77.4 - 71.5
C-	1.7	71.4 - 69.5
D+	1.3	69.4 - 67.5
D	1.0	67.4 - 61.5
D-	0.7	61.4 - 59.5
E	0.0	59.4

Class rank is computed using all courses receiving letter grades. Transcripts reflect a weighted GPA/class rank as well as unweighted GPA/class rank. Only courses earning college credit and courses that are an extension of the basic curriculum receive added weight. To assist in transcript evaluation the following symbols are utilized:

- AP Advanced placement
- CR Credit earned but not computed in grade point average
- EW Withdrawal from class with a failing grade
- E Failure
- H Honors classes
- IB International Baccalaureate course
- P Passing grade on a pass-fail basis (not computed in GPA)
- SS Summer School

Special coding at bottom of transcript indicates weighted courses.

Portage Public Schools

THE FUTURE LEARNS HERE

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Portage, Michigan 49002
Marsha Wells, Superintendent
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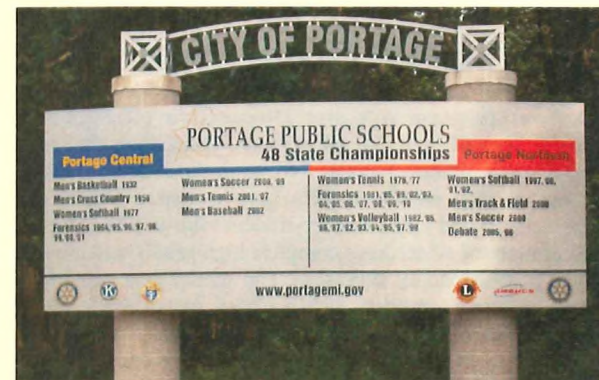
PROFILE 2010-2011

CENTRAL HIGH

8135 S. Westnedge Ave.
Portage, Michigan 49002
Principal: Eric Alburts
323-5255
Co-Directors of Counseling
Carla Kelly 323-5278
Lisa Jepson 323-5288
1,370 Students
Sec. School Code 233070

NORTHERN HIGH

1000 Idaho St.
Portage, Michigan 49024
Principal: Jim French
323-5455
Director of Counseling
Amy DiMaggio 323-5472
1,326 Students
Sec. School Code 233072



This profile has been prepared to provide additional information about the high schools of Portage Public Schools. If you need further information, please contact the respective Counseling Office.

www.portageps.org

COMMUNITY

Portage is a growing city of 45,679 located in Kalamazoo County midway between Chicago and Detroit. The county is home to Kalamazoo College, Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The Stryker Corporation is headquartered in Portage, and the Kellogg Company is in nearby Battle Creek. Pfizer Inc is the area's major employer and is located in Portage. The area has long enjoyed a unique relationship between its many multi-national corporations and the academic community. The nationally recognized Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center is a result of this partnership.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Throughout the history of Portage Public Schools, a consistent effort to build excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities has been a top priority of staff and community. Within the district there are two high schools, three middle schools, and eight elementary schools educating over 8,800 students. The Portage School District is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The College Board, Educational Records, Secondary Schools Admission Testing Board, The National Association of College Admission Counselors, the University of Michigan, plus many others. The two Portage High Schools are the first public schools in the State of Michigan to be granted affiliation with the International Baccalaureate Organization.

HIGH SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

The two four-year senior high schools offer comprehensive educational programs with over 250 curricular offerings in a broad range of fields for all students. Graduating classes at each high school average 316 students. Of the 180 certified faculty members, 50% have earned a Master's Degree or beyond. The teacher-student ratio is 1:16. Over 90% or more of all students complete high school and most pursue post-secondary education. The school year consists of two 19-week semesters with a school day of seven 50-minute periods. There is also a rich tradition of athletics with a variety of varsity sports available to men and women as well as other extra-curricular activities. Awards include women's state volleyball championships, first places for debate teams at state contests and eight time state champions in forensics. There are also educational opportunities at local post-secondary institutions and co-op programs with area businesses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students graduating in 2011 must earn a minimum of 26 credits and successfully meet the following requirements:

	Required	Recommended College Prep Program	Recommended Tech Prep Program
English	4	4	4
Social Studies	3	3	3
Mathematics	4	3	2
Science (Health)	3½	2½	2½
Physical Education	1½	1½	1½
Applied Technology			4
Computer Literacy		1	1
Foreign Language		3	
Fine & Applied Arts	1	2	
Electives	9	6	8
TOTAL	26	26	26

TESTING PROFILE

American College Test (ACT 2009-10)

	Portage CHS	Portage NHS	State	National
Students	319	310	120,930	1,568,835
English	22.5	22.1	18.9	20.5
Math	23.0	21.5	19.7	21.0
Reading	22.9	22.2	19.7	21.3
Science	23.1	22.2	19.9	20.9
Composite	23.0	22.1	19.7	21.0

CURRICULUM

- English*: 9th grade English, 10th grade English/Speech Prep, 11th and 12th grade English plus numerous electives.
- Language*: 4 years available for French, German, Latin, and Spanish.
- Mathematics*: Courses taught in a sequential curriculum, based on either University of Chicago Series Math or Integrated Math programs.
- Science*: Electives start in 9th grade, Include Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, and Physics.
- Social Studies*: 9th Grade Modern American History, 10th Grade U.S. Government/Economics, 11th Grade Contemporary International Studies, European

History or Ancient World History plus numerous electives.

**Honors and IB classes are available.*

WORLD LANGUAGE

Many Portage Public School students begin their world language study in the middle school. Therefore, student transcripts might indicate that students have completed the second year of a language (e.g., German II) or higher, but not the first year (e.g., German I). In such cases, it is to be assumed that the students have completed their first year of world language study at the middle school level.

ATYP

Academically Talented Youth Programs provides mathematics and writing instruction for academically advanced middle school students. These students complete four years of high school mathematics curriculum and/or two years of pre-college writing curriculum.

EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

The Education for Employment Program is a nationally acclaimed school-to-work program offering more than 30 different options to juniors and seniors. Over 70% of the junior and senior students take advantage of the EFE programs annually. A full range of opportunities exists which include school-based and business-based classes, cooperative education and apprentice-ships. Follow up studies for the past 15 years have shown 80% or more of the EFE students either continue their education, work, or both, within 9 months of graduation from high school.

KAMSC

The Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center exists for the purpose of delivering educational experiences to eligible students capable of benefiting from a highly rigorous, sequential and integrated exposure to math, science and computer learning. The Center reflects a continuing relationship involving public education and private industry. For further information, please visit www.kamsconline.com.