



Westchester Academy for International Studies

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<http://wais.springbranchisd.com>

Accreditations/Memberships: Texas Education Agency; An International Baccalaureate World School; The College Board CEEB/ACT School Code: **443524**



2016-17

Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) is located just west of downtown Houston along Interstate 10. The district encompasses 44 square miles and about 188,000 residents who represent the world's cultural and economic spectrum. Home to nearly 32,000 students, SBISD traditionally ranks among the highest in Texas when it comes to college readiness indicators.

About Westchester Academy for International Studies

- District-sponsored charter school (grades 6-12) providing a challenging, advanced level curriculum that helps students develop an international awareness, including a focus on international relations and problem solving. Open to all students living in Spring Branch ISD, Westchester Academy challenges students through a variety of teaching methods and promotes a culture of college readiness and success. More than half of our diverse population is economically disadvantaged.
- 85% of Westchester Academy graduates continue their education
- National Blue Ribbon School- 2011
- Texas Education Agency (TEA) Exemplary Rating- 2011, 2010
- Silver Award Winner & Top International Baccalaureate School, U.S. News & World Report- 2009, 2012-2013, 2016
- College Readiness Award, Texas ACT Council- 2010
- Just 4 The Kids (NCEA) Higher Performing School - 2009
- Honor Roll School, Texas Business & Education Coalition- 2008
- Dozens of co-curricular and extracurricular activities including Model United Nations, theatre arts and choir, robotics, chess, knitting, aquatics, comedy, student council, honor societies and service organizations
- Students may participate in UIL athletic programs at their home campus
- 83 faculty members who hail from 12 countries and speak 17 languages; 50% hold advanced degrees
- Ranked in the Washington Post's Most challenging High Schools in 2014, 2015, 2016
- Ranked number 8 in Children at Risk Greater Houston's Top High Schools in Science and Math 2013-2014, 2012-2013
- Ranked #3 Best Charter High Schools by Niche
- Ranked #28 in College Readiness, Niche
- Ranked A+ in the Greater Houston Children at Risk 2016
- Listed among Newsweek's ranking of the highest schools in the nation 2012-2013
- Listed in Houston Private and Select Public Schools Directory, 2016
- Listed in the Daily Beast's 2014 Top High Schools

ACADEMICS/CURRICULUM

- Along with a rigorous curriculum, students develop an international perspective by exploring the languages, cultures, business environments, governments, fine arts and technologies of other countries to prepare for the global workforce. Creative thinking, reflection and problem solving are integral components of all classes.
- WAIS offers an International Baccalaureate World School curriculum with an authorized Middle Years Programme for 6th-10th grades, a Diploma Programme 11th and 12th grades, and an International Baccalaureate Career Related Program 11th and 12th grades
- All 9th and 10th graders take English, math, science and social studies at Pre-AP level
- World languages required at all grade levels (6-12)
- Provide a Secondary Dual Language Program option for students continuing from SBISD elementary schools' Two-Way Dual Language Programs.
- In addition to International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, students may take courses at Advanced Placement (AP) and academic grade levels
- Extensive technology enhances learning and provides alternative assessment methods that allow students to showcase their knowledge in creative ways
- The Guthrie Center, the district's career & technology center, provides instruction in 12 popular career focus areas
- Students may earn college credit through the district's Early College Program by taking classes at Houston Community College
- Alternating Block Schedule. 8 classes/semester; each class meets for 90 minutes on alternating days
- 18 weeks/semester: 9 week grading period

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

English Language (English III)
 English Literature (English IV)
 Calculus AB
 Statistics
 Biology
 Physics B
 U.S. History
 U.S. Government
 Macroeconomics
 Psychology
 Spanish Language (Spanish IV)
 Spanish Literature (Spanish V)
 French Language
 German Language
 World History
 Human Geography

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSES

English A Literature HL
 History of the Americas HL
 Mathematics SLIHL
 Math Studies SL
 Biology SL/HL
 Chemistry SLIHL
 Physics SL/HL
 French B SLIHL
 Spanish A Literature HL
 Spanish B SLIHL
 German A Literature SLIHL
 German B SLIHL
 Italian B SLIHL
 Theatre Arts SLIHL
 Visual Arts SLIHL
 Music SLIHL
 Theory of Knowledge
 Personal & Professional Skills

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

INTERIM DIRECTOR
 Dr. Pamela Butler

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
 UPPER SCHOOL**
 Alexia Greiner

LEAD COUNSELOR
 Beverly Martin

**COUNSELORS
 UPPER SCHOOL**
 Karren Sims (A-L)
 Tricia Miller (M-Z)

REGISTRAR
 Andrea Andrews
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 713-251-1804

TESTING PROFILE

Class of 2016 Mean Scores

| SAT (Taken by 100% of seniors) | Critical Reading | Math | Writing | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Westchester | 473 | 503 | 468 | 1444 |
| Texas | 466 | 478 | 449 | 1393 |
| National | 494 | 508 | 482 | 1484 |

| ACT (Taken by 46% of seniors) | Composite |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Westchester | 21.8 |
| Texas | 20.6 |
| National | 20.8 |

| National Merit Recognition | 2015-2016 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Finalists | 0 |
| Commended | 2 |
| National Achievement Scholars | 1 |
| National Hispanic Scholars | 2 |

| Advanced Placement | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|
| Total Students Taking Exams | 177 | 182 |
| Total Exams Taken | 221 | 275 |
| Percentage of Students Earning 3 or Higher | 57% | 43% |

| IB Diplomas & Certificates Awarded | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|
| Number of Diploma Candidates | 33 | 32 |
| Number of Candidates who earned the IB Diploma | 9 | 16 |
| IB Career-Related Candidates | 6 | |
| IB Career-Related Diplomas | 4 | |
| Average of Points Obtained by Candidates who earned the IB Diploma | 28.4 | 27.5 |
| Highest Diploma Points Awarded to a Candidate | 35 | 31 |
| Number of Individual Course Certificates earning 4 or higher awarded to Non-Diploma Receiving Candidates | 89 | 101 |
| Number of Bilingual Diplomas | 1 | 4 |

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Seniors | 125 |
| Juniors | 162 |
| Sophomores | 148 |
| Freshmen | 165 |
| Middle School | 423 |
| Total | 1023 |

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Class of 2013-2016

Angelo State University
 Barnard College
 Blinn College
 Brandeis University
 Carleton College
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Colorado School of Mines
 Colorado State University
 Eckerd College
 Emory University
 Houston Baptist University
 Houston Community College
 Kari-Franzens University (Austria)
 Kettering University
 Lamar University
 Lone Star College
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola University of Chicago
 McGill University (Canada)
 Mount Holyoke College
 Northern Arizona University
 Oberlin College
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 Our Lady of the Lake University
 Parson's School of Design
 Rice University
 Sam Houston State University
 San Diego State University
 Southern Methodist University
 Southwestern University
 St. Edwards University
 Stephen F. Austin State University
 Swarthmore College
 Texas A&M University
 Texas A&M University-Galveston
 Texas A&M University-Kingsville
 Texas Lutheran University
 Texas Southern University
 Texas Tech University
 Trinity University
 Universidad de Catolica de Murcia (Spain)
 Universidad Vascode Quiroga (Mexico)
 Universidad de Guanajuato (Mexico)
 University of Aberdeen (Scotland)
 University of Alabama
 University of Houston-Clear Lake
 University of Houston-Main
 University of Houston-Downtown
 University of Mary Hardin Baylor
 University of North Texas
 University of Texas-Austin
 University of Texas-Dallas
 University of Texas-San Antonio
 University of Virginia
 Virginia Tech
 Wheaton Collge

DISTRICT GRADING SCALE/ CLASS RANK

| | GT/AP/IB Pre-AP* | Grade Level/ ESL/Dual Credit/ Early College |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| A = 90-100 | 7 | 6 |
| B = 80-89 | 6 | 5 |
| C = 75-79 | 5 | 4 |
| D = 70-74 | 4 | 3 |
| F = Below 70 | 0 | 0 |

(An expanded grading scale includes special education)

*Weighted grade points are awarded for only one course per year, grades 9-12, in each of the four core curricular areas (English, math, science, social studies). GPA is determined by dividing the total grade points by the number of courses attempted. Courses not included in the calculation of GPA include those taken as correspondence/online, credit by examination and those taken in summer school and middle school.

Spring Branch ISD reports class rank outside the top 10% only for those students who make a formal request to have it included on their transcript.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete the State of Texas Recommended High School Graduation Program that requires a total of 26 credits, as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| • English | 4 |
| • Mathematics | 4 |
| • Science | 4 |
| • Social Studies | 4 |
| • World Languages | 2 |
| • Fine Arts | 1 |
| • Health Fitness | 1 |
| • Speech Communication | ½ |
| • Electives | 5½ |

The Distinguished Achievement Program requires students to complete the 26 credit requirements, a third year of a world language and four additional advanced measures to be chosen from test data, college courses and an original research project. Special permission is required to graduate under the state's Minimum Plan of 22 credits.