



# 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**



2017-18

*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
- Silver Award Winner & Top International Baccalaureate School, U.S. News & World Report- 2009, 2012-2013, 2016, 2017
- 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, 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
- Received a ranking of #4, Best Charter High School in Texas, by Niche
- Ranked A+ in the Greater Houston Children at Risk 2016, 2017
- 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 encouraged 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 the 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 (Upper School only)
- 18 weeks/semester: 9 week grading period

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT

English Language (English III)  
English Literature (English IV)  
Calculus AB  
Statistics  
Environmental Science  
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 SL/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

#### DIRECTOR

Dr. Valerie Muniz

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR UPPER SCHOOL

Alexia Greiner

#### LEAD COUNSELOR

Beverly Martin (10-12, A-L)

#### COUNSELORS UPPER SCHOOL

Tricia Miller (10-12, M-Z)  
Karen Sims (9)

#### REGISTRAR

Andrea Andrews  
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713-251-1804

## TESTING PROFILE

Class of 2017 Mean Scores

<b>SAT</b> (Taken by 100% of seniors)	Evidence Based Reading and Writing	Math	Total
<b>Westchester</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>1064</b>
Texas	512	507	1019
National	538	533	1071
District	514	523	1037

<b>ACT</b> (Taken by 46% of seniors)	Composite
<b>Westchester</b>	<b>22.2</b>
Texas	20.7
National	21.0

<b>National Merit Recognition</b>	2016-2017
Finalists	0
Commended	1
National Achievement Scholars	0
National Hispanic Scholars	2

<b>Advanced Placement</b>	2016	2017
Total Students Taking Exams		177
Total Exams Taken		221
Percentage of Students Earning 3 or Higher	57%	59%

<b>IB Diplomas &amp; Certificates Awarded</b>	2016	2017
Number of Diploma Candidates	33	24
Number of Candidates who earned the IB Diploma	9	16
IB Career-Related Candidates	6	13
IB Career-Related Diplomas	4	11
Average of Points Obtained by Candidates who earned the IB Diploma	28.4	28
Highest Diploma Points Awarded to a Candidate	35	34
Number of Individual Course Certificates earning 4 or higher awarded to Non-Diploma Receiving Candidates	89	62
Number of Bilingual Diplomas	1	1

## DISTRICT GRADING SCALE/ CLASS RANK

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

(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 Foundation High School Graduation Program with an Endorsement that requires a total of 26 credits as follows:

- **English** **4**
- **Mathematics** **4**
- **Science** **4**
- **Social Studies** **3**
- **World Languages** **2**
- **Fine Arts** **1**
- **Physical Education** **1**
- **Elective Credits** **7**

Students may select their endorsement from the following areas: STEM, Business and Industry, Public Service, Arts and Humanities, and Multidisciplinary Studies. Special permission is required to graduate on the Foundation Plan without an Endorsement that requires a total of 22 credits.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Seniors	161
Juniors	141
Sophomores	147
Freshmen	162
Middle School	424
<b>Total</b>	<b>1035</b>

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Class of 2013-2017

Angelo State University  
 Barnard College  
 Baylor University  
 Blinn College  
 Bournemouth University (England)  
 Brandeis University  
 Carleton College  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Colorado School of Mines  
 Colorado State University  
 Eckerd College  
 Emory University  
 Gettysburg College  
 Houston Baptist University  
 Houston Community College  
 Iowa State University  
 Kari-Franzens University (Austria)  
 Kettering University  
 Knox College  
 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  
 Prairie View A&M  
 Regents University (London)  
 Rice University  
 Sam Houston State University  
 San Diego State University  
 Santa Fe Community College  
 Southern Methodist University  
 Southwestern University  
 St. Edwards University  
 St. Thomas University (FL)  
 Stephen F. Austin State University  
 Swarthmore College  
 Syracuse University  
 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 Manchester (England)  
 University of Mary Hardin Baylor  
 University of North Texas  
 University of Oklahoma  
 University of Texas-Austin  
 University of Texas-Dallas  
 University of Texas-San Antonio  
 University of Virginia  
 Virginia Tech  
 Wheaton College