



Volunteerism During the Pre-IB Years Creativity-Action-Service During the IB Diploma Years

The IB Learner Profile

A core value of the Land O' Lakes High School International Baccalaureate Programme and its feeder Pre-IB Program is being a caring citizen, both locally and globally. Characteristics in the IB Learner Profile contribute to our students' development as leaders who act in ways that benefit others. To this end, students perform community service and engage in volunteerism throughout their four years of high school study.

Authentic community service means activities that are new to the student or an expansion into new territory of things in which the student is involved, and conducted as a result of an identified community or organization's need. Others should directly benefit from the efforts, and the student should reflect upon having experienced personal growth and development in the service of others.

Volunteerism During the Pre-IB Years

Students in grades 9 and 10 in the Land O' Lakes High School Pre-IB Program are guided to perform volunteer hours. This is common among most academically focused students. These are their initial steps to build a foundation of service, explore interests, and devote time to things outside of school that are important to them or that they enjoy. These efforts assist in opening doors for later scholarships and to establish a life-long identity of giving. Many scholarship and college application review committees look favorably upon long-term involvement in community service. More importantly, our students become knowledgeable about and committed to what they can do to benefit others. This may be viewed as a "Pre-CAS" element of our educational experience.

Creativity-Action-Service (CAS) During the IB Diploma Years

Students in grades 11 and 12 of the Land O' Lakes High School IB Programme complete an IB Diploma requirement of Creativity-Action-Service (CAS). CAS begins the first day of junior year and continues through the middle of senior year. The places students volunteer, the events they lead, and the things they create may be the same as for their earlier efforts but should contain features of increased ownership, self-direction, and new challenges. Many students expand upon those activities they most value. To that, they add other activities and a CAS project (which must have a global impact component). Note that CAS is self-contained in grades 11 and 12 for the purpose of meeting the IB Diploma requirement. Hours and projects completed during freshman and sophomore years are not included.

Documenting Hours, Activities, and Projects

The hours completed during 9th and 10th grades count for community service, and students document this using the standard school form available in the Guidance Office or online. The form defines for students what qualifies as community service.

Continuing into 11th and 12th grades, IB students use the ManageBac system for CAS planning, documentation, and reflection. IB students are instructed in the use of ManageBac during an in-class workshop conducted at the start of junior year.
