

IB Magnet Programme Parent Tips

The Hartsville High School IB Magnet Programme is a rigorous four year course of study. You are to be commended for encouraging your child to apply for admittance to our programme. Your son or daughter is to be congratulated for being accepted. As you know, we are authorized to offer the pre-IB and IB Programme to forty students in each grade level. This represents less than 10% of the student population at Hartsville High School.

Many of the students entering the IB Magnet Programme have the skills necessary for success. However, the IB Programme is academically demanding and is considered by many to be the gold standard for high school achievement. Students will face academic challenges in each grade and in each subject area. They are expected to meet International Standards of Achievement in a wide range of subjects. Meeting these challenges will better prepare your child for success in college.

As a parent, you will play an essential role in your child's academic success in the IB Magnet Programme. Presented below are several tips for parents which ensure your child's successful completion of the IB Magnet Programme.

- Be an involved proactive parent. Maintain regular contact with your child's teacher. Attend parent – teacher conferences, open houses, and other opportunities to interact with school faculty and staff. Be aware of major tests and assignment due dates. Follow up with questions about grades earned on these assessments. Insist upon seeing all progress and interim reports.
- Help your child develop good time management and study skills. To be successful, students must also learn to organize and prioritize assignments. These are skills that will serve your child well in college, in a career, and in life. Institute an “Always Complete Your Homework” policy. Homework is often practice for larger assignments, projects, or tests. Regularly completing homework ensures that your child is familiar with units of study and helps build academic self-confidence. Students should maintain an assignment organizer or calendar (electronic or manual). Planning ahead is essential and helps to reduce academic stress. Organizational danger signs include constantly searching for information, making careless errors, and not submitting assignments on-time.
- Set high expectations for academic success. Ask your child regularly, “Are you doing your best work?” Assignments should be well-organized and neat, should abide by the rubric, and should be turned in on time. Insist upon work being done correctly the first time, as this will save time in the long run.
- Help your child develop contingency plans to deal with unexpected events. Illnesses, computer and Internet problems, and family emergencies are facts of life. Your child should be aware of the consequences of missed or late assignments and should develop a “Plan B” to successfully deal with these crises.

- Recognize that the IB Magnet Programme is a challenging curriculum of study. Assignments range from easy to very difficult. Help your child develop an academic rhythm or routine for dealing with the cumulative work load. Ensure that your child takes advantage of the academic aids available. These include the Hartsville High School Media Center and the Coker College Library (for IB juniors and seniors). If your child encounters academic difficulty, meet with the instructor to identify areas of weakness and to develop a strategy to address these. Hartsville High School teachers remain after school for a minimum of 30 minutes specifically to provide additional academic assistance. Encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities.
- Don't expect your child to go it alone. Children are encouraged to form study groups with other IB students to prepare for major projects, tests, and assignments. Welcome these study groups into your home and give permission for your child to meet with other IB students in other well supervised homes or at the library.
- Make sure your child has the necessary resources to succeed. Computers, printers, Internet service, and USB flash drives are essential. Pay for your child to take the PSAT, SAT, and ACT during the junior and senior years. Encourage your child to take these tests more than once, as colleges increasingly will combine the highest component scores as part of the admission process.
- Ensure that your child leads a well-rounded life. Take time for the family. Encourage your child to take an active role in school clubs, athletic teams, and civic and community organizations. Most organizations offer numerous leadership opportunities for members. Increasingly colleges are looking for well-rounded students with diverse experiences. Active participation in clubs, athletics, and organizations will help your child develop a strong résumé and a spirit of giving back.
- Help your child develop healthy habits. A healthy diet, regular exercise, ample sleep, and avoidance of excessive caffeine and sugar will strengthen your child's physical health and increase resistance to stress. Provide your child with regular nutritious meals and do not allow your child to skip breakfast. Thirty minutes of exercise three times a week can reduce or prevent the negative effects of stress. Ample amounts of sleep provide the body and the mind with the rest needed in order to perform well. Excessive caffeine and sugar highs may result in energy and mood crashes. Some simple stress reduction activities include walking, running, biking, swimming, reading for pleasure, playing with pets, listening to music, talking with a good friend, and writing in a journal.
- Support the efforts of our school to ensure academic success. The Hartsville High School Academic Booster Club is an excellent way to show support for all of HHS's academic programs. For membership information contact Sandra Gaskins in the Guidance Center (843.857-3705, SGaskins@darlington.k12.sc.us) or Johnny Andrews (843.857-3729, JohnnyA@darlington.k.12.sc.us)