

2023 - 2024 Old Scona Admissions

Common Questions & Answers



1. Q: What happens if a student has not taken French prior to attending Old Scona?
A: Students with no French language studies will be asked to complete a booklet that brings up their French language skills to a beginner level. There is no mark for this and it can be completed over the summer.
2. Q: Can I submit additional references or a resume along with my application?
A: No additional materials are considered in the application process. Only the student's 4 core marks and school reference are used. Due to the high number of applications we cannot process any additional documents.
3. Q: My son currently attends an Edmonton Public school, but we live outside of Edmonton. Will he still be eligible for admission?
A: Division regulations require that all student residents be accommodated prior to students being accepted from outside the school division boundaries. That means that only the students whose home residence is inside Edmonton boundaries will be considered until all spaces are filled.
4. Q: We currently do not live in Edmonton, but are planning to move there in the spring. Can we still apply for admission?
A: Students must be able to prove their home residence is within Edmonton at the time of the application deadline. This means that the proof of residency must be provided by February 17, 2023.
5. Q: If my daughter is not accepted for the initial admissions, can she be put on a waiting list in case a space comes open?
A: Edmonton Public Schools does NOT allow schools to have waiting lists. Once the program reaches its capacity for Grade 10, the list is closed and no further students may be accepted after April 7, 2023.
6. Q: If my child is not accepted at Old Scona for Grade 10, can they apply again for Grade 11?
A: Yes, each year we do consider accepting students for Grade 11 provided they complete the same admission process as the Grade 9 students. Grade 10 students will be expected to have exemplary marks in their first high school courses. The number of spaces for Grade 11 is dependent upon the number of openings for that grade each year.
7. Q: Is there yellow bus service to Old Scona?
A: There is no special bus service for Old Scona. Old Scona students come from all corners of the city. Students must choose to take ETS buses or plan for parent provided transportation. Student bus passes are sold through the school office.
8. Q: I noticed that Old Scona does not have a gymnasium. Does Old Scona offer an athletics program, and if so, where?

A: Old Scona has an excellent tradition of competing in a wide range of athletic sports such as swimming, cross country running, volleyball, basketball, soccer, badminton, and team handball. These teams normally train at our neighboring elementary school gyms, or at the Saville Centre.

9. Q: Do I need to take Phys Ed 10 at Old Scona?

A: Phys Ed 10 is a requirement for the Alberta Education High School Diploma. This course is offered at Old Scona for 3 credits only. When possible, students may choose to take it in summer school after their Grade 9 or 10 school year. The same answer for CALM 20. This will assist students in completing a full academic program in Grade 11 and 12.

10. Q: Where are the Phys Ed classes held?

A: With no gymnasium on campus we have learned to be very resourceful at Old Scona. We make use of our local community facilities to include activities like soccer, basketball, tennis, yoga, aerobics, curling, swimming, skating and more.

11. Q: Is the weekly schedule different at Old Scona?

A: Old Scona has a unique schedule due to the full schedule Old Scona students take. The week has 10 blocks, of which students can take up to 8 classes. Students will have some study spares that can be used to work with classmates on assignments and preparing for exams. Most classes are held 3 times per week.

12. Q: Is Old Scona on semesters?

A: Old Scona is almost all full year classes. This allows us to accommodate IB exams which are written in May each year. There are some semestered classes such as some option classes, as well as some Math classes. In most cases students will NOT have the choice between full year or semester classes.

13. Q: Is there a cafeteria at Old Scona?

A: There are no food services at Old Scona. There are microwaves provided throughout the building, as well as some hot water dispensers for student use. There are also a number of food sales fundraisers throughout the school year when students can purchase food items. There is a student lounge where students may eat their lunches. Students are also welcome to eat lunch in the hallways or a classroom where there is a teacher supervising.

14. Q: Is Old Scona a closed campus?

A: Old Scona students are expected to learn to manage their time. They are allowed to leave the school campus during their spares or lunch break, provided they can return on time to be in their classes when instruction begins. They are expected to make parents aware of their choice to leave school campus.

15. Q: What happens if I don't know anyone in Grade 10?

A: Old Scona works to set new students up for success. Our Student Engagement Team (SET) arranges orientation activities and mentors for each new Grade 10 student. They also arrange activities for all students throughout the year to help get to know each other, and just have some fun.

16. Q: Is it more stressful to be a student at Old Scona?

A: At Old Scona we want students to have a rewarding high school experience that will allow them to be successful in post-secondary, as well as a career of choice. The studies at Old Scona can be rigorous, but will help students to develop good work habits, and efficient study skills.

17. Q: Do I need to provide my own technology (laptop) to school?

A: Thanks to the generous support of our parent fundraising group, Friends of Old Scona Academic (FOSA), we have Chromebooks for student use in almost every classroom. But students are still welcome to bring their own devices if they wish.

18. Q: What are the class sizes at Old Scona?

A: Like any high school, class sizes may vary according to the course and the schedule for all students. There are some classes that may be in the low 20s, and some classes in the high 30's. It depends upon the student course selections in each year.

19. Q: Can I take Phys Ed and/or CALM 20 in summer school?

A: Yes, Grade 9 students are allowed to take Phys Ed 10 and/or CALM 20 in summer school, but no other high school summer school courses (i.e. Math 10C). Students may choose to delay taking either, or both, classes to the summer following Grade 10, or they may take either/both class(es) during the Grade 10 school year.

20. Q: Will I get a lower mark if I take an IB class compared to the regular course?

A: All courses such as Math and Social Studies are based on the Alberta Education curriculum. IB marks do NOT appear on a student's AB Education Transcript. Students in the IB classes are assigned grades (1 - 7 scale) based on additional coursework they do in the IB specific courses and IB exams.

IB Questions



21. Q: How is IB different from AP?

A: In the IB program, students choose 6 subjects to study and complete various IB assessments over 2 years over the span of grade 11-12, with IB exams taken after those 2 years of study. Additional required elements of the IB diploma program include participating in extracurricular activities that focus on creativity, activity and service (CAS); Theory of Knowledge (TOK); and the Extended Essay. TOK encourages students to reflect on diverse ways of knowing, preparing students to be aware of themselves as critical thinkers. The Extended Essay (EE) is an independent research project in an IB subject of the student's choice that they conduct under the guidance of a supervising teacher. The process is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity. In the AP program, students select specific courses in an a la carte fashion and knowledge mastery is determined by one exam at the end of the course.

22. Q: How does IB prepare students for post secondary?

A: The IB Diploma Program is recognized and respected worldwide. According to research, IB graduates are better prepared than their peers in undergraduate degree programs, bring a passion for learning, have a strong sense of motivation, and have an

enhanced ability to adapt and contribute to university life. IB students, through their experience in a rigorous and balanced programme, have well-developed critical thinking skills, communication skills, research and essay writing skills, study skills, time management and reflection. The IB curriculum and the Extended Essay project provide students with opportunities to enrich and expand their learning as well as to conduct undergraduate-level research.

23. Q: What are the benefits of IB?

A: Through a broad range of experiences and internal and external assessments, students experience a rigorous, well-rounded education that is recognized internationally and respected by the world's leading universities. International research shows that there are many benefits to choosing the IB Diploma Programme. Students learn a series of valuable self-management and study skills and are better able to meet the expectations and demanding workloads of university-level courses upon leaving high school. Students learn a variety of approaches to learning concepts. They also develop a sense of international mindedness, respect for different points of view and intercultural similarities and differences. Students will take a series of standardized examinations and complete several assessments that prepare them well for the rigour of university. IB Diploma students often receive advanced standing (recognition of prior learning) at many universities through transfer credit, advanced placement or credit by special assessment.

24. Q: What is the difference between IB and AB Ed curriculum?

A: The IB program is a separate curriculum from the Alberta curriculum, with its own assessments, grade scheme and diploma exams. Students taking a non-IB course only complete the Alberta curriculum. Students taking an IB course complete both the IB curriculum and the Alberta curriculum. There are many overlapping outcomes between the two curriculums.

25. Q: When do I need to decide if I am going to take a full IB or partial IB program?

A: Because of the demanding nature of the IB Program, there is special preparation provided to students in the grade 10 year. This is to enable students to complete both the requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma and the IB Diploma in their three years at Old Scona. The grade 10 year gives the student an insight into the International Baccalaureate approach, difficulty of the courses, and the student's own ability. In the spring of their grade 10 year, students with advice from parents and teachers, decide to begin either a full IB program or a partial IB program. Once a student begins a partial IB program, they cannot switch to a full program. If they are in a regular course in grade 11 (e.g. Social Studies 20-1) they cannot choose the grade 12 IB level course (e.g. Social Studies 30-1 and International Politics 30).

26. Q: Are all students at Old Scona full IB?

A: No, not all students at Old Scona take the 6 courses to be in the full IB program, however, all students at Old Scona must take a minimum of one IB course.

27. Q: What is the difference between full IB and partial IB?

A: A student in the full IB program can earn an IB Diploma with the successful completion of 6 IB courses and the core requirements (CAS, EE, TOK). A student can

earn an IB Certificate with the successful completion of at least one IB course in the partial IB program.