

Welcome to the home of the **WILDCATS**

Admission

- Open to all 6th – 12th grade students who meet the SBISD eligibility requirements and are in-district residents
- Grade point average is not a qualifying criteria; however, admitted students commit to being successful in advanced coursework.
- Signed commitment of academic and behavioral expectations and parental support required
- Transportation provided within the district

Program admission is based on a lottery system.

Curriculum and Instruction

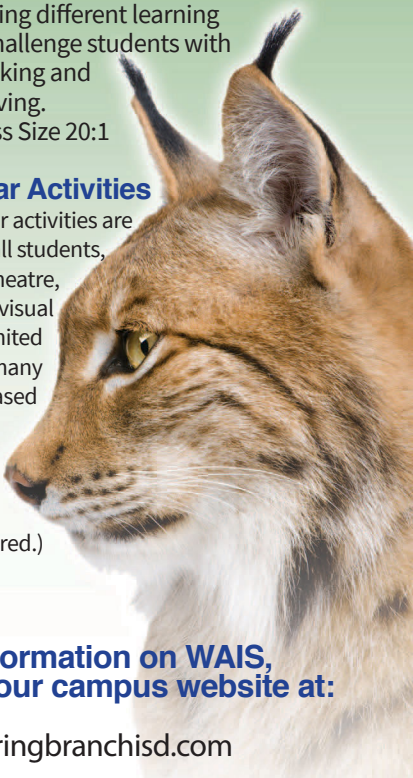
- International theme which integrates the global studies of business, languages, culture, government, fine arts and technologies into a solid core curriculum that emphasizes Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
- IB Continuum (MYP, CP, and DP), Pre-Advanced Placement, and Advanced Placement classes.
- Use of various instructional technologies acknowledging different learning styles and challenge students with creative thinking and problem solving.
- Average Class Size 20:1

Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities are available for all students, and include theatre, choir, dance, visual arts, Model United Nations and many other clubs based on student interests. (No UIL competitive sports are offered.)

**For more information on WAIS,
please visit our campus website at:**

<http://wais.springbranchisd.com>



Where students are known and greatness is grown

Academy Leadership

VALERIE MUNIZ, Ed.D.
Director

ALEXIA GREINER, M.Ed.
Assistant Director

KAREN KULHANEK-ROCHIN, Ed.D.
Assistant Director

BEVERLY MARTIN, M.Ed., LPC
Lead Counselor, Upper School Counselor (O-Z)

V. TRICIA MILLER, M.Ed., LPC-Intern
Upper School Counselor (M-Z)

KARREN SIMS, M.Ed., MS
9th Grade Counselor

STEVEN SCHLABACH, M.Ed.
Middle School Counselor

ANDREA ANDREWS, M.A.Ed.
Registrar

VALERIE HARELSON
IB Diploma Programme Coordinator

SARA SEBESTA-CAMANO
IB Career-related Programme Coordinator

CHERYL WEGSCHEID
IB Middle Years Programme Coordinator

Westchester Academy for International Studies

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Houston, TX 77079

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<http://wais.springbranchisd.com>

WAIS is frequently named in "America's Best High School" by Newsweek, ranked in Best Public High Schools in Texas by Niche, and receives the Silver Award Winner and a Top International Baccalaureate School in US News and World Report's annual high school rankings.



**Uniquely You
Uniquely WAIS**

Westchester Academy for International Studies



A Spring Branch Independent School District
Charter School

An Exemplary Campus

2010, 2011, & 2012 Texas Education Agency Rating

2011- US Department of Education
National Blue Ribbon School



An International Baccalaureate Continuum School



Our Philosophy

At Westchester International Academy (WAIS), we strive for each student to succeed. We aim for our graduates to be prepared and ready for the challenges of college and to be a productive part of a **global** workforce.

Students are challenged through a variety of teaching methods, which acknowledge their different learning styles. All courses through 12th grade are offered at an **advanced level**, promoting a culture of rigor and success for all students without qualification.

Creative thinking and problem solving flourish as **students are motivated** to delve deeply and take more responsibility for their own learning.

Access to technology enhances the learning experience, while alternative assessment methods **provide students with opportunities** to showcase their knowledge creatively.

Why WAIS?

- Rigorous curriculum for all students (PreAP/AP/IB)
- Qualified, dedicated, enthusiastic teachers
- Student-centered approach to all we do
- Small class size, family-like atmosphere
- Opportunities to explore International Studies
- World language skills developed over 7 years
- International faculty and student body
- Theatre Arts and Choir offered at all levels

Our Students Make the Difference

Because students **choose** to attend WAIS instead of their zoned school, they are eager to learn and do their best.

**Westchester Academy
for International Studies**

An International Perspective

Along with a solid core curriculum of English/language arts, math, science and social studies, at WAIS students develop their international perspective by exploring the languages, cultures, business environments, governments, fine arts and technologies of other countries. Students are prepared to meet the increased global demand for skilled and highly literate workers.

Well-Rounded development

Students are encouraged to exercise their leadership skills in clubs and organizations and honor societies. Many leadership opportunities are available through Student Council, Director's Advisory Council, clubs or as class representatives. Clubs at WAIS are ever-evolving as students and community pool resources to meet student interests.

An International Baccalaureate School

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is an internationally recognized curriculum that offers 11th and 12th grade students the option to earn the IB Diploma.

Students in this program complete and test in six IB subjects; conduct independent research and write an extended essay guided by a WAIS faculty mentor; complete 150 hours of Creative, Action and Service activities (CAS); and participate in a critical thinking course called Theory of Knowledge.

This advanced, comprehensive program of study offers an integrated approach to learning across several disciplines with a focus on meeting future challenges poised by living and working in a global, technological society.

The IB Diploma Programme - A Diploma Recognized Around the World

Students can participate in the full IB Diploma Programme or choose certain courses from the program which allow them to earn certificates.

Diploma Programme courses offered in 11th and 12th grade:

Language A – English and Spanish

Language B – Spanish, French, German, and Italian

Individuals and Societies – History of the Americas

Sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Physics

Mathematics – Mathematics and Math Studies

Arts – Visual Arts, Music, and Theatre

IB provides students with an opportunity to handle college-level work in high school and earn college credit upon program completion.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme for grades 6 -10 consists of instruction in eight subject groups focused on developing the whole child physically, emotionally, intellectually, and ethically. The MYP requires students to study Language & Literature (English), Language Acquisition (a second language), Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Design Physical Education, and Humanities (Social Studies). During the 10th grade year of MYP students complete an in-depth yearlong study, the Personal Project, demonstrating development of knowledge and skills.

As of June, 2014, WAIS is a Continuum School*, offering 3 of the 4 IB programmes; IB MYP, CP, and DP. IB World Schools and Continuum Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education.

*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Career-related Programme (CP), or the Diploma Programme (DP).

Other Core Courses

All core courses in the 6th – 10th grades follow a pre – AP (Advanced Placement) curriculum. Tenth graders can also take AP courses. All courses are guided by the IB Middle Years Programme strategies and methodologies.

Outside of IB courses in 11th and 12th grade we offer some AP courses based on student demand.

Students can earn certificates or the IB diploma which earns a minimum of 24 hours of college credit at public Texas colleges and universities.

Visit the IB Programme website for more information:
www.ibo.org

Need more information?

Visit us online at: <http://wais.springbranchisd.com>

An International Baccalaureate Continuum School

