Approximately 2,000 students attend Park Center. Since opening in 1971, Park Center has been a vital, diverse school. Today, students from over 24 countries of origin, speaking more than 32 native languages, are served in our English Language Learner program. The student body includes 19.8% Caucasian; 36.6% African-American, 33.4% Asian American, 9.3% Hispanic and 9% Native-American students. Park Center has an attendance rate of over 94% each year, and the school has established a strong academic tradition. Striving for excellence, Park Center graduates attend colleges across the nation. Park Center is known as a place where the staff truly cares about students.

ACADEMICS

A comprehensive curriculum of over 200 regular and special education courses are available to students. Park Center offers a wide range of course offerings, including general education, career and technical education, on-the-job training, college preparatory, high performance, remedial and advanced placement classes. We offer 4 Advanced Placement courses, 9 High Performance Courses, 22 IB Diploma Programme courses and IB classes, and 3 ALP courses. Students are able to earn college and high school credit simultaneously through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MAGNET SCHOOL

Park Center is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. We offer the IB Diploma Programme to juniors and seniors, with all sophomores participating in the IB Middle Years Programme. The Middle Years Programme is research-based education providing instruction for study at all levels. The Diploma Programme is internationally recognized for its ability to prepare students for university level success. The Diploma Programme is for more than high potential students. The most important attributes for success in the Diploma Programme are desire, interest, and work ethic. In 2015, 192 students took 319 IB culminating exams, and 45% earned scores eligible for college credit on at least one exam.

The International Baccalaureate curriculum is designed to ensure a cohesive, comprehensive education for students no matter where they live in the world. Students who complete this program are preparing not only for success in college but for success in life. Students gain a broader world view, follow in-depth approaches to the academic disciplines, and develop time management, problem-solving, research, and organizational skills that will remain with them long after the IB experience is over.

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

In addition to the academic program, Park Center students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic and activity programs. Over 60 athletic teams, including adaptive teams for handicapped students, represent Park Center in interscholastic competition. In addition, more than 30 non-athletic activities and clubs are available for student participation. Green and gold are the school colors, and the mascot is the Pirate. “Pirate Pride” is the identifying mark of the students who participate in Park Center’s co- and extra-curricular programs.

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

Information is listed as trimester credits for grades 9-12 and full year or trimester credits from 9th grade. The class title, letter grade, credit earned, and attendance are listed for each class. The following information is located at the top of page under GPA Summary: class rank, grade point average and total earned credits. When students transfer to our school, their previous schools’ grades are reviewed and grade/subject conversions are entered on our school’s transcript. Immunizations and graduation date are noted when available.

NOTE: A course number that has a “T” as part of the course number indicates a course transferred to Park Center from outside the district. A course number that has a “C” as part of the course number indicates a course earned at a College Institution.

At ISD 279, our mission is to inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The graduation requirements are 64 trimester credits accumulated

- 12 trimester credits of English
- 9 trimester credits of science
- 10 trimester credits of social studies
- 9 trimester credits of mathematics
- 3 trimester credits of arts
- 2 trimester credits of phy.ed./health
- 19 trimester credits of electives
- Successful completion of Advisory

MCA State test in Reading and Writing

GRADING SYSTEM

The traditional A, B, C, D, F system is used with a 4-point GPA computed cumulatively on a trimester basis. “Plus” grades equal .33 more than the letter grade, except for A+, which is not used. “Minus” grades equal .33 less than the letter grade. Grades which have no points are NC = No Credit, NG = No Grade, and I = Incomplete. Grades for ALP, IB and AP courses in which the student earns a C or better are weighted with an additional .34 honor points. Students earn a P (Pass) or I (Incomplete) in Advisory but it has no credit value. Academic grades are determined using a standards-based grading system which reports how well the student learned the course standards. Grades are based on academic factors only; non-academic factors such as attendance, behavior, effort, and responsibility are not factored into grades.

POST HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY

The most recent follow up sample survey revealed the following post-secondary activities:

- 4-year college .................................................42%
- 2-year college .................................................40%
- Military ........................................................2%
- Work Force ......................................................12%
- Other ......................................................................4%

The Class of 2015 attended a variety of post-secondary institutions including Arizona State University, Northern Illinois University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Case Western University, University of Notre Dame, Texas Southern University, Valparaiso University, Clark Atlanta University, University of the Virgin Islands, Prairie View A&M, San Jose State University in addition to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities among others.

CLASS RANK

Class rank is based on student grades in all credit-producing subjects grade 9-12.

All students are included in class ranking. More than one student may have the same class rank. Weighted grading for AP, most IB, and ALP classes has been Board approved. Park Center reports both weighted and unweighted ranks and GPAs. For each AP, ALP, and most IB classes taken, the student’s GPA would increase by .33.

COURSE DESIGNATION

The following course designations appear on transcripts:

- ADJ  Adjusted curriculum
- ALP  Autonomous Learner Program is a special program for the gifted and talented
- AP  Advanced Placement classes in English and mathematics
- PSEO  College course completed under Minnesota State Enrollment Options Act for high school credit.
- HP  High performance, accelerated class which is more academically challenging than mainstream courses
- IB SL  International Baccalaureate—Standard Level
- IB HL  International Baccalaureate—High Level
- Independent Study  60 hours of course work completed under teacher supervision but not in class setting
- Service Learning  Work completed in community agency under Park Center Coordinator’s direction
- Mentor Connection  Enriched independent study for gifted and talented learners
- OJT  Student work release program
- HTC  Hennepin Technical College

NOTE: A course number beginning with a “T” indicates a course completed out of district. A course number that begins with a “C” as part of the course number indicates a course earned at a College institution.

DEPARTMENT DESIGNATION

The following is an explanation of the department abbreviations used on the transcript.

- AR  Art
- BU  Business Education
- CP  Cooperative Education
- ELL  English Language Learner
- EN  English
- ES  ELL-English Language Learner
- LS  Family & Consumer Science
- MA  Math
- MU  Music
- PE  Physical Education/Health
- SC  Science
- SP  Special Education
- SS  Social Studies
- TE  Technology
- VT  Vocational
- WL  World Language

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