

## NFMHS Cambridge AICE Program – Frequently Asked Questions

### ➤ *How do I apply to the Cambridge AICE Program and/or the Center for Arts and Media at North Fort Myers High School?*

- **First**, register your son or daughter with the School District of Lee County in person or via your Focus Parent Portal.
- **Next**, complete the special programs application for West Zone Students, which is also available via your Focus Parent Portal.
- **NOTE:** ALL candidates interested in the Cambridge AICE Program and/or Center for Arts and Media, must complete the special programs applications/process regardless of any additional waivers.
- **Then**, submit your application(s) between 1/16/24 and 1/26/24 via your Focus Parent Portal.
- **Center for Arts and Media** candidates will audition on their selected/assigned dates (2/1 – 2/8)
- **February 15<sup>th</sup>** candidates will receive acceptance/denial notifications via your Focus Parent Portal.
- **Finally**, to secure the seat in the special program of choice, and NFMHS, return the letter of intent included in the acceptance via the Focus Parent Portal by **Friday, February 23rd**. Please only select ONE school as your Special Programs school of choice.

### ➤ *What are the primary differences between AICE, IB, and AP?*

All three programs are going to prepare your son or daughter for the rigors of college coursework, while offering the opportunity to earn college credit (saving time and money) before ever stepping on campus. Both AICE and IB include a full curriculum that encourages students to matriculate through a variety of courses in order to obtain a program diploma. AP, which may be the most recognized in the US, does not have a set curriculum, but remains highly regarded.

AICE, commonly known as *AS and A Levels*, allows candidates to take college credit courses all four years of high school and offers a level of flexibility not available in other programs when students are registering for classes. This allows candidates to earn the AICE Diploma by the completion of the junior year, so they can apply to college/university with confidence.

### ➤ *How do I earn the AICE Diploma (ADIP)?*

Candidates must earn seven (7) total credits in AS and A Level courses in a 25 month window in order to earn the ADIP. One credit must come from each of the three subject groups: Mathematics/Sciences, Languages, and Humanities. An additional three credits can come from ANY subject group the candidate chooses or the elective options. The CORE or required credit must be acquired by successfully completing AS Level Global Perspectives and Research.

### ➤ *How do I earn an AICE credit?*

AICE, like IB and AP, is credit by examination, which requires a student to complete a year of study in a selected subject and take a test in the spring (May/June) – pass the test and the student earns AICE credit. If you fail an AICE, IB, or AP examination it does not impact the credit you earned for passing the course, nor does it negatively impact the GPA, but you would not receive the possible attached college credits nor would you receive a credit toward the AICE or IB Diploma. Cambridge does allow candidates to resit some examinations in the fall to recoup the test credit and earn the ADIP credit (October/November).

When a candidate sits for an AS or A Level examination and passes that examination, the student earns a credit toward the AICE Diploma (and potentially college credit). When a student takes the exam in the May/June session, the results are typically returned in early to mid August. Please note, if the candidate completes an A Level examination then they can be awarded two credits for that subject toward the AICE Diploma.

➤ ***What are the benefits of earning the ADIP?***

Successfully completing the AICE Diploma along with 100 hours of community service or paid work hours (required by FLDOE), automatically qualifies the student for the TOP Bright Futures Scholarship. Otherwise the Bright Futures Scholarship is dependent upon GPA and SAT/ACT scores, which are raised each year based on availability.

➤ ***What is the difference between an AS and A Level course?***

Most colleges and universities refer to the Cambridge AICE Program as AS and A Levels. AS Level courses are designed to be a single year of student culminating with a spring examination. A Level courses are designed to be, but not required to be, a second additional year of study in a subject. A student could earn an AS Level credit in one year, then in the following spring complete the A Level credit which would result in a second credit in that subject toward the ADIP. AS and A Level credits must be earned in either one year of study or in subsequent/back to back years of study. For example, if a student passes AS Level Physics as a sophomore, he or she can enroll in and take the A Level Physics course/exam as a junior. Please note, many elite colleges require students to earn A Level scores to guarantee acceptance of credit.

➤ ***Do all colleges accept AICE AS and A Level credits?***

More than 600 colleges and universities worldwide accept AS and A Level credits, including the Ivy and Ivy Plus institutions as well as the majority of Florida universities. Keep in mind, private schools may pick and choose which credits are accepted and what they will be accepted for.

For more specific information on college recognition, see the link below as this page is continuously updated by Cambridge (CIE): <http://recognition.cambridgeinternational.org/>

➤ ***What is Dual Enrollment (DE)? How does it work?***

Dual Enrollment is an accelerated pathway for students who wish to pursue educational opportunities at the post-secondary level while attending high school. The majority of North students take Dual-Enrollment courses through Florida Southwestern State College (FSW), which allows students to enroll in college courses creditable toward both high school graduation and their college degree. North High offers **4 DE** courses on our high school campus. Dual Enrollment opportunities can be taken advantage of during and after the normal school day for any student that meets the qualifications outlined by the institution.

➤ ***Can students participate in both the AICE Program and the Center for Arts and Media?***

YES! Candidates wishing to participate in both or either program must complete the application(s) and, for the Center for Arts and Media, participate in the audition for the program of their choice. If an incoming student is accepted to one or both programs he or she can accept both placements, return letters of intent for both programs, and be registered accordingly by our school counselors.

- **Students who apply for and are accepted to the NFMHS Cambridge AICE Program are automatically coded/enrolled at NFMHS as long as the letter of intent is returned on or before**
- **Students who apply for, audition for, and are accepted to the NFMHS Center for Arts and Media are automatically coded/enrolled at NFMHS as long as the letter of intent is returned on or before**
- Applications are available digitally via your Focus Parent Portal
- Applications returned to NFMHS between **Tuesday, January 16 and Friday, January 26th**
- Acceptance/Denial notifications **will be available via your Focus Parent Portal on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Letters of Intent **MUST** be submitted via your Focus Parent Portal on or before **Friday, February 23rd**