



North Port High School

Parent and Student Cambridge AICE Expectations

OBJECTIVE:

- The NPHS Cambridge AICE Diploma Program is a rigorous academic program for academically talented and motivated students.
- In the AICE program at North Port High School, we believe in supporting, guiding, and helping all students to reach their full potential, regardless of age, sex, race, or disability.
- The goal of the program is to develop students who are:
 - **Confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
 - **Responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
 - **Reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn
 - **Innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
 - **Engaged** intellectually and socially ready to make a difference.
- Achievement of the AICE diploma also waives the SAT/ACT requirements and GPA standard for the Florida Bright Futures scholarship, allowing many students who may not meet those criteria to earn a full four-year tuition scholarship.
 - **NOTE:** *A student's GPA and SAT/ACT scores are still admissions criteria. All students should strive to maintain a good GPA and do well on the SAT/ACT even if they plan on earning their AICE diploma.*
- Every exam passed earns college credit for the student, even without earning the diploma.
- The curriculum provides an excellent preparation for both college and the world of work.
- More information about AICE curriculums and benefits is located at NorthPortAICE.com on the “Why AICE?” page.

CAMBRIDGE VISION & MISSION:

From the Cambridge Assessment International Education website:

- Cambridge Assessment International Education prepares students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of the University of Cambridge.
- Our international qualifications are recognized by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career.
- As a not-for-profit organization, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programs that can unlock learners' potential.
- We also encourage students to develop higher order thinking skills - problem solving, critical thinking, independent research, collaboration, and presenting arguments. These are transferable skills that will last a lifetime, preparing students for their future lives. They also make learning enjoyable and rewarding.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Students in AICE classes will have regular homework.
- Students should plan to spend 30-40 minutes per class per night on homework. For a diploma track student, this would mean 2 – 3 hours per night.
- Parents can assist by providing students with time and distraction-free space.
- Parents of AICE students are asked to maintain a parent portal account with a working email that is checked regularly. Student accounts or parent accounts opened with student emails do not satisfy this requirement. Please call the school at 423-8558 and ask for Miss Cynthia at ext. 66033 if you need assistance with creating or updating your account.

TECHNOLOGY

- Computer access is crucial for AICE students. Students should have access to a computer with Internet either at home or in their community.
- Students should download the FREE Microsoft suite of products which is offered by Sarasota County Schools. Generic versions often do not have the required functionality.

ACADEMICS

- To be successful academically, students should actively participate in all class activities, give in-class and homework assignments and projects their full attention and effort, and attempt all learning strategies recommended by their teachers.
- Students and parents are expected to work with teachers and AICE staff to assist students if they begin to struggle, whether they are taking a single advanced class or working on their AICE diploma.
- Schedule changes mid-year are usually not available.
- This home-school collaboration could include:
 - Frequent monitoring of the online gradebook by parents
 - Regular communication from the student and/or parent to the teacher
 - Staying after school with teachers or the tutoring program
 - Modifying work/study habits
 - Improving Time Management techniques
 - Working on Stress Management
 - The website NorthPortAICE.com contains many study tips and other suggestions for success which are designed to support students.
 - ****Extra credit is rarely available in advanced classes. Students should focus on assigned learning activities.****

ATTENDANCE

- Regular attendance is required for students to remain in AICE classes and on the diploma track.
- Completing make-up work, while important, is not a substitute for being in class.
- Students should not miss more than 9 days per semester.
- Excessive absences may be grounds for removal from individual AICE courses and/or the diploma track.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS (DIPLOMA TRACK)

- Students who have applied and been accepted to the AICE diploma program must maintain an overall GPA of 2.75 (unweighted) each quarter and/or have no more than one F or two D's to be considered an AICE diploma candidate in good standing.
- If a student's academic performance falls below this standard, they will be placed on Academic Probation.
- Students on Academic Probation will be provided a time period wherein they must improve academic performance to meet the minimum academic requirements.
 - Students on Academic Probation may be expected to stay after school, use certain time management and/or study strategies, meet with a counselor and/or AICE coordinator, and other interventions deemed appropriate for the student.
- Students who have a quarterly GPA below 2.75 for a second quarter (consecutive or not) may be removed from the diploma track and some or all of their AICE classes.

HONOR CODE

- The complete Honor Code is provided separately and posted on our website.
- The Honor Code covers both Academic Honesty and appropriate behavior.
- The AICE Program and North Port High School treat academic dishonesty and misbehavior as a serious matter.
- Students found to have violated the Honor Code are subject to a wide range of consequences to include possible removal from the AICE Program.

TESTING (10th – 12th grades)

- All students enrolled in an AICE course are required to attend the AICE exam and make an honest attempt at each component. This includes projects submitted to Cambridge for scoring and language speaking exams.
- Any student who fails to attend and/or make a sincere effort on an AICE exam without a legitimate excuse **may incur a financial penalty** for each missed exam and may not be allowed to register for any further AICE or AP courses.
- Seniors must attend and attempt all exams to earn their AICE stole for graduation.
- AICE testing begins in April and continues into June. It is likely that students will have testing after the last day of school. Students should not make travel plans that would prevent attendance at testing without first obtaining administrative approval.
- Preliminary test dates are already published. Students are responsible for checking the AICE website and confirming exam dates with their teachers.
- Students will receive a Statement of Entry in the months before testing begins. Students are responsible for checking this statement carefully to ensure:
 - Their name and birth date are correct.
 - All of their AICE exams are listed.
 - They are registered for ADIP if they plan to receive their AICE diploma that year.
- **If a student is entitled to testing accommodations, they must apply to use their accommodations on AICE tests this year. Please contact the AICE coordinator by September 30 to begin the process.**

COMMUNICATION / PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Most communication between NPHS staff and parents/guardians is conducted via the email the parent used to create their parent portal account.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that the email in the portal is correct and is their own and not the student's.
- Parent Nights are held each school year. Dates are posted at NorthPortAICE.com on the "Parents" page. Recordings of previous parent nights are on the "Videos" page.
- The AICE Coordinator also uses the AICE website and the Band app to communicate with students and parents. All students should join the appropriate group. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join if desired.

COURSES

- We recommend that students take only 3 AICE courses per year.
- Academically focused students who wish to take 4 or even 5 AICE courses in a year should request a waiver to be signed by a parent/guardian.
- AICE is a flexible program which can look different for each student. The course progression plan is posted on our website but can be modified according to student needs and interests.

MATERIALS AND TOPICS

- The Cambridge AICE syllabuses explore current topics without censorship of topic, content, or language.
- A main goal of the Cambridge AICE program is for students to explore the merits of a variety of perspectives and arguments, including those which are in opposition to their own views. In their AICE classes, students will be challenged to see multiple sides of every issue, including issues which are based upon deeply held beliefs.
- Some readings will be of a more mature and sensitive nature. These are dictated by Cambridge and are non-negotiable.
- Please confirm your child is mature enough to handle these areas of study and to approach all topics with the goal of achieving balance and empathy. If not, the Cambridge AICE program may not be the correct placement for your student at this time. In that case, please contact the AICE coordinator or the student's counselor.

This document can also be found on the NorthPortAice.com website under Documents/Forms.