

## **Colonel By Secondary School: ARC Facts**

Colonel By is one of five schools in the Central east corridor of the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) which is being reviewed by the Accommodations Review Committee (ARC).

### **The School:**

- Colonel By opened in 1970
- It became an International Baccalaureate World School in 1997

### **Academic Achievement:**

- Ranked #3 academic school in Canada by McLeans' Magazine in 2005
- Top high school in the region (out of 94 high schools) for in the 2009 Fraser Report
- Top Ottawa school in Fraser Report over past 6 years
- Consistent high flyer in major academic competitions
- Top regional high school in Gr 9 and Gr 11 Math competitions;
- Gr 9s were #5 and Grade 11s #21 in Canada out of 1,339 high schools
- Has had top overall grade point average OCDSB
- Has had most credits accumulated in OCDSB
- Most credits accumulated for Ministry tracked at-risk students
- Top average daily enrolment (ADE) in school board
- Winner of millions of dollars in scholarships

### **IB Achievement:**

- Home of the only IB Program in the OCDSB
- Colonel By IB average 35; World average 29.5; US average 27
- Colonel By IB Diploma pass rate: 99+%; Canadian average: 96%; US average 76%
- International reputation, including diplomatic and military communities

### **Other Achievement:**

- Top Three Sports Schools in the Ottawa region past three years: 2006, 2007, 2008.
- Consistent Gold Medal winner – Musicfest and other major music competitions
- Consistent winner for C-Flats Vocal Ensemble
- Major charitable contributor (see testimonies):
  - African Orphanages, Gloucester Foodbank, Ottawa Snowsuit Fund, Maycourt Hospice
- Most community service hours of any school in OCDSB
- Home of Cougarvision – Canada's first high school digital television broadcast

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## **Colonel By ARC Questions and Answers:**

**Colonel By is part of the ARC because it has a problem:** Colonel By is a great success story, but is part of the ARC process because all schools in the Central East corridor are being reviewed, primarily due to declining enrolment in other schools in the area.

**Colonel By is too full:** Colonel By is near capacity, but it is still not full enough to be eligible for further portables and is still allocated Cross-Boundary transfer space from the OCDSB.

**The Colonel By physical plant is not adequate:** Colonel By is the least expensive to run of the high schools being considered for closure and has no major plant or maintenance issues. Its overall projected capital costs are \$1.7 million less than the most expensive school.

**Colonel By does not have a strong enough community enrolment base:** CB is a system school (IB) and a community school. Its capacity has always included both populations (as does Canterbury Arts and Lisgar Gifted). Colonel By is close to capacity. Recently, the OCDSB decreased the Colonel catchment boundary *because* Colonel By has such strong population numbers.

**The IB Program can be relocated to another school:** IB programs can only be relocated after satisfying significant restrictions imposed by the world IB organization governing any IB program move. These restrictions include moving at least 2/3s of all trained IB teaching staff, the principal, and the IB co-ordinator; these factors pose major hurdles and failure to comply can lead to decertification. Decertification means the IB program ends immediately and a two year reapplication process must take place.

**Colonel By draws students to the OCDSB:** Two years, data gathered concluded that 192/1150 students came to Colonel By from other jurisdictions. This includes students from other Boards, regions, and countries. These students represent net gain for our school board.

**Colonel By has an International reputation:** Colonel By draws students from around the world, and is a favoured choice for international embassy and military personnel. Colonel By has had a partnership through the US Ambassador for the past three years.

**Colonel By's results are due to the IB program:** The achievement of the IB students helps Colonel By's achievement, but it is important to note that while 550 students are in the IB program, 630 of Colonel By's students are not in the IB program.

**The public school board pays for the Colonel By IB Program:** The school board does not financially support the IB program. The IB program at Colonel By is self-financing. All fees are returned to the program to cover costs, including IB resources, IB training, IB annual fees, etc. Furthermore, a study done two years ago showed that the IB program draws to the OCDSB many students who would not otherwise be in the public system. Each of these student brings with him/her Ministry Learning Opportunities Grants (LOG), the financing which forms the foundation of a school board budget.

**The IB Program does not belong in the public system:** The OCDSB promotes "more choices" and has multiple offerings at various schools to challenge various learners and learning styles. These include Arts Programs, High-Performance Athlete Programs, Extended and Immersion French, Trades & Technology Programs, Advanced Placement

courses -- and the IB. A modern public board must offer an inclusive and accessible education for all students, but also recognize the diversity of students and the challenges of modern society. Over 80% of the (almost 300) IB Program schools in Canada are public.

**The IB Program is Exclusionary:** The IB program is based on merit. The entrance components include a CCAT score, school marks, teacher references, and a student profile. While a nominal annual cost of \$250 is attached to the program (compared with \$18,200 per annum for IB at Ashbury College), this is entirely applied to the IB program and IB students in lieu of any school board financial support.