Five IB World Schools in Newsweek's top 10

Five IB World Schools in the United States Feature in the Top 10 of Newsweek’s 2011 High School Rankings

The International Baccalaureate® (IB), a non-profit educational organization with over 1,000 IB World Schools in the United States, is pleased to announce that five IB World Schools have been ranked in the top 10 of Newsweek’s annual list of “America’s Best High Schools”. The schools are:

Stanton College Preparatory, Jacksonville, FL (4)
Jefferson County IB School, Birmingham, AL (6)
Signature School, Evansville, Indiana (7)
Suncoast Community, Riviera Beach, FL (9)
North Hills Preparatory, Irving, TX (10)
A total of 18 IB World Schools feature in the top 100.

To read the full list of rankings, please visit:


AP, IB, and Cambridge are important because they give average students a chance to experience the trauma of heavy college reading lists and long, analytical college examinations. Studies by U.S. Department of Education senior researcher Clifford Adelman in 1999 and 2005 showed that the best predictors of college graduation were not good high-school grades or test scores but whether or not a student had an intense academic experience in high school. Such experiences were produced by taking higher-level math and English courses and struggling with the demands of college-level courses like AP or IB.

To send a student off to college without having had an AP, IB, or Cambridge course and test is like insisting that a child learn to ride a bike without ever taking off the training wheels. It is dumb, and in my view a form of educational malpractice. But most American high schools still do it. I don't think such schools should be rewarded because they have artificially high AP or IB passing rates achieved by making certain just their best students take the tests.

Jay Mathews is a NEWSWEEK contributing editor and Washington Post columnist.
You can reach him at: mathewsj@washpost.com

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