

# The Middle Years Programme: A guide for parents



The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), for students aged 11 to 16, is designed as an inclusive, whole-school programme by the International Baccalaureate (IB), a not-for-profit organization supporting the education of more than 1 million students every year in over 3,900 schools in 147 countries.

## Why the Middle Years programme?

Parents who want the best possible education for their children choose the MYP because it includes:

- rigorous learning objectives
- a student-centred approach to teaching
- international perspectives
- concern for the whole child
- sustained teaching and learning in more than one language
- a focus on learning how to learn
- the development of flexible thinking that prepares students to evaluate information critically and apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations.

The MYP teaches tools for lifelong learning and fosters responsible attitudes that help students discover how to use what they learn to take principled action. The MYP's focus on independent learning makes it the ideal preparation for the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and the IB Career-related Programme (CP).

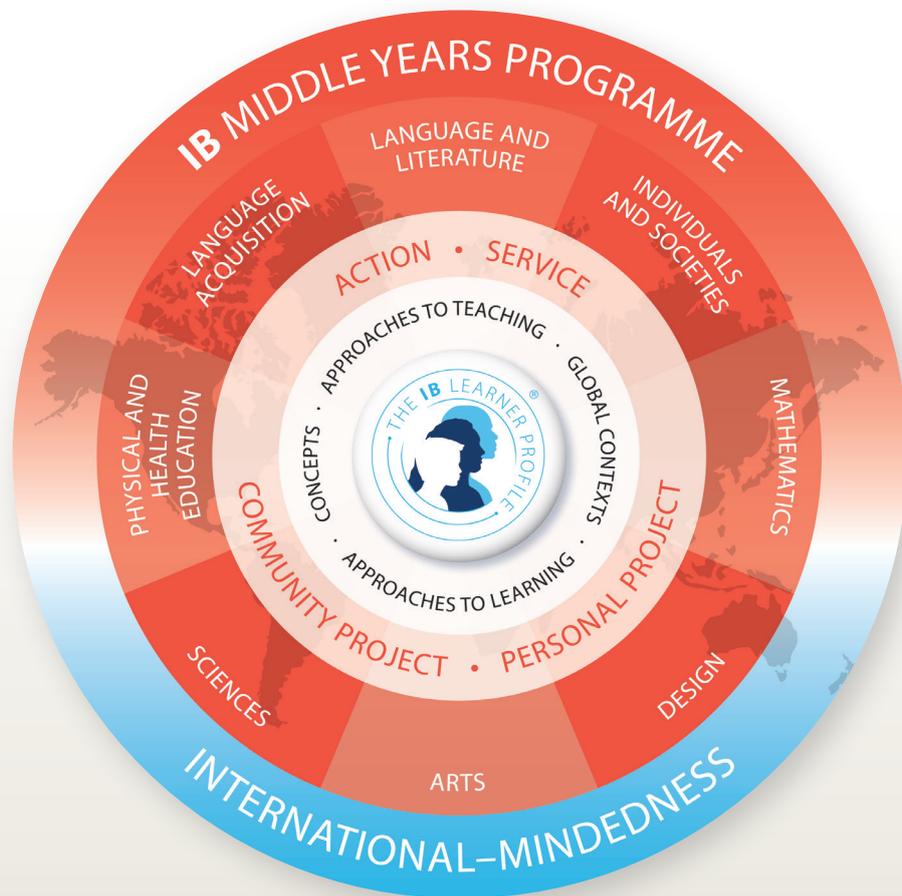
Along with the introduction of mandatory moderation of the personal project, 2016 sees a change in the optional assessment for the MYP. The new optional MYP eAssessment provides external evaluation for students in year 5 (15–16 years old) that leads to the internationally recognized IB MYP certificate.

MYP eAssessment represents a balanced, appropriately-challenging model that comprises examinations and coursework.

Two-hour onscreen examinations in four subject groups (language and literature, sciences, mathematics, individuals and societies) and in interdisciplinary learning are individually marked by IB examiners. Portfolios of student work for four subject groups (language acquisition, physical and health education, arts, and design) are moderated by IB examiners to international standards.

These innovative assessments focus on conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations. They offer robust and reliable assessment of student achievement in the MYP.





## Distinctive features of the MYP

At the core of all IB Programmes is the learner profile, 10 attributes fostered in students that promote their development as responsible members of their local, national and global communities. IB learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective.

In the MYP, students study 8 subject groups, with a minimum of 50 teaching hours per subject group each year. Distinctive features of the MYP include:

- **Key and related concepts** are big ideas, which form the basis of teaching and learning in the MYP. They ensure breadth and depth in the curriculum and promote learning within and across traditional disciplines.
- **Global contexts** provide shared starting points for inquiry into what it means to be internationally minded, framing a curriculum that promotes multilingualism, intercultural understanding and global engagement.
- **Approaches to teaching and learning**, a unifying thread throughout all MYP subject groups, are skills which help students manage their own learning. They provide a foundation for success in further education and the world beyond the classroom.

- **Action and service**, essential components of the MYP, set out clear learning outcomes that grow from students' participation in local and global communities. MYP projects are informed by respected models of service learning and provide stepping stones toward the Diploma Programme's core requirements for Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).
- **The personal project**, for students completing the programme in year 5, is a culminating experience in which students apply their approaches to learning skills to complete an extended, self-directed piece of work. This required component provides opportunities for creative and truly personal demonstrations of learning.

*"Our parents are excited because students are becoming well-rounded and they're getting that classic liberal arts-minded education."*

**Dr. John Waller**, director, secondary curriculum and special programs, Marietta City Schools, Marietta, Georgia, USA

Interested in learning more about the MYP?  
please visit the IB website: [www.ibo.org/myp](http://www.ibo.org/myp)



Interested in learning more about the MYP?  
Watch a video, download brochures  
and read more online!