

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) at Northwoods Park Middle School



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) is designed for students between the ages of 11 and 16, a particularly important phase of personal and intellectual development. The MYP is a method of curriculum delivery. Northwoods Park Middle School's curriculum is determined by the North Carolina Department of Education. The MYP aims to:

- Focus teaching and learning on inclusive, engaging academics
- Provide interdisciplinary instruction, helping students make real-life connections to what they learn and deepening their understanding
- Encourage communication that values different forms of expression
- Nurture opportunities for deliberate reflection on learning by students and teachers
- Provide students with intercultural awareness, helping them understand others' viewpoints and develop a critical eye about international issues
- Promote responsible global citizenship

AREAS OF INTERACTION

The Areas of Interaction (AOIs) are the themes embedded in each of the eight subject areas: Language A (English), Language B (foreign language), Science, Humanities, History, Mathematics, the Arts, Physical Education and Technology.

The purpose of the AOIs is to weave together the curriculum in all subjects for 'real-world' applications. These AOIs are the lenses through which students and teachers examine classroom content, explore ideas and make connections from the classroom to the global community.

Integrated themes help students better relate what they learn in the classroom to the real world, their future education and careers. The thematic connections also promote higher-order thinking and questioning skills and creative problem-solving.

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Understanding the process of learning, the strategies therein, as well as application of learning tools helps students become life-long learners.

- How do I learn best?
- How do I know?
- How do I communicate my understanding?

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

Community and Service asks students to examine the many communities of which they are a part and to discern, with increasing sophistication, how their actions can effect change. The goal is for this action to be rooted in classroom studies and for students to realize their power to effect change, both great and small, within the world.

- How do we live in relation to others?
- How can I contribute to the community?
- How can I help others?

HUMAN INGENUITY

Human Ingenuity explores the creativity of humanity and the impact of human actions and systems on the world. In this way, human ingenuity goes beyond the act of creation alone, leading students to examine, experience and reflect on the creative process.

- Why and how do we create?
- What are the consequences?



ENVIRONMENTS

Both natural and man-made environments are essential elements within this area.

Understanding the interconnectedness of beings within an environment and the responsibilities we all have to cultivate our environments is crucial.

- Where do we live?
- What resources do we have or need?
- What are my responsibilities?



HEALTH AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

This area of interaction deals with key aspects of development leading to complete and healthy lives. Encompassing physical, social and emotional health, the aim is to develop in students a sense of responsibility for their own well-being and for their physical and social environment.

- How do I think and act?
- How am I changing?
- How can I look after myself and others?

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the MYP?

The MYP is one of three programmes of international education offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is for students ages 3-12. The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is for students ages 11-16. The Diploma Programme (DP) is for students ages 16-18.

The MYP is not a curriculum. It is a method of curriculum delivery that seeks to help students make connections between disciplines, to provide them with a global perspective and to encourage them to actively participate in their communities.

Is the MYP a program for “gifted” students?

With the rigor built in through inquiry in the MYP, as well as the opportunity for students to engage in self-directed learning through the personal project, the MYP is an excellent fit for all students. The cultivation of becoming a life-long learner through the framework of the MYP allows each student to craft an experience in which they will be challenged and achieve to their highest potential.

Does my child have to apply for, or test into, the MYP?

No. The MYP is an inclusive method of delivering Michigan-mandated curriculum. All students attending an MYP school are automatically part of the MYP.

Does my child get anything for completing the MYP?

If a child completes a Personal Project, which most do, he or she receives a certificate of completion. Personal Projects give students an opportunity to explore an academic or personal interest. This experience often provides useful material for college application essays.

What is a Personal Project?

The Personal Project is the capstone of the MYP. With a self-directed research component and the goal to share something they value deeply with the community, it gives voice to the ideas MYP students have for themselves, their community and our world.

How is an MYP school different from a non-MYP school?

Throughout the 5-year MYP experience, students and teachers connect classroom learning experiences through the common language found within the Learner Profile and the Areas of Interaction. The focus on real-world applications and on embodying the traits within the Learner Profile, and the interconnectedness of the subjects, gives the MYP student the opportunity to become an active global citizen at a younger age.

What does the IB require of schools and teachers?

- A global perspective to content
- Planning time for teachers at the same grade level **AND** different grade levels to write and reflect on student work
- Interdisciplinary units (units that include content from more than one subject area)
- The implementation of the Learner Profile

What is a Learner Profile?

The Learner Profile describes the attributes of an internationally-minded person. The ultimate goal of the MYP is to develop and support internationally-minded learners who become successful global citizens. IB Learner Profile attributes are woven throughout the MYP curriculum.



How can I support my child's learning?

The MYP sees learning as a partnership between student, parent and school. You can help your child by:

- allowing your child the opportunity to find answers to his/her own questions
- asking open-ended questions rather than yes/no questions
- maintaining regular contact with your child's teacher
- encouraging your child to use the MYP Design Cycle

What is the Design Cycle?

The MYP uses the Design Cycle to help students through the creative process.

