

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME



What is the Middle Years Programme?

All Northville Public Schools students in grades 6—10 will experience the MYP. The MYP is illustrated by a circle with the emphasis of eight academic areas surrounding six global contexts. The global contexts provide the common themes which inter-connect academic areas.

The MYP emphasis is the interrelatedness of the academic content areas within the existing Northville curriculum.

The overall philosophy of the programme is expressed through three fundamental concepts that support and strengthen all areas of the curriculum. These concepts are based on the following:

- holistic learning and academic rigor
- intercultural awareness
- communication

The capstone of the programme is a personal project where ALL students highlight their individual learning.



What are the advantages of the Middle Years Programme?

- Using the existing Northville curriculum, the MYP programme is designed to help students recognize the connection between what they learn in the classroom and the world around them, to tie the various subject areas together, and eventually to help students see knowledge as an interrelated, coherent whole. MYP students analyze and evaluate issues, generate new ideas and consider new perspectives. The MYP empowers students to develop a sense of community through service to others, while encouraging international-mindedness through appreciation and inquiry of other global cultures. Overall, students will become creative, critical and reflective thinkers (ibo.org).

IB MISSION STATEMENT

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Quotes...

- MYP stretches my teaching and pushes my students to think beyond the text.
~ teacher
- The Learner Profile Traits show me how I need to act in life.
~ student
- The International Baccalaureate Programme offers students an education that goes well beyond their intellectual and academic successes. It provides our students with a better understanding of the world around them.
~ administrator
- I really like that their learning is discovery-based and focused on real-life big ideas. My daughter can make connections between the different content areas that she is learning about.
~ parent
- I have had more lessons that show me where I can use my learning outside of school.
~ student
- Students recognized the rigor of the MYP and embrace the challenge of thinking more critically.
~ teacher

Approaches to Learning (ATL)

Through five skill categories (communication, social, self-management, research and thinking) students will develop skills that help them “learn how to learn.” The focus of the ATLs in the MYP is on helping students to develop the self-knowledge and skills they need to enjoy a lifetime of learning. ATL skills empower students for further success in rigorous academic programs including the Diploma Programme. Teachers incorporate the ATLs in units throughout the year, in all content areas (ibo.org).

Service and Action

The MYP includes opportunities for students to develop their personal understanding, their emerging sense of self and their developmentally appropriate responsibility in their community. Service and Action are essential components of the learning process where students continue to increase their awareness of themselves, show perseverance, and engage with locally and globally significant challenges (ibo.org).

Research is clear that Service and Action are valuable to students.

- Students involved with community service have higher GPAs and higher self-esteem; they also see themselves as having great potential for success in the future (Khanna, 2001).
- Middle and high school students who engaged in quality service-learning programs showed increases in measures of personal and social responsibility, communication and sense of educational competence (Weiler et. al., 1998).

Personal Project

MYP Projects help students to develop the attributes of the IB Learner Profile; provide students with an essential opportunity to demonstrate ATL skills developed through the MYP (Years 1-4); and foster the development of independent, lifelong learners. (MYP Projects Guide, 2014). The project is student-driven, teacher-mentored consisting of three components: focus on a topic leading towards a product or outcome, process journal and a report. It culminates in Year 5 (grade 10) with a community exhibition of the students' work.

Examples of MYP Personal Projects:

- Creating a model of a house using different interior design skills
- Raising money for iPads for the Autistic classroom at Hillside Middle School
- Design and construct a functioning guitar
- Learn a new skill (foreign language, technical dance, film production)