

Middle Years Programme

El Segundo Middle School

What is the Middle Years Programme?

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) offers 3 programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and the Diploma Programme (DP). ESMS offers the MYP, which is designed to teach students to become independent learners who can discover the relationships between school subjects and the real world. Students of the MYP study 8 subject areas: Language and Literature (English), Language Acquisition (Spanish), Sciences, Mathematics, Arts (Visual and Performing), Physical and Health Education, Individuals & Society (History), and Design each year at ESMS. Emphasis is on written and oral communication, acquisition of a second language, thematic and interdisciplinary units of study, as well as developing intercultural understanding and international mindedness.

Why is the MYP such a unique framework for education?

MYP schools strive to foster a holistic education. While the academic curriculum is rigorous, has a real world connection, and is relevant to students' lives, there is a strong emphasis on developing individuals who can positively contribute to their global societies. The IBO aims to create life-long learners who are: Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Balanced, Risk-Takers, Thinkers, Inquirers, Reflective, Knowledgeable and Caring.

What is the International Baccalaureate Mission Statement?

The International Baccalaureate 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.

How is student learning assessed in the MYP?

MYP assessments involve a range of task types to allow students to show growth over the course of a year. Assessment tasks are developed to meet the MYP objectives for each subject and are graded using MYP rubrics. Assessment rubrics provide valuable written feedback for students to understand their own learning process.

How does MYP teaching and learning differ from traditional education?

MYP Teaching and Learning	Traditional Teaching and Learning
Connecting concepts and skills through multiple subject areas	Learning content through an isolated subject area
Investigating, questioning, discussing and justifying	Worksheets; fill in the blank questions
Developing meaningful understanding of skills and concepts	Rote memorization of information
A variety of open-ended responses and strategies	Multiple choice, True or False, right or wrong questions
Solving real-life problems in which the context is relevant to the student	Word problems or simple questions as problem solving
Students being encouraged to investigate, inquire, speculate and pursue ideas	The teacher as the sole authority of providing the "right" answers
Multiple sources and resources for learning	A textbook driven curriculum

What are the requirements for MYP students?

Students of the MYP in Years 1, 2, and 3 (6th-8th grades) must take all 8 subject areas each year. To accommodate this requirement ESMS has a drop two schedule in which the students attend all 8 classes (34 minutes/period) on Monday and then drop two classes each of the remaining days of the week and attend 6 classes (54 minutes/period).

Why has ESMS chosen to implement the MYP?

As a district, ESUSD is focusing on educating students who can succeed in a modern, global economy. The MYP provides the structure to develop a comprehensive, school-wide program to address 21st century skills and concepts. Since being authorized as an International Baccalaureate World School in March of 2014, the esteem acquired by developing the status as a MYP school has been transforming ESMS into a destination school, as it is one of the very few public middle schools offering the program in Los Angeles County.

Who should I contact if I have more questions about the MYP at ESMS?

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