



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

ABOUT THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-16)

- *What is the Middle Years Programme?*
- *What grades does the Middle Years Programme encompass?*
- *Does the Middle Years Programme lead directly to the Diploma Programme?*
- *Can students transfer easily from one Middle Years Programme school to another?*
- *Can students with special needs participate in an IB programme?*
- *Do Middle Years Programme students have to take IB examinations?*
- *Do Middle Years Programme students receive any acknowledgement for their work?*
- *How can my child enroll in the Middle Years Programme?*
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- *What is the Middle Years Programme?*

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is an educational framework that requires students to study in eight subjects (literature taught in the student's native language, foreign language, social studies, science, math, arts, physical education, and technology) in each of the five years the programme lasts. Local, state, provincial, or national curriculum requirements are the basis of each subject's content. Teachers present their curriculum focused through the MYP's *Areas of Interaction*, so that instructional strategies change, rather than the subject content. The model embodies three fundamental concepts: communication (valuing language acquisition in at least two languages), holistic learning (finding the connections across and within the subjects and grade levels), and internationalism (a growing understanding of a student's own culture coupled with an understanding and appreciation of other cultures).

- ***What grades does the Middle Years Programme encompass?***

In most schools in North America, the IB Middle Years Programme is a five-year programme that begins with grade 6 and continues through grade 10. In some schools, such as those in Québec, the MYP begins with grade 7 and continues through grade 11. The programme may be implemented in as little as two consecutive grade levels following or preceding another IB programme to as many as five grade levels. The decision for the length of time of a MYP is determined by the local educational structures that exist.

- ***Does the Middle Years Programme lead directly to the Diploma Programme?***

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is an excellent preparation for the Diploma Programme. Many of the concepts, programme elements, and the underlying philosophy found in the MYP are consistent with those found in the Diploma Programme. Nevertheless, the MYP is not a prerequisite. Indeed, schools and school districts may not offer both the MYP and Diploma Programme.

Further, because schools and school districts establish their own enrollment criteria for participating in the Diploma Programme, a student's prior involvement with the MYP is not a guarantee of entry into the Diploma Programme.

- ***Can students transfer easily from one Middle Years Programme school to another?***

In terms of continuity, certain aspects of the MYP, such as the areas of interaction, assessment criteria, and the fundamental concepts of the programme will be the same from school to school worldwide. However, since the IBO does not prescribe the content, the actual subject material may vary.

Further, schools may begin their Middle Years Programmes at different grade levels. In some states and provinces, the MYP begins in grade 6 and goes through grade 10; in Québec, for example, it begins in grade 7 and goes through grade 11.

- ***Can students with special needs participate in an IB programme?***

Yes. The IBO has established policies for accommodating students with special needs. A publication detailing these policies is available on the IBO web site at www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm/en/ibo/services/publications (search for keywords 'special assessment needs'). Schools are asked to notify the IBO of participating students whom they have identified as having special needs.

- ***Do Middle Years Programme students have to take IB examinations?***

There are no IB examinations in the Middle Years Programme. Instead, classroom teachers design their own examinations, using a common set of IB-designed assessment criteria to mark the examinations. The classroom teachers' marks are reviewed by a team of specially trained MYP teachers from around the world to ensure that the assessment criteria are applied equally to the work of all MYP students.

- ***Do Middle Years Programme students receive any acknowledgement for their work?***

Depending upon the way the school has implemented its Middle Years Programme, students who complete the programme may receive an IBO certificate of achievement. While the certificate is not considered a diploma or a school-leaving certificate, it is evidence of a student's good preparation for further studies, such as the IB Diploma or other rigorous programmes. It represents significant achievement and takes into account academic as well as non-academic aspects, such as community service and the creation of a personal project.

- ***How can my child enroll in the Middle Years Programme?***

Only those students enrolled in and attending IB-authorized schools are permitted to participate in the Middle Years Programme. Beyond that, the IBO permits each school to establish its own student enrollment policies. Therefore, we encourage you to contact your school's IB MYP coordinator to learn how to enroll your child. You can access a directory of authorized schools from the IBO web site: <http://www.ibo.org>. From the 'Shortcuts' menu, select 'Schools', and then select 'school directory' and enter your search criteria.

- ***How can I get more information about IBO in North America?***

For additional information, or if you have any suggestions or comments about the questions and answers that appear here, please contact the IBNA office in New York (+1-212-696-4464) or Vancouver (+1-604-733-8980, or toll free at +1-866-VAN-IBNA), or by e-mail at ibna@ibo.org.