

# The Middle Years Programme: A guide for teachers



The 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.

IB programmes provide a continuum of international education for students aged from 3 to 19. All IB programmes rely on creative professionalism from teachers and other school leaders. Teachers seek out IB teaching jobs because the flexibility of the MYP framework allows them to be creative and to develop curriculum that they believe helps best prepare students for success in further education and the world beyond the classroom. IB programmes also create and nurture a highly collaborative community in which students are genuinely engaged in learning and teachers work with parents to help students thrive.

## Better for students, easier for teachers, more flexible for schools


Following a three-year review, the MYP has recently undergone a rigorous process of development that builds on the programme's strengths and almost 20 years of global success. The programme is moving forward with a more explicitly concept-driven curriculum

that encourages student-centred teaching and learning through global contexts. Students study 8 subject groups, with a minimum of 50 teaching hours for each subject group every year.

The MYP's innovative curriculum provides:

- flexible approaches that allow teachers to meet local and national curriculum requirements
- rigorous learning objectives and consistent assessment criteria
- opportunities for meaningful interdisciplinary teaching and learning
- emphasis on critical and creative thinking, social and emotional well-being, and learning how to learn
- deep inquiry into human identity and global challenges that explores what it means to be internationally minded
- ongoing discovery of service as action through engagement with local and global communities.

### An example of how teachers plan inquiry in the MYP

|                           |  |                               |                                     |                     |                  |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Teacher(s)                | Subject group and discipline   |                               | Individuals and societies - history |                     |                  |
| Unit title                | The Ice Man cometh: constructing effective historical arguments  | MYP year                      | 5                                   | Unit duration (hrs) | 5 teaching hours |
| Key concept               | Related concept(s)   | Global context                |                                     |                     |                  |
| Time, place and space     | causality and identity   | orientation in space and time |                                     |                     |                  |
| Statement of inquiry      | Historians use evidence and arguments to construct plausible interpretations of ancient people and events.   |                               |                                     |                     |                  |
| Summative assessment task | <b>The Ice Man - what killed him?</b>  |                               |                                     |                     |                  |
| Introduction              | <p>In this project you become a historical detective in collaboration with another student. You will gather evidence through research, create a theory, and support it with organized and relevant evidence in a persuasive presentation using your chosen method of presentation. When you present to persuade, you should always have a definite opinion about the topic! Persuading someone to think the way you do requires careful <u>thinking</u> and <u>planning</u>. You must make your group's position clear to your audience and include facts and reasons that will strongly support your group's opinion. You will have an opportunity at the conclusion of this unit to reflect on your learning independently in a short piece of writing in class.</p> |                               |                                     |                     |                  |
|                           |   |                               |                                     |                     |                  |

## Benefits of the MYP

When a school begins the authorization process, the MYP unites teachers in the pursuit of a common goal. The programme establishes a common language for teaching and learning, promotes effective collaboration and planning, and creates opportunities for powerful conversations about transitions and learning over time.

Self-study, long-term consultation, on-site training and external verification help schools to prepare and assess their readiness for implementation. The result is ongoing professional practice that promotes a dynamic culture of learning and underpins continuous school improvement.

*"The IB provides you with international standards to help you become competitive in a world of work, not just in your own backyard."*

Karin Greeson, MYP Coordinator, Marietta Sixth Grade Academy, Marietta, Georgia, USA

In addition, MYP teachers will find:

- high-quality professional development with workshops led by IB teachers, tailored for new and experienced teachers and expert school leaders (available in multiple formats, including online)
- the opportunity to earn IB educator certificates (the IB certificate in teaching and learning or the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research) or IB leadership certificates (IB certificate in leadership practice or IB advanced certificate in leadership research) for completing an IB-recognized undergraduate or graduate course of study offered by a network of higher education institutions
- access to an extensive online library of teacher support material, including MYP curriculum planners, for more effective and efficient teaching, plus additional resources available through the IB store
- room for career fulfillment through involvement in the IB community by serving as a workshop leader, school visitor, consultant, examiner or curriculum developer
- the opportunity to share and learn from best practices through the online *IB Journal of Teaching Practice* and multiple social media communities
- networking opportunities at the regional conferences of IB World Schools and other events.



### For further information

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!