

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Fact Sheet

Candidacy

After an eight month feasibility study and the support of faculty, board members and parents, CLC was accepted in April 2013 for as a Candidate School* by the International Baccalaureate (IB) organization. The two year period that follows is a time when CLC will implement the framework of the Middle Years Program (MYP) in our 6th through 8th grades and prepare for our application for authorization as an IB World School. At that time, we will join schools from across the globe that are recognized for their commitment to holistic learning, intercultural awareness and communication.

What is IB?

IB is an internationally-recognized framework for teaching and learning that

- addresses students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being
- enables students to understand and manage the complexities of our world, and provides them with the skills and attitudes they need in order to take responsible action for the future
- ensures breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding
- supports students in understanding their own culture and that of others
- provides the opportunity for students to undertake a community project in an area of interest

IB can be implemented globally in Primary Years Programs (preK-5th grade), Middle Years Programs (6th-10th grade), Diploma Programs (11th and 12th grade) and Career-related Certificate Programs (11th and 12th grade). There are over 3,000 IB World Schools internationally at all levels. 487 of these in the United States offer the MYP. Currently there is only one IB World School in Tallahassee (a Diploma Program at Rickards High School). When CLC has completed the authorization process and is accepted, it will become the first and only Middle Years Program in our multi-county region. *A Primary Years Program is not currently being considered for CLC.*

Much like Cornerstone's core virtues, IB seeks to develop characteristics that befit lifelong thinkers. The IB learner profile attributes are supported in all areas of the framework:

IB Learner Profile: *Inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, courageous, balanced and reflective.*

What is the IB MYP curriculum?

The curriculum framework encompasses a broad base of disciplines that are taught a minimum of 50 hours per year. Students explore eight subject areas: language and literature (aka language arts), language acquisition (aka Spanish), science, math, individuals and societies (aka social studies), physical and health education, arts and design. Success in these areas is not limited to the acquisition of subject knowledge; it also includes skills and attitudes that permit students to apply what they've learned to new contexts.

IB MYP is an inclusive program that is designed to meet the needs of all learners. CLC will not change its admission policies which encourage a diverse student body. Additionally, IB promotes learning experiences and service beyond the classroom. The culminating activity for our eighth grade students will be a student-led Community Project.

* Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme or the IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

How are students assessed?

Standards in IB are the same worldwide. Students are assessed using criteria specified for each subject area. Though IB MYP does include external assessments, these are not part of year 1-3 (6th-8th grade) schools. Teachers will use subject-specific criteria to assess progress toward meeting objectives. Assessments will continue to challenge students in the form of projects, demonstrations, papers, written tests and such. You may see additional information appear on report cards in the near future that indicates your child's competence with specific IB objectives, but the nature of assessment will not change substantially.

What can I expect in the IB MYP?

Three fundamental concepts underlie the IB program: intercultural awareness, holistic learning and communication. These concepts transcend the subject area boundaries and make for an interdisciplinary education. Cornerstone has always seen the value of concept-based interdisciplinary learning for our students. A variety of teaching and learning methodologies help students relate their studies to the real-world.

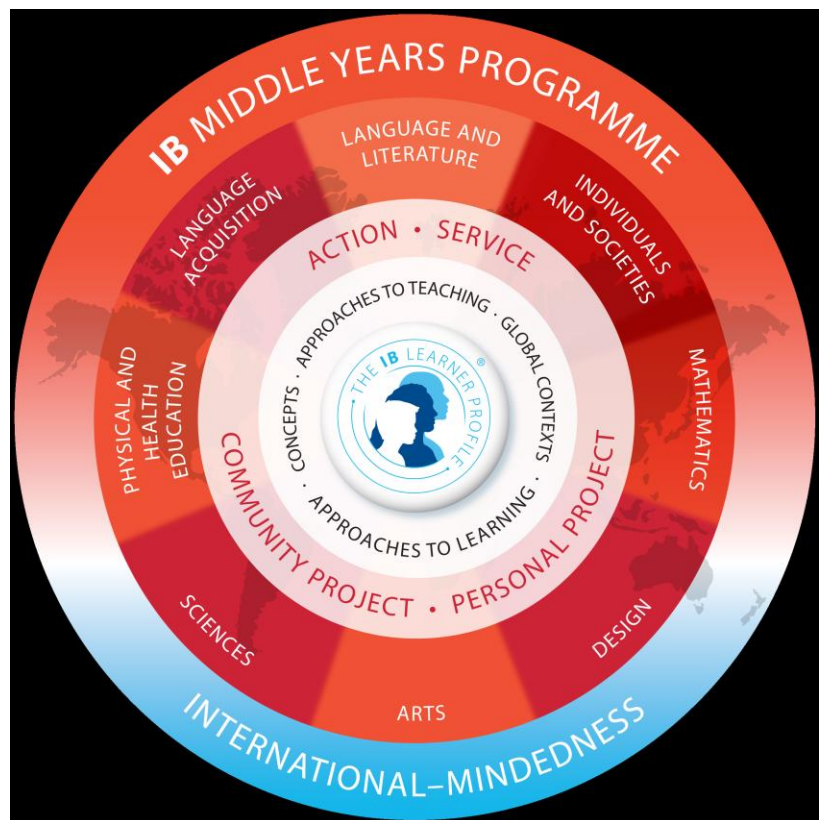
Research studies show that students who have completed MYP programs are more likely to enroll in higher-level math and science classes in high school. They are more globally aware and engaged in critical thinking and real-life issues than their peers at non-IB schools. These students are also have a greater interest in other cultures and a greater sense of civic responsibility.

International Baccalaureate Mission

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.



Questions?

For more information about IB at Cornerstone Learning Community, contact Karen Metcalf, IB Coordinator at 850.386.5550 (kmetcalf@cornerstonelc.com). A wealth of detailed information about IB programs can be found on the IB organization website: IBO.org.