

# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT IB PYP?

First and foremost, MDS is the **ONLY** International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) in Burke County! As an IB PYP school, we strive to develop internationally minded people who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, and help create a better and more peaceful world.

Students are taught **WHY** they should know something and **HOW** it connects to other subjects and the real world. It means students will receive challenging instruction and world wide knowledge "at home".

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE INTERNATIONALLY MINDED?

It is a thoughtful, critical perspective that applies to who we are and what we do. It includes how we communicate, our political awareness, cultural understanding, celebrating diversity, global awareness of global issues, and a reflection on how knowledge is constructed and applied. An internationally minded person demonstrates the attributes of the "IB Learner Profile".

The IB Learner profile represents 10 attributes. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

# AS IB LEARNERS, WE STRIVE TO BE...

#### **INQUIRERS**

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We study how to learn and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

#### **KNOWLEDEABLE**

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

### COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

#### **PRINCIPLED**

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

#### **BALANCED**

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives (intellectual, physical, emotional) to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

#### **OPEN-MINDED**

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

#### **CARING**

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

#### **RISK-TAKERS**

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

#### REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

#### **THINKERS**

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.





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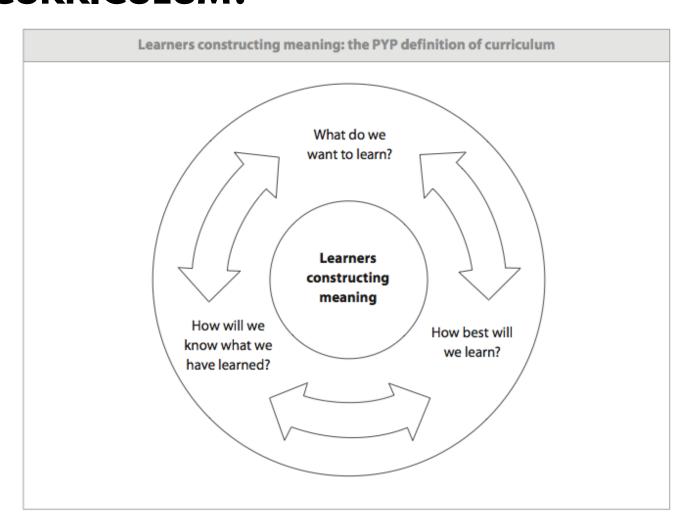
# WHAT IS IN THE CURRICULUM?

The aim of PYP is to create a transdisciplinary curriculum that is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant to the learners.

Transdisciplinary simply describes a discipline that is interconnected and can be applied across all subjects and applied to real life. A transdisciplinary concept stretches across math, science, English, geography, and ties it all together; it is not isolated to one subject.

Within these disciplines, learners construct meaning through three interrelated components following three open-ended questions as shown in the diagram to the right.

This is not a linear cirriculum model that ends with an assessment, rather, its a process that is more finely tuned, whereby all three components are woven together throughout.



# WHAT DO WE WANT TO LEARN?

With the IB PYP, we are committed to structural inquiry as the vehicle for learning. Six transdisciplinary themes provide the framework for exploration and construction of knowledge. Teachers and students are guided by these transdisciplinary themes as they design units of inquiry for exploration and study. Through this process, students develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop particular attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.

This process is a balance between five **ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS** which are as follows:

KNOWLEDGE	CONCEPTS	SKILLS	ATTITUDES	ACTION
Who are we	Form - What is it like?	Social Skills	Appreciation	Reflect
Who we are in place and time	Function - How does it work?	Thinking Skills	Commitment	Choose
How we express ourselves	Causation - Why is it like it is?	Communication Skills	Confidence	Act
How the world works	Change - How is it changing?	Research Skills	Cooperation	(Repeat)
How we organize ourselves	Connection - How is it connected to other things?	Self-Management Skills	Creativity	
Sharing the planet	Perspective - What are the points of view?		Curiosity	
	Responsibility - What is our responsibility?		Empathy	
	Reflection - How do we know?		Enthusiasm	
			Independence	
			Integrity	
			Respect	
			Tolerance	

As an IB PYP school, we feel "to be truly educated, a student must also make connections across the disciplines, discover ways to integrate the separate subjects, and ultimately relate what they learn to life."

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

