

Introduction to IB Primary Years Program (PYP)

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP) for children up to age 12 nurtures and develops young students as caring, active participants in lifelong learning. **PYP is a student-centered approach to education for children aged 3-12.**

The PYP offers an inquiry-based, transdisciplinary curriculum. Transdisciplinary means traditional subjects like math, science, French, etc. are still taught, but students go beyond one single subject when working on inquiry-based projects. The subject areas become integrated; students work across, between, and beyond subject disciplines to explore ideas and communicate real-world implications of their studies.

There are six overarching transdisciplinary themes that give a framework for IB PYP student inquiries. Those themes for every grade are:

- Who We Are
- Where We Are in Place and Time
- How We Express Ourselves
- How the World Works
- How We Organize Ourselves
- Sharing the Planet

PYP students use their initiative to take responsibility and ownership of their learning. Student agency is a central principle of the program, and students work to take actions in their own communities and beyond. Students are encouraged to be “internationally-minded,” to think globally, and becoming bilingual helps fulfill that goal.

The IB Learner profile encourages students to develop the following IB Learner traits:

Inquirers	Open-Minded
Knowledgeable	Caring
Thinkers	Risk Takers
Communicators	Balanced
Principled	Reflective

The PYP is fun for students because they develop inquiries based partly on their own interests. In addition, PYP has a great record of learning outcomes. For example, according to the IB website:

- PYP students outperformed non-IB students in mathematics, reading and writing in a global International Schools’ Assessment study that ran from 2009-2011.
- New research in 2020 shows positive impacts of the PYP to school climate.