

International Baccalaureate
Middle Years Program
(IB MYP)



*Guide for the Robinson
Community*

Robinson Secondary School

From the Coordinator

I am very excited to be part of the implementation of this program to Robinson. IB MYP embraces the following 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.”*

IB MYP is designed to create internationally minded learners in grades 7-10 who exemplify the traits listed in the IB learner profile (see p. 4). MYP strategies and language will be included in all honors, standard level and special education classes.

I hope you find this a useful guide to better understand the IB MYP. As this program unfolds in our school, additional information will be available on the Robinson website.

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What is the IB MYP?

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) is an internationally acknowledged course of study designed to meet the educational needs of students between 11 and 16 years of age. It provides rigorous academic challenges and life skills appropriate to adolescents. The IB MYP is authorized independently which gives each school flexibility in determining what the program will look like for its community. IB MYP trained teachers will use this model to deliver Fairfax County Public Schools' Program of Studies aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning. The IB MYP framework and required accountability measures are designed to ensure fidelity to the IB mission and goals.

The program:

- encourages **international-mindedness** in students, starting with a foundation in their own language and culture.
- places a premium on **holistic interdisciplinary learning**.
- encourages a **positive attitude toward learning** by challenging students to solve problems, show creativity, resourcefulness, and participate actively in their communities.
- reflects **real life** by providing a framework that allows students to see connections among subjects, and between the subjects and real issues.
- supports the development of **communication skills** to encourage inquiry, understanding, language acquisition, and to allow student reflection and expression.
- emphasizes, through the **IB Learner Profile**, the development of the whole student—physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically.

As we implement this program at Robinson, we will continue to adapt and refine it to meet the needs of all learners.

The IB MYP Student and the Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

INQUIRERS

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

KNOWLEDGEABLE

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.

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.

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.

RISK-TAKERS (COURAGEOUS)

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.

PRINCIPLED

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

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.

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.

BALANCED

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

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.



IB Middle Years Program and IB Diploma Program

The IB MYP and the IB Diploma Program (DP) are part of a continuum of education which incorporates the best practices in teaching. Unlike the IB MYP, IB DP classes come with an internationally prescribed curriculum which includes internal and external assessments. Once MYP is fully implemented at Robinson, the FCPS IB MYP certificate will be available to complement the IB Diploma. Although all classes for all students will use the MYP framework, students are not required to complete the IB MYP Certificate in order to be enrolled in IB Diploma courses. With the addition of the Middle Years Program, a wider range of students will develop the skills and experiences to participate successfully in our most challenging and rigorous courses as juniors and seniors. For more information about the IB Diploma program, please refer to Robinson's website.

MYP Subjects

The IB MYP has a core composed of eight subjects. Once fully implemented, each student in the IB MYP is expected to have access to all subjects each year (all 8 subjects for grades 7 & 8; at least 6 subjects in grades 9 & 10). The programs and standards of those subjects will be met in a variety of ways. Robinson will continue to work to provide options to support all learners. The IB MYP subjects are:

- Arts (Fine and Performing)
- Design
- Health & Physical Education
- Individuals & Societies
- Language Acquisition (World Languages)
- Language and Literature (English)
- Sciences
- Mathematics

At Robinson, we are committed to offering a range of world languages beginning in 7th grade. Since the 2013-2014 school year, this has included Spanish, German, French, Chinese, and Latin.

The IB MYP is an instructional model with a curricular framework that does not change the FCPS curriculum. The IB MYP focuses on learning conceptually. Since implementation began, teachers of students in grades 7-10 have participated in IB MYP training and professional development activities. This allows the IB MYP model to be used in honors, special education, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and standard education classes.

Current Focus

In April 2013, Robinson began the process to become an authorized MYP school. Throughout the “candidacy phase,” collaborative teams and individual teachers in all disciplines have been trained. As teachers are introduced to the MYP framework, the IB learner profile will drive instructional practices. Students will be exposed to MYP strategies which encourage international mindedness and increased opportunities for inquiry, critical thinking, and reflection. Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, the school will apply for full authorization of the IB MYP program and will host a verification visit from IB professionals.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why IB MYP now?

At Robinson, we are always striving to provide the best education available. IB MYP will increase our ability to prepare today’s students for a world and job market which is changing more rapidly than ever. IB MYP emphasizes inquiry, understanding, and reflection. Students develop proficiency in a second language and explore other forms of expression. The fine and performing arts provide mediums for students to communicate across time, space and cultures. In addition, students will develop skills that will also prepare, complement, and encourage participation in IB Diploma Program classes.

Who will take IB MYP classes?

All students in grades 7-10 will be taught in classes embracing the IB MYP philosophy. MYP is a framework which includes the flexibility to meet the needs of all learners. Honors, standard and special education students will continue to receive a differentiated curriculum consistent with the Fairfax County Program of Study (POS) and the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).

How is AP different from IB?

The AP program focuses on a mastery of a specific body of knowledge. The IB program focuses on the development of skills and knowledge needed to analyze and apply information. With this holistic approach, IB also incorporates international mindedness and ongoing reflection, further enabling students to better understand what and how they learn.

How is IB Diploma Program different from IB Middle Years Program?

See Page 5



Future Focus

What do IB MYP classes look like?

While many of the following characteristics are evident in Robinson classrooms now, our teachers continue collaborating to increase the following in all classrooms:

- Inquiry based student-centered learning
- Evidence of guiding questions posted in classrooms
- Opportunities to practice critical and creative thinking
- Instruction inspired by real world problem solving
- Interdisciplinary focus
- Connections to the IB learner profile

Goals for 2017-2018

- Expand the use of IB MYP criteria to assess students multiple times each year in all subject areas.
- Increase the number of MYP units within each subject area and the number of interdisciplinary units in each of the MYP years (grades 7-10).
- Continue offering professional development to teachers and supporting their collaboration within and across disciplines.
- Expand the number of service learning opportunities offered to students as part of their regular curriculum across the subject areas and across the MYP years.
- Successfully implement a pilot of the IB MYP Personal Project for a self-selected group of Year 5 (Grade 10) students with the plan of expanding the project to include all Year 5 students in 2018-2019.

We are delighted to introduce this program to Robinson students. Please don't hesitate to contact MYP Coordinator Chris DelGrosso (see contact information on pg. 8) for further information.

Additional Information

Helpful websites:

www.ibo.org

- IB organization website includes information on the IB MYP and the IB Diploma, university recognition policies, curriculum materials, and many supporting documents.

www.ibmidatlantic.org

- Regional organization of IB schools that includes links to other IB schools and programs.

www.fcps.edu/RobinsonSS/

- Robinson Secondary home page includes information about the Diploma program, as well as course catalogs for the high school and middle school.

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