

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE at UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

University School is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) and currently pursuing authorization as an IB World School.

The International Baccalaureate program features a global education that combines inquiry (asking big and small questions and learning how to find answers), critical thinking (constructing new meaning from research), and taking action to make a difference.

An IB education is about students “owning” their learning. Our students are asking questions, learning how to find the answers to those questions, and applying it to their lives and to the world around them ... to be internationally minded with a passion for life-long learning.



What does the PYP look like at University School?

During the past year, our teachers have been working hard to view their content areas through a new lens. We are committed to structured inquiry as a vehicle for learning. The six transdisciplinary themes provide a framework for the exploration and construction of knowledge. These themes guide teachers as they design units of inquiry for exploration and study. “Transdisciplinary” means that units will stretch across subject areas, incorporating social studies, science, math, language arts and PE, art, music and library whenever possible.

Global themes are a hallmark of an IB education, and a worldwide view will permeate our units. Additionally, action based on new knowledge is encouraged.

Through this process, students develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop useful attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.

Units of inquiry

A unit of Inquiry lasts approximately six weeks and the objective is to cover all six themes throughout the year in grades K—6. The emphasis is on using a wide variety of resources to build knowledge, develop understanding and explore ways of applying that to real life. The units are a collaborative effort of classroom teachers, special area teachers, our IB coordinator/librarian.

How can parents can support the program at home?

- ◆ Encourage curiosity and questioning
- ◆ Help your child to figure out ways to gain information and solve problems.
- ◆ Be aware of which unit is currently being taught in the classroom and ask questions of your child.
- ◆ Share your reasoning when you make a decision
- ◆ Incorporate the language of the Learner Profiles and attitudes

If you'd like to know more about the IB Primary Years Programme, see:

<http://www.ibo.org/en/programmes/primary-years-programme/>

Mary D'Eliso

Librarian / IB coordinator

Our IB PYP curriculum framework

KNOWLEDGE:

What we want students to know

Units are organized under six transdisciplinary themes:

1. Who We Are
2. Where We Are in Place and Time
3. How We Express Ourselves
4. How the World Works
5. How We Organize Ourselves
6. Sharing the Planet

KEY CONCEPTS:

What we want students to understand

Form – *What is it like?*

Function – *How does it work?*

Causation – *Why is it like it is?*

Connection – *How is it connected to other things?*

Change – *How is it changing?*

Perspective – *What are the points of view?*

Responsibility – *What is our responsibility?*

Reflection – *How do we know?*

LEARNER PROFILES:

This is where the IB begins. How do learners learn? Through teaching and modelling the "Learner Profile" we aim for our students to become positive and productive citizens of the world who strive to be:

Inquirers	Open-minded
Knowledgeable	Caring
Thinkers	Risk-takers
Communicators	Balanced
Principled	Reflective

APPROACHES TO LEARNING:

What we want students to do

These are a set of skills that students develop as they are "learning to learn." They are:

- thinking skills
- research skills
- communication skills
- self-management skills
- social skills

ACTION:

Evidence of Learning

As teachers plan units that are significant, challenging, relevant and engaging, action is the demonstration of that learning.

Our students are encouraged to reflect, to make informed choices and to take actions that will help their school and wider community. This presents an opportunity to demonstrate a deeper sense of learning and application of knowledge.

ATTITUDES:

How we want to be

These help to develop the attributes of the Learner Profile. By providing a common language they promote individual and group well-being. They are:

Appreciation	Cooperation	Independence
Creativity	Curiosity	Integrity
Commitment	Empathy	Respect
Confidence	Enthusiasm	Tolerance