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### Newsflash! MYP Students Say They Like School!

If you have read up on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) and are thinking to yourself, “still sounds boring to me,” get this. Real MYP students in grades 6 through 8 have rated their school experience, and they sound anything but bored. Among those surveyed, 80% said they like middle school and 78% said they enjoy the way the MYP shows them connections between school and the real world.

The same students rated field trips, hands-on projects, experiments and using computers as the top activities that make learning interesting and fun. MYP students are in luck — all of these activities go hand-in-hand with traditional classroom learning under the IB teaching model. Following are two examples of fun MYP class projects that students have already done. Your class might do something completely different, but just as interesting. In some cases, the students even get to choose the project they will do.

### Whipping Up a Fun Way to Learn

Students in Lisa Krol’s sixth grade class liked their “Around The World” class topic so much, they didn’t want it to end. In fact, the Northside Blodgett students were so excited about what they were learning, they went to the teacher and asked if they could continue studying cultures from around the world and do a special project with a folk feast as its grand finale. The only thing standing between the students and their dream of putting on the feast was money. How could a bunch of sixth-graders come up with the kind of cash needed to throw a dinner for their parents and the other students at the school? These resourceful kids made a budget and pitched it to the District IB Coordinator. She was so impressed, she gave them a budget to work with and they were off and running.

To relate their learning across English, Math, Science and Humanities, the students read and wrote folk tales, tracked their project budget, calculated climate readings for the designated countries and researched about the food and traditions of the countries. They even studied recipes,

created shopping lists, bought the ingredients at Wegmans and cooked all the food.

*This example shows how much fun learning can be for students when they get the chance to step back from their desks and use their own brainpower and creativity to dive into a subject.*

In a reflection paper about the project, sixth-grader Nolan Dilorio wrote, “The Folk Feast helped me learn that responsibility is important in life. Without it, most things would never happen—like men on Moon or discovering the Earth is not flat—which also took perseverance. Having done this project, I have learned lots of lessons I will need in the real world.”

### Digging Up the Dirt on Archaeology

Pam Lally’s class at Northside Blodgett got down and dirty while learning about Archaeology. Students studied the scientific process of an excavation, had a visit from a local archaeologist, performed a dig in the classroom and visited the Paleontology Museum in Ithaca. At the end of the class unit, each student compiled a portfolio including work from computer web pages, reflection on and pictures of their classroom dig, and thoughts about their trip to the museum. Through it all, they gave a lot of thought to how studying the past helps us in the present and other interesting questions that showed them how all the pieces of History, Math, Science and Humanities fit together. *And they got to go on that cool field trip, too.*

### Fun Facts about C-PP Middle School Students

#### What are their favorite classes?

- #1 - Phys Ed
- #2 - Art
- #3 - Math & Science tied

#### What are their learning styles?

- #1 - Doing a project with my hands
- #2 - Reading or watching a demonstration
- #3 - Listening to a teacher explain

#### What makes for a positive school experience?

- #1 - Good, helpful teachers
- #2 - Preparing for college
- #3 - Balance between school and other activities

#### Is school challenging?

52% say it isn't

#### Is school too easy?

37% say it is



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