

# IB Educating for Excellence.

Information for 5th & 6th Grade Students

## The IB Middle Years Program Makes School Fun and Interesting

*With the MYP, you will have more chances to work in teams, conduct experiments, create PowerPoint® presentations and do your own research online or at the library.*



### Excellent, Time-flying School Days Brought to You by IB

Since about, oh, maybe the beginning of time, kids have been complaining that school is boring. Adults are starting to get the picture that students don't want to sit at a desk all day and hear someone speak about one topic after the next. (About time, huh?) Principals and teachers know that kids will learn better if they feel more excited about the lessons. That is why our school district leaders have chosen the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program as the District's new way to teach in grades six through ten. We call this the MYP program for short.

Your basic subjects – English, Math, Science and Social Studies – are still the same for the most part, but IB training helps teachers come up with new ways to make lessons come alive for you and your fellow students through interesting and fun proj-

ects. With the MYP, you will have more chances to work in teams, conduct experiments, create PowerPoint® presentations and do your own research online or at the library. Some classes have even organized their own charity project or school festival. The possibilities are endless and, sometimes, your class will have a strong say in the topic and nature of the project you will tackle as a group.

MYP students still do regular class work each day, but these extra activities make learning a lot more interesting. You and your classmates will begin to notice how Math, Science, English and Social Studies fit together and how what you learn in school can be used in “real life.” What's more, working on projects is a great way for you to find out what you're interested in and to use your brainpower to figure out the answers to your own questions. In the MYP, kids get to strut out their best skills

while studying topics of interest in a fun way. And, in even better news, students learn more, bring home better grades, get higher test scores and have a no-kidding shot at getting into their dream college someday. *When the dismissal bell rings, you won't believe how fast the day went – we promise!*

### Excellent “A-ha” Moments Brought to You by IB

All young people in grades six through ten are at an important stage in growing up. It's a time when you have a lot of questions and are trying hard to understand the ways of the world. Also, most of you are trying to decide what you believe in, and you're working hard to make friends and get along with your family. Principals and teachers know that you have all of these things on your mind at the same time you're trying to concentrate on school - it's not always easy!

One of the best things about the MYP program is that the subjects are organized around five topics that inspire students to think about themselves and their health, other people, their own community and culture, the environment, and other countries and cultures — things you are thinking

*(Continued on reverse)*

### Top Five Activities that Make School Fun for C-PP Middle School Students

*In March of 2006, the Corning-Painted Post Area School District asked its students in grades 6 through 8 what made classes interesting and fun. Here are the top five things they said make school fun for them:*

- Number 5 - Working in groups
- Number 4 - Using computers
- Number 3 - Making something with my hands
- Number 2 - Doing experiments
- And the Number 1 thing C-PP students think is fun?  
GOING ON A FIELD TRIP!

Incidentally, the same kids unanimously voted for “doing the same thing every day” as the number one thing that makes classes boring. Imagine that!



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*Like the set on a TV show, AOI create the scene for everything else that is going on.*

about anyway. Teachers use a really stuffy name for this part of the MYP, but it's really not as scary as it might sound. They call it "Areas of Interaction." Students can think of it as AOI (not to be confused with AOL)! There are five AOI and you will hear and think about them all the time. BUT — here's the interesting part — you will never have a class in any one of them. AOI are just sort of "out there" — a part of every class but not the focus of any one class. Like the set on a TV show, AOI create the scene for everything else that is going on. They help teachers make the lessons come alive for you so it is easier for you to "get it." Here is a study aid on the five AOI and what they help students think about:

#### *Approaches to Learning:*

How do I learn best? How do I know? How do I communicate what I have learned?

#### *Community and Service:*

How do people around the world live in relation to each other? How can I make a difference in my community? How can I help others?

#### *Homo Faber (Man the Maker):*

Why and how do we create — art, architecture, science, industry, technology? What happens to the world around us when we create something new?

#### *Environment:*

Where do we live? What does nature give us? What are my responsibilities?

#### *Health & Social Education:*

How do I think and act? How am I changing? How can I look after myself and others?

It's easy to see how looking at subject lessons through these "lenses" can help you to understand what your teachers are teaching just a little bit better. Imagine the following Science class:

*The class is learning about the earth's atmosphere, weather and global warming. The teacher weaves in questions to help students consider how human actions impact the environment, how the environment can affect human health, what responsibilities*

*humans have to take care of natural resources and so on. The class decides to figure out how much or how little people in their community recycle and also to learn what would help people recycle more. By asking some of their neighbors to fill out a survey and analyzing the answers, students gather that people recycle less than they could because recycling is inconvenient and confusing in their town. The class presents its survey results to the local government and soon, every household in the community is outfitted with collection containers that make it easier for citizens to sort their recyclables for pick-up.*

Instead of studying a textbook chart of cloud types and hoping to remember them on test day, students in this pretend Science class have mastered the details of the lesson by seeing them in the broader setting of their own life and their own community. They have investigated their topic and analyzed their results. They have taken action to improve the environment by making a strong case for change based in research.

When lessons come alive in this way, students catch on to concepts more easily and understand them more deeply. What's more, the "Approaches To Learning" help young people discover how they learn best and teaches them skills to make the most of school. This is the MYP way, and wait till you see how often you find yourself saying "A-ha!"

### What Students Say About the IB Middle Years Program

*In March of 2006, the Coming-Painted Post Area School District asked its students in grades 6 through 8 what they would tell other kids about the MYP. Here are some of their answers:*

"It is a program to try to have students do great in school."

"I'd say it is not as hard as you would think. All it is, is trying to get you to become a well-rounded person and to get the best out of school."

"I would say IB MYP is a program that helps relate classes to other classes and the outside world."

"The MYP is all about kids in middle school being more 'hands on' and having more educational experiences. It's so we can learn in different ways."

"I would say that it makes us think more, therefore our classes can change yet it doesn't necessarily make things harder."



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