Our Courses

Students will study all eight of the following subjects each year:

- Language and Literature (Language Arts)
- Individuals and Societies (Social Studies)
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Physical and Health Education (PE)
  
  Course offerings include athletics and dance
- Language Acquisition
  
  Course offerings include Spanish, Spanish for Native Speakers, French, Mandarin Chinese.
Students in select courses may earn high school credit and A-G eligibility.
- Arts (Visual and Performing Arts)
  
  Course offerings include Band, Drama, Show Choir, Art, Digital Photography
- Design
  
  Course offerings include Computers, AVID, STEAM, ASB, Yearbook

Vista Heights Middle School is a candidate school* for the Middle Years Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Vista Heights Middle School believes is important for our students.

*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit http://www.ibo.org

For more information, please contact:

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What is the IB MYP?

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), for students aged 11 to 16, is designed as an inclusive, whole-school programme by the International Baccalaureate (IB), a not-for-profit organization supporting the education of more than 1 million students every year in over 3,900 schools in 147 countries.

At the core of all IB Programmes is the learner profile, 10 attributes fostered in students that promote their development as responsible members of their local, national and global communities. IB learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective.

MYP Requirements

In the MYP, students study 8 subject groups, with a minimum of 50 teaching hours per subject group each year. Distinctive features of the MYP include:

- Key and related concepts are big ideas, which form the basis of teaching and learning in the MYP. They ensure breadth and depth in the curriculum and promote learning within and across traditional disciplines.

- Global contexts provide shared starting points for inquiry into what it means to be internationally minded, framing a curriculum that promotes multilingualism, intercultural understanding and global engagement.

- Approaches to teaching and learning, a unifying thread throughout all MYP subject groups, are skills which help students manage their own learning. They provide a foundation for success in further education and the world beyond the classroom.

- Action and service, essential components of the MYP, set out clear learning outcomes that grow from students’ participation in local and global communities.

Benefits for Students

Parents who want the best possible education for their children choose the MYP because it includes:

- rigorous learning objectives
- a student-centred approach to teaching
- international perspectives
- concern for the whole child
- sustained teaching and learning in more than one language
- a focus on learning how to learn
- the development of flexible thinking that prepares students to evaluate information critically and apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations.

The MYP teaches tools for lifelong learning and fosters responsible attitudes that help students discover how to use what they learn to take principled action. The MYP’s focus on independent learning makes it the ideal preparation for the IB Diploma Programme (DP), which is offered at Canyon Springs High School.

Materials excerpted from “The Middle Years Programme: A Guide for Parents.”

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