

## OVERVIEW

# IB Programme Moves to Intermediate Schools as MYP



## What is the IB Programme for Middle Schools?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme at Oconomowoc High School is a pre-university course of study designed for highly motivated students seeking a challenging and rigorous educational experience, with a unique international cross-curricular focus. This prestigious program is now an option for intermediate school students as well, called the Middle Years Programme (MYP).

The experience is world-renown for helping students think, create and work as a team. That perspective was highlighted recently when a Wisconsin-born mother of four living in Holland e-mailed the District. She knew of the IB Programme in OHS from research on the Web, but wanted to know if MYP was also offered. She was considering a move to the area and preferred to re-locate to a District that offered MYP.

## Where is the District at in the application process?

So far, the MYP Application A has been submitted. Work with an IB consultant was completed during the 2008-09 school year. Grade Level meetings will continue during School Improvement Times to outline the MYP philosophy and answer "How will this impact student learning in my classroom?"

Also during the last school year, teacher professional development was offered, focusing on:

- Teacher Training
- Student Activities
- Curriculum Documentation

## How will MYP impact Oconomowoc Students?

- Develop lifelong learners
- Provide students with the skills needed to adapt to a changing world
- Create an awareness of global issues and the willingness to act responsibly
- Promote skills that enable students to engage in effective communication

## Why MYP?

Without a doubt, OASD has school policies and staff practices in place that embody many of components of the Middle Years Programme. But MYP is the compilation of all of these practices with the assurance that they are occurring in every classroom on a consistent basis. Teacher support and training are fully supported in this approach to teaching.

Even before MYP began, good teaching practice has always been about giving students a context for learning. MYP provides direction for the context. The contexts are community, service, health, social, environment and human ingenuity.

## What is next in the MYP process?

During the current school year, these steps will be taken:

- Teacher Professional Development in MYP Philosophy, Objectives, and Assessment
- Development of appropriate curriculum documentation in the MYP subject groups
- Teacher Leader training at MYP conferences
- All staff training during professional development times
- Preparation of Application B for submission June 1, 2010
- MYP consultation visit by IBO regional officers

Ellyn Helberg, principal at Silver Lake Intermediate School, noted, "My role as a school leader is to ensure learning for all students that is supportive of globally competent citizens. This is achieved through supporting a focus on knowledge, skills, and perspectives that prepare our students for the future."

"We are creating a learning environment where we ask students to go beyond knowing information to accessing it," noted Nature Hill Intermediate School Principal, Ron Russ. "We do not transmit learning; we support the construction of it. We are moving from external evaluation systems to a balance approach that relies on self assessment."

## Oconomowoc Area School District

W360 N7077 Brown Street  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
Ph: 262.560.1115  
[www.oasd.k12.wi.us](http://www.oasd.k12.wi.us)