
IBMYP Newsletter January 2017

North Atlanta High School IB MYP

North Atlanta High School

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Dear IBMYP Community,

Thank you for taking the time to read the fifth edition of the 2016-2017 IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) newsletter. I hope that you find this newsletter informative! My goal is to improve the understanding of the IB MYP as we continue to implement the International Baccalaureate Programme here at North Atlanta High School.

Why is concept- based learning so important today? 21st century students have the ability to search or “google” anything from the internet. Therefore, we must help students to understand how to gather information and how to critically evaluate information. In other words, students need to build their intellect- their ability to reason, understand, and draw conclusions about what is true or real. Concept-based learning moves students from just memorizing facts and skills to understanding concepts or “big ideas” in order to build intellect.

Thank you,

Dr. Nikia Showers
IB MYP and Personal Project Coordinator

IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. The 10 attributes are **Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective.**

The Learner Profile Attribute of the Month is **Open-Minded.** We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Email submissions to Dr. Showers at nikia.showers@atlanta.k12.ga.us



C. Douglass, Principal
R. Whitman, Assistant Principal
M. Kaltman, Assistant Principal—9th
Y. Williams, Assistant Principal—10th
Dr. A. Mitchell, Assistant Principal—11th
J. Stewart, Assistant Principal—12th
Dr. N. Showers, IBMYP and Personal Project Coordinator

Upcoming Events

January 1

International Year for Sustainable Tourism for All

January 4

First Day of 2nd semester

January 4-31

Creating Product and Writing Paper-
Personal Project

January 16

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(observed)- school closed



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Teaching and Learning

IB Spotlight on Inquiry: Concept-based Learning

According to IB, **conceptual understanding** is a significant and enduring goal for teaching and learning in all programmes. IB values education more as the transformation of personal understanding and the collaborative construction of meaning, and less as the transmission of knowledge and rote memorization.

Instead of focusing on just facts and skills, students who engage in learning experiences concerning **concepts** or “big ideas” are able to demonstrate deeper levels of thinking. **Concepts** are used to formulate the understanding that students should retain in the future; they become principles and generalizations that students can use to understand the world and to succeed in further study and in life beyond school.

The MYP programme uses two kinds of concepts: **Key and Related**. The **key concepts** are **broad, organizing, powerful ideas** that have relevance within and across subject areas and disciplines, and **related concepts** allow for **more detailed exploration** of a key concept in specific subject area. In other words, the key concept represents the breadth and the related concept represents the depth in the MYP programme. The IB prescribes 16 key concepts listed below:

Aesthetics	Change	Communication	Communities
Connections	Creativity	Culture	Development
Form	Global Interactions	Identity	Logic
Perspective	Relationships	Systems	Time, place and space

Related concepts are found in each MYP subject- area guide. For each unit, teachers should identify 1 **key concept** and 1-2 **related concepts** that extends learning, leads to deeper understanding, and offers another perspective from which to understand the identified key concept. The meaningful and worthwhile, complex relationship between the related and key concepts and the global context is the **Statement of Inquiry**. According to Erickson and Marzano, “the statement of inquiry facilitates synergistic thinking, synthesizing factual and conceptual levels of mental processing and creating a greater impact on cognitive development than either level of thinking by itself.”

A few reasons **concept-based** model is used in the MYP is because it encourages students **to process factual knowledge at a deeper intellectual level** as students relate facts to concepts and essential conceptual understandings. The interplay or “synergy” between facts and concepts provides **greater retention of factual knowledge and requires deeper mental processing**. This model also encourages students to achieve **higher levels of critical, creative, and conceptual thinking** as they analyze complex global challenges and create greater subject depth through the study of discipline- specific related concepts.

Global Awareness- January

The internationally-minded IB student is a critical and creative thinker. They engage in global ideas and issues with humanity and compassion. The world can be unpredictable and challenging at times, but the IB student can break down problems and make ethical, reasoned and balanced arguments based continual development.-- *ibo.org*. For the month of January, engage in global based activities to better understand the world around us.

Reflection/Inquiry Question

How do culture and values influence the creation of a sustainable society?

How does tourism affect the three pillars of sustainability- economic, social, and environmental?

How does international tourism foster a better understanding among people of differing backgrounds, cultures, and values?

How do social and cultural understanding contribute to the strengthening of world peace?

Know

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNTWO) works in six main areas- competitiveness, sustainability, poverty reduction, capacity building, partnerships, and mainstreaming- achieve responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism.

Think/Communicate

Think about tourist who visit Atlanta, GA. Make list of the ways Atlanta benefits from tourist from around the world. Now think of a developing country and determine how tourism would strengthen their economy and bring awareness to their culture and heritage.

Did You Know...?

