

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**  
**MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (IB MYP)**  
**AT**  
**BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL**

*INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM (IB MYP OR MYP)*

*What is MYP at BCC?*

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) at BBC are the last two of the five total years of the MYP which began at Westland Middle School in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. (Chevy Chase Elementary and North Chevy Chase Elementary integrate the MYP in their respective 6<sup>th</sup> grades.) MYP is designed to encourage students to become independent learners who can discover the relationships between school subjects and the world. The IB MYP emphasizes the study of traditional subject groups: English (language and literature), a foreign language (language acquisition), social studies (individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, arts, technology, and physical and health education, as dynamic conceptual tools (such as the atomic theory of matter)), constructed by experts with the purpose of helping students make sense of the natural, social and cultural worlds around them. Emphasis is on written and oral communication, international-mindedness. Furthermore, the IB Middle Years Programme is designed to prepare students who chose to take the IB Diploma Program or the IB Certificate Program.

*Is the IB Middle Years Programme optional?*

Everyone who attends B-CC is in the IB MYP for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade; you don't opt in or opt out. The IB MYP provides a curriculum framework which incorporates the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) curriculum and all state mandates. There are additional areas of focus in the IB MYP such as writing, community service, and global perspectives. Those students who continue to B-CC from Westland Middle School remain active participants in the IB MYP.

*What is the MYP Certificate? What are the requirements? Does it matter?*

Sophomores at B-CC who complete the MYP requirements including: 15 hours of community services in 9<sup>th</sup> grade; 15 hours of community service in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and completion of the personal project will receive 0.5 elective course credits and an IB MYP Certificate. The elective credit as

well as the awarding of the Certificate is noted in the transcript sent by B-CC to colleges. The personal project and community service hours must be completed to receive the Certificate.

*Is the community service separate from the required Student Service Learning (SSL) hours that Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) students must complete?*

Community service hours and MCPS SSL hours are synonymous during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Community service hours must be completed at a SSL approved partner or site and the hours completed count for both the MCPS SSL as well as the IB MYP community service hours. It is NOT necessary to complete the 25 total hours for the MYP certificate over and above the MCPS required 75 hours of SSL. The hours however MUST be completed in the respective years – 15 hours in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 10 hours in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

*So what is different in the classroom of an IB MYP school versus a non-IB school?*

The essential focus of the program is to understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world thus helping our students become critical and reflective thinkers. Holistic learning, intercultural awareness and communication are integral to the program. Teachers are responsible for structuring varied and authentic assessment task that allow students to demonstrate achievement according to the required objectives within each subject group. These may include: open-ended, problem-solving activities and investigations, organized debates, hands-on experimentation, analysis, reflection. Assessment strategies, both quantitative and qualitative, provide feedback on the thinking processes as well as the finished piece of work.

*What are the MYP learner profiles?*

The IB Learner Profile is a set of ideals that inspire, motivate and focus the work of B-CC teachers. The IB MYP Learner Profile attributes are: inquires, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

*Do all students at B-CC need to complete the MYP personal project in their sophomore (10<sup>th</sup> grade) year?*

To receive the IB MYP Certificate at the end of year 5 acknowledging the student's participation in IB MYP, a B-CC sophomore should complete the personal project. The personal project has a central place in the MYP and, as such, must be part of every MYP student's experience. The personal project is a culminating activity through which students present, in a truly personal way,

their understanding of themes, concepts and issues related to global contexts. The students' experience of approaches to learning prepares them gradually for working independently (and under the supervision of a faculty advisor) to leading a project over an extended period of time (typically 4-6 months).

Students have an opportunity to choose a project that allows them to explore a topic of interest to them, and to present it in a way that reflects their learning style. Sophomores submit projects in the spring when they are then put on display for parents and other students to view.

The personal project offers an invaluable experience that will help students with their academic careers and lives. It is an independent project outside of regular school activities which the students work on independently. Students who successfully complete the personal project and the other MYP requirements receive a half (0.5) elective credit on their transcript, identified as MYP Seminar, and a Certificate of Completion of the MYP. Students who enter B-CC their sophomore year will be awarded the IB MYP Certificate if they complete the personal project and fulfill the other requirements for sophomore year as outlined above.