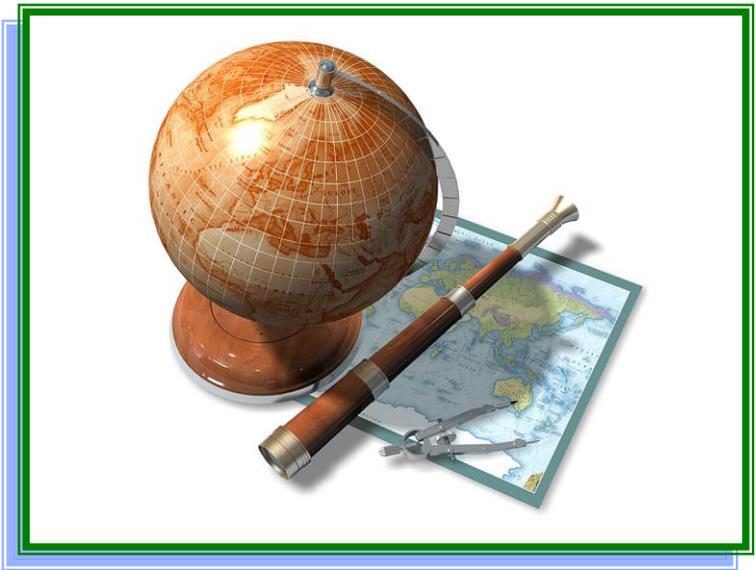


Silver Spring International Middle School



Guide to the Middle Years Programme

"Great Expectations, Great Successes"

Vision

Silver Spring International Middle School inspires and empowers internationally minded life-long learners by acknowledging their common humanity as they become leaders in the global society.

Mission

Silver Spring International Middle School provides rigorous instruction, fosters a collaborative teaching and learning environment, and creates a safe, nurturing school climate that celebrates cultural diversity.

The Eight MYP Subject Groups

In recent years, the IB Middle Years Programme has been reviewed and revised to better address the needs of the 21st century learner. As a part of this renewal process, some of the eight subject groups that comprise the MYP have been renamed to better describe their focus and content. The subject areas are now presented as:

- **Language and Literature**—which uses inquiry to guide students to explore and expand their skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting in English, our school’s main language of instruction.
- **Language Acquisition**—provides students the means to investigate the relationship between language and culture through the process of gaining fluency and literacy in a second language.
- **Arts**—encourages students to attain or expand skills that enhance their abilities to communicate across cultural and linguistic boundaries.
- **Individuals and Societies**—invites students to move beyond the traditional limits of the social studies to gather data, formulate and explore theories, and enter into structured discourse about the nature of human constructs—past, present, and possibly, future.
- **Science**—encourages students to work independently and as collaborators to examine the authentic issues confronting the scientific community.
- **Mathematics**—students employ inquiry skills to apply the principles of mathematics to solve problems in a real world setting.
- **Physical and Health Education**—focuses on learning through movement while exploring the consequences of the lifestyle choices we make throughout our lives
- **Design**—provides problem analysis and solving skills that students employ in cross- and/or multi-disciplinary environments.

The Power of Ideas

Teaching and learning in the IB Middle Years Programme is grounded in the promotion of **conceptual understanding**. Teachers develop units of learning within the IB framework of inquiry that are linked to universal cross-curricular ideas

identified as **key concepts** and subject-specific **related concepts**. The six MYP **Global Contexts** help students to understand the significance of the concepts outside of the classroom. They provide students a lens through which they can view lessons and connect them to real world issues. The MYP Global Contexts are:

ORIENTATION IN SPACE AND TIME...

- personal histories;
- our homes and journeys;
- turning points in humankind;
- Discoveries: the relationships between, and the interconnectedness of, individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives



IDENTITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS...

- the nature of the self;
- beliefs and values;
- personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health;
- human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures;
- what it means to be human.



PERSONAL & CULTURAL EXPRESSION...

- ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values;
- the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity;



GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY ...

- the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities;
- the structure and function of organizations;
- societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.



SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INNOVATION ...

- the natural world and its laws;
- the interaction between the natural world and human societies;
- how humans use their understanding of scientific principles;
- the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment;
- the impact of the environment on human activity



FAIRNESS AND DEVELOPMENT ...

- rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things;
- communities and the relationships within and between them;
- access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.



Approaches to Learning

The role of Approaches to Learning as a fundamental element of MYP was expanded as MYP was revised. MYP has always maintained that student self-knowledge and reflection provide the basis for student involvement in taking an active role in their own academic and social/emotional growth. Students are taught to focus on specific skill groups, including social, thinking, research, communication and self-management, self-monitoring their own growth in each area with the goal of enhancing their ability to know and maximize how they learn.

At each grade level, teachers have identified goals for each skill set which they integrate into their unit planning.

Scheduling

Many factors influence the finalization of the master schedule of classes, including student enrollment, staffing allocations, and the need to balance student preferences with the required course of studies. Seven of the programme's eight disciplines are taught independently. To meet the MYP fifty hour minimum, the eighth subject design is made by infusing 25 classroom hours of design each year in science and Individuals and Societies classes. Below is a sampling of scheduling options for grades 6, 7 and 8. Some students may be required to take support classes in reading and English language acquisition which can impact their scheduling options. It is our goal for all students to take Algebra or higher level mathematics classes in Grade 8.



Scheduling

Mathematics

- *Math 6*
- *Investigations in Mathematics*
- *Algebra 1¹*
- *Honors Geometry¹*

Language and Literature

- *Advanced English 6/7/8*
- *Reading 6/7/8*

Sciences

- *Investigations in Science 6/7*
- *Investigations in Earth Space Systems*

Individuals and Societies

- *Advanced World Studies 6/7²*
- *Advanced US History 8²*

Physical and Health Education

- *Physical Education 6/7/8*
- *Health Education 6/7/8*

Language Acquisition¹

- *French/Spanish 1AB, 2AB, 3AB*
- *French/Spanish Immersion 1AB, 2AB, 3AB*

Arts (Electives):

6th Grade= 4 Qtr Rotation

7th Grade= 2 Semesters

8th Grade= Full year

Rotation/Alternating Arts (Gr 6/7) courses:

- *Theatre/Media*
- *Culinary Arts (FACS)*
- *Visual Art*
- *General Music*

Full Year Options Only:

- *Music*
 - *Band/Orchestra*
 - *Chorus*
- *Lights, Camera Literacy!*
- *Theatre*
- *Dance*
- *Photography*

¹High school credits are awarded for successful completion

²Individuals and Societies is taught to immersion students in French/Spanish

Assessment

The ***Middle Years Programme*** at Silver Spring International Middle School is dedicated to providing a rigorous course of study in all eight required disciplines. Assessment is a key component in the establishment and maintenance of rigorous standards. In accordance with both the International Baccalaureate protocols and the MCPS policy on Grading and Reporting, students are individually evaluated using a variety of scoring tools and rubrics, including written assessments, projects, and oral presentations to determine their degree of mastery of skills and objectives. Scores from MYP assessments are reported each semester in the MYP Progress Report issued in January and June.

Each IB school undergoes a year-long self-assessment process every five years. The responses and supporting documentation are reported to by the International Baccalaureate Organization and reviewed a team prior to a two-day evaluation visit.

The MYP Community “Passion” Project

In their eighth grade year, students are required to complete a collaborative or individual project on a self-selected topic under the supervision of a school-based coach. Students may also recruit as an advisor, an adult from the school or community who is knowledgeable about their topic. Students are required to present their projects to a panel of adults in the spring and later displayed at the showcase in June.

MYP Certificates

MYP assessment scores are tracked for all students in all subjects throughout the three years of the MYP and reported twice yearly to parents through the MYP Progress Report. Scores from all courses the final 8th grade year, including those from the ***MYP Community “Passion” Project*** are tabulated to determine the level of MYP certificate each student earns. Each certificate celebrates the student’s achievement by reporting their level of proficiency in each subject area.

IB Learner Profile

We strive to produce IB learners who are characterized as:

Inquirers—*Acquire the skills necessary to conduct purposeful, constructive research.*

Knowledgeable—*Exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively, to make sound decisions and to solve complex problems.*

Thinkers—*Receive and express ideas and information confidently in more than one language, including the language of mathematical symbols*

Communicators—*Approach unfamiliar situations without anxiety, have confidence and independence, are courageous and articulate in defending things in which they believe.*

Principled—*Have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning, integrity, honesty and a sense of fairness and justice*

Open-minded—*Have spent time in school exploring themes with global relevance and importance, and acquired a critical mass of significant knowledge*

Caring—*Show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others and have a personal commitment to action and service*

Risk-takers—*Respect the views, values and traditions of other individuals and cultures and who are accustomed to seeking and considering a range of points of view*

Balanced—*Understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being*

Reflective—*Give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and who analyze their personal strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner*

For additional information, please call the main office. Ms. Karen Bryant, Principal, Ms. Stella McCuiston, MYP Coordinator, and other staff members are available to assist you.



We are located at
313 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 650-6544 / (301) 562-5244 (fax).



www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ssims

The **International Baccalaureate** web site is an additional source of information on at
www.ibo.org