



Monitoring MYP Assessments

The Silver Spring International Middle School has instituted a policy of submitting assessment samples for monitoring of all eight MYP disciplines on a biennial rotation of four subjects a year. As required to maintain our IB World School authorization status, samples from all subjects are submitted for the evaluation year.

All monitoring samples must be submitted between September 15 and March 15 of the school year. IB-designated assessment moderators respond with written reports detailing the scoring accuracy and the pedagogical appropriateness of each assessment are generated.

MYP Assessment Data Points

Students are assessed at least twice per school year on each MYP criteria for each discipline. Teachers document and report all MYP assessment scores in a centrally maintained data base that allows each students progress to be tracked throughout the three years of the MYP. Data from MYP assessments are



correlated with data from other leading and lagging assessment indicators to measure academic growth of individual students. At the conclusion of the school's program in grade 8 (level 3) MYP assessment scores are tallied to determine each students level of achievement against the MYP Grade Boundaries (minimum total scores for each subject indicating mastery) which are documented on the student's MYP Certificate.

Students in the final year are encouraged to complete a voluntary independent long-term project—affectionately known as a “Passion Project”—on a topic of their own choosing which they present to a panel of staff members for evaluation. Passion projects are scored using the Technology Design Cycle Model assessment criteria, factored into the student's grade boundary, and recorded on the exit certificate.



For more information on the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme visit:

www.ibo.org

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ssims



The Silver Spring International Middle School

MYP ASSESSMENT

Answers to
Frequently Asked Questions

The Silver Spring International Middle School



As a part of the Montgomery County Public School system, *The Silver Spring International Middle School* is required to teach and assess student performance according to the guidelines determined by the local Board of Education in alignment with the Maryland Department of Education's Voluntary State curricula for all subjects. To maintain in good standing it's authorization as an IB World School, The Silver Spring International Middle School is charged with maintaining a level of rigorous education and assessment consistent with the International Baccalaureate standards imposed on all schools throughout the world that offer the *IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)*.



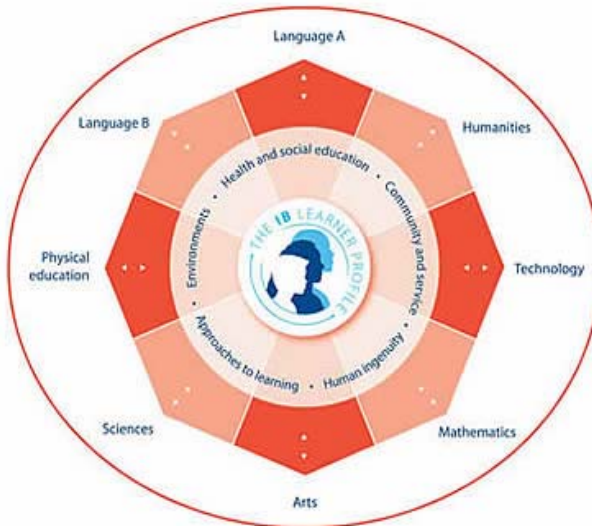
What are MYP Assessments?

The MYP is an educational framework built around eight core subjects that are designed to be taught through five focal themes known as the Areas of Interaction:

- *Approaches to Learning*
- *Human Ingenuity*
- *Environments*
- *Health and Social Interaction*
- *Community and Service*

The educational aims and objectives of each the core subjects (see diagram), measured as outcomes at the end of the original five years, form the foundation for the Level 5 assessment criteria intended to determine each student's achievement. Initially, individual schools determined the corresponding level of student achievement required by the end of years one through four that would prepare students to meet exit requirements by year 5.

In recent years, IB responded to the ensuing lack of assessment criteria standardization among MYP schools for the first four years of the program by publishing an *Interim Objectives Guide* for each subject. These guides help teachers align the course objectives in years 1 and 3 to the original level 5 objectives. To support consistency of program implementation, IB offers world schools expanded monitoring services of MYP assessments for all eight subjects in years two through five [see Monitoring MYP Assessments]. These guides are invaluable resources for school's like ours that offer a three-year program.



MYP Assessment Criteria

A certain consistency permeates the MYP assessment criteria for all eight disciplines:

- *Language A:* (the language of instruction)
- *Language B:* (a modern foreign language—not Latin)
- *Mathematics*
- *Sciences*

- *Humanities:* (geography, history, and social sciences)
- *Physical Education*
- *Arts:* (visual and performance)
- *Technology:* (taught through Sciences and Humanities)

The number and point values of specific assessment criteria vary from three for Language A to six for Sciences and Technology, but all are derived from four core components:

- *Knowledge:* facts that the student should be able to recall to ensure competence in the subject
- *Understanding:* how the student will be able to interpret, apply or predict aspects of the subject
- *Skills:* shown through tasks that allow the student to apply what has been learned to new situations
- *Attitudes:* ways in which the student is changed by the learning experience

Faithful implementation of the MYP educational framework and assessment criteria provide assurance of rigor and authenticity of IB throughout a worldwide network of schools.

Once authorized by IB to offer the MYP, IB World Schools are required to conduct an extensive self-study every five years, submitting assessment samples for monitoring by designated IB moderators, and hosting a visiting team of evaluators, upon submission of the self-evaluation and supporting documentation.

