

Desert Garden Montessori *Middle Years & High School*



DGM is proud to be a fully authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). IB is a natural offering for our Middle Years and high school students because the philosophy is so complimentary to Montessori. The synergy between Montessori and IB is powerful because it encourages students to become engaged learners while simultaneously preparing them for the rigors of college life. In alignment with Montessori and IB philosophies, students engage in rigorous academic study as they explore, develop, and celebrate their unique talents. The hands-on curriculum has a strong focus on individual and group inquiry, global awareness, and sustainability concepts. In keeping with Montessori philosophy and best practices, student achievement is measured using mastery-based rubrics instead of a more traditional grading system.

The IB Middle Years Program (MYP), for students aged 11 to 16, is designed as an inclusive, whole-school program by the International Baccalaureate (IB), a not-for-profit organization supporting the education of more than 1 million students every year in over 3,900 schools in 147 countries.

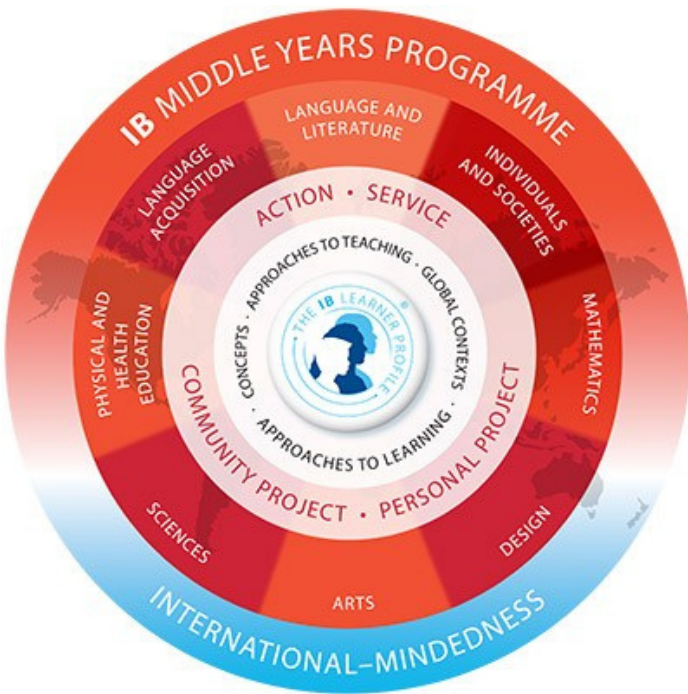
Parents who want the best possible education for their children choose the MYP because it includes:

- rigorous learning objectives
- student-centered approach to teaching
- international perspectives
- concern for the whole child
- sustained teaching and learning in more than one language
- focus on learning how to learn
- the development of thinking that prepares students to evaluate information critically and apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations
- teaching tools for lifelong learning and fosters responsible attitudes that help students discover how to use what they learn to take principled action

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IB Programme Overview

PHILOSOPHY & FRAMEWORK



The International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum of international education is unique because of its academic and personal rigor, which challenges students to excel in both their studies and personal growth. IB inspires a quest for learning throughout life that is marked by enthusiasm and empathy. The IB framework guides schools in developing well-rounded students who respond to challenges with an open mind, are confident in their own identities, make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity, and are prepared to apply what they learn in real-world, complex, and unpredictable situations.

IB offers high quality programs of international education that share a powerful vision. An IB education focuses on learners, develops effective approaches to teaching and learning, works within global contexts, and explores significant and balanced content. Informed by values described in the IB Learner Profile, IB learners strive to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. These attributes represent a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond intellectual development and academic success.

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IB APPROACHES TO LEARNING

A unifying thread throughout all MYP subject groups, approaches to learning (ATL) provide the foundation for independent learning and encourage the application of their knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. In our program, we teach skills from the same category each quarter across all subject areas. Teachers are responsible for explicitly teaching these skills throughout their classes.

Skills are broken down into 5 categories: social, thinking, research, communication, and self-management skills. Developing and applying these skills in all of their classes, helps students learn how to learn.

Some of the key questions to be answered by students with respect to ATL skills include:

- What are my present skills in this area and what evidence do I have of my development?
- What skills can I improve?
- What new skills can learn?

IB LEARNER PROFILE

A Montessori/IB approach to education begins with respect for the whole person, for their learning style, challenges, knowledge, and experiences. The Learner Profile is this IB mission put into action. These are a set of attributes we encourage and cultivate throughout our curriculum and actively look for in each of our students.

