



Laguna Creek Region MYP Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is the IB?

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation offering four highly respected programmes of international education that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. The ideals of the IB are described in their mission statement:

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

2. What is an MYP education?

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is one of the IB's four programmes and is designed for children ages 11-16. The MYP provides a framework of learning that encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers in the following eight subject areas:

- Language and literature (English)
- Mathematics
- Individuals and societies (history)
- Sciences
- Language acquisition (foreign language)
- Design
- Arts
- Physical and health education

The MYP emphasizes intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement. The MYP pushes students to analyze complex issues and develop the habits of mind they need to participate in our increasingly interconnected world.

3. What are the benefits of an IB education?

Students at International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools are given a unique education.

They will:

- be encouraged to think independently and drive their own learning
- take part in programmes of education that can lead them to some of the highest ranking universities around the world
- become more culturally aware, through the development of a second language
- be able to engage with people in an increasingly globalized, rapidly changing world.

We are confident that students who participate in the MYP at HEMS and LCHS will be better prepared to participate in LCHS's IB Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th grade students. Successful completion of DP courses and assessments may allow students to obtain credit at some colleges and universities.

4. What is the Laguna Creek Region Model?

The MYP in the Laguna Creek region of EGUSD is a partnership between Harriet Eddy Middle School and Laguna Creek High School and encompasses grades 7-10. The MYP will feed into Laguna Creek's IB Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th grade students, providing a 7-12 IB educational experience.

5. Is MYP only for "gifted" students?

No. The MYP is designed to be inclusive and whole-school. At Harriet Eddy Middle School, all general education and honors classes are part of the MYP. At Laguna Creek High School, 9th and 10th grade classes are MYP with the exception of some courses offered in their academies.

6. Do teachers receive special training to teach in the MYP?

Yes. The IB offers professional development opportunities around the globe. Teachers and administrators from HEMS and LCHS have attended trainings in all subject areas and additional specialized topics. Teachers from both sites will continue to receive IB professional development on an on-going basis.

7. Does implementing an IB programme mean my child's school will not teach local or national standards such as the Common Core?

The IB is committed to making sure that students in IB programmes meet and exceed local or national standards. With the implementation of any IB programme, schools are required to examine their curriculum carefully to ensure that there is alignment with local, state or national standards.

8. How is student learning assessed in the MYP?

To measure what students have learned and to monitor their progress, IB teachers use a range of assessments that provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to develop their teaching and by students to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and target areas that need improvement. Teachers use summative assessments which are internationally benchmarked and are criterion-referenced. This means that students are measured against a set of agreed upon learning outcomes rather than graded on a "bell curve" as in norm-referenced assessments.

9. What is the IB Learner Profile?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile describes a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond academic success. They imply a commitment to help all members of the school community learn to respect themselves, others and the world around them. Each of the IB's programmes is committed to the development of students according to the IB learner profile.

The profile aims to develop learners who are: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

10. What is the Personal Project?

Through the MYP Personal Project, students experience the responsibility of completing a significant piece of work over an extended period of time. MYP projects encourage students to reflect on their learning and the outcomes of their work – key skills that prepare them for success in further study, the workplace and the community.

The aims of the MYP projects are to encourage and enable students to:

- participate in a sustained, self-directed inquiry within a global context
- generate creative new insights and develop deeper understandings through in-depth investigation
- demonstrate the skills, attitudes and knowledge required to complete a project over an extended period of time
- communicate effectively in a variety of situations
- demonstrate responsible action through, or as a result of, learning
- appreciate the process of learning and take pride in their accomplishments.

11. How can my student attend HEMS and LCHS if they are currently outside the attendance area?

Annually, and based on enrollment numbers, facility capacities, impact on school sites and a host of other factors, the Board of Education makes recommendations on offering Open Enrollment opportunities for students. Currently, Open Enrollment is offered for secondary schools but NOT for elementary schools. Please contact Secondary Education at (916) 686-7706 for more information.

12. How can parents get involved?

The Laguna Creek Region IB Parent Organization (IBPO) supports students in grades 7-12 at HEMS and LCHS in both the MYP and DP. For more information and/or to get involved please contact the IBPO president, Jean Murphy at lchsibpo@gmail.com

13. How can I get more information about the Laguna Region IB Programme:

HEMS Principal: Mark Benson, MaBenson@egusd.net

HEMS MYP Coordinator:Carolynn Puccioni, cpuccion@egusd.net

HEMS Phone: 916-683-1302

LCHS Principal: Doug Craig, dcraig@egusd.net

LCHS MYP Coordinator: JOseguer@egusd.net

LCHS Phone: 916-683-1339