

## ***MYP: A Path to increasing rigor and expectations for all students in grades 6-10***

### **What is MYP?**

The MYP, or the Middle Years Program, is one of three programs offered by the International Baccalaureate (IB). As its mission states, the International Baccalaureate works with schools to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. The IB has an international reputation for rigor and preparing students for college success.

Our two high schools currently offer the IB Diploma Program as an option for students in grades 11-12. Now, our three middle schools and two high schools are in the process of considering implementation of the IB MYP, which is designed specifically to provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum to **all** middle level learners.

### **Why is the District considering MYP?**

In its Strategic Plan for 2011-16, our school board outlined five goals and a number of objectives. The first of the board's five goals is ***Individual Student Growth and Success***. One objective is to: "Increase rigor and expectations in grades 6-10." The board is calling for consideration and implementation of the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) as a way to increase rigor and expectations in grades six through ten and improve individual student growth and success.

TTSD has first-hand experience with the excellence of the IB Diploma Program. Its rigor and its proven track record in successfully preparing students for college and careers are two of the many qualities of the IB that recommend the MYP as a program that can help us achieve individual growth and success for our students in middle and early high school.

### **Is MYP for all or some students?**

The MYP is intended to be an inclusive program for **all** students. It is structured to help teachers and students respond in a flexible way to varied learning needs, yet maintains consistently high standards. Its inclusivity is consistent with TTSD's vision that "each student is challenged by a rigorous academic program."

### **What is the mission of the IB and its programs, including MYP?**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring students 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 programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand the value of myriad cultural perspectives and world views.

### **What are the principles of the IB?**

The driving force behind all IB programs is a deeply held philosophy about the nature of international education. This philosophy is reflected firstly in the IB mission statement, which expresses the IB's overall purpose as an organization promoting and developing programs of international education. Secondly, the IB has made a statement of its beliefs and values as defined by the outcomes of student learning in IB World Schools. The IB defines this learning through a learner profile that encompasses the aims of the curriculum.

### **What is the IB learner profile?**

The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing our common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be: *inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.*

### **What are the curriculum aims and objectives of the MYP?**

The MYP aims and objectives are specific to each subject group. The ***aims*** of each subject group set out the general nature of the subject over the course of the program. These aims describe how students might be changed by their experience of a long-term engagement with the subject.

The ***objectives*** of each subject group are more specific and represent the *knowledge, understanding, skills* and *attitudes* that must be taught so that students can achieve the aims of the subject group. These objectives are closely related to the CCSS and Oregon's content standards.

### **How do the MYP objectives align with CCSS (Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics) and Oregon Content Standards for other subjects?**

MYP subject objectives are consistent with national and state standards. Indeed, Oregon has six authorized IB MYP schools whose curriculum is aligned with both Oregon content standards and MYP aims and objectives.

Though the MYP objectives vary from the Oregon CCSS and Oregon content standards in wording, specificity, and organization, MYP objectives incorporate all the performance intent of applicable Oregon standards. The MYP rubrics used to assess student performance also address almost all these standards. As TTSD teachers identify priority standards, the MYP objectives can act as guides in that selection process.

### **How does the MYP lead to increased student achievement?**

The MYP prescribes a set of scaled rubrics for teachers to use on formative and summative assessments. These rubrics describe student performance levels on all the MYP objectives for all eight of the MYP subjects. The rubrics establish a common set of proficiency descriptors – across a school and across the globe in all other IB MYP schools. In addition, the IB moderates teachers' scoring results at each school every five years to ensure high standards and scoring consistency.

**What is the timeline for the MYP in our district?**

This year begins the exploratory or consideration phase. Full implementation takes place over three to five years. Already, middle and high school staffs (teachers and administrators) have begun attending IB MYP trainings and planning how their schools could implement the program. The school board, consistent with its *Strategic Plan*, is committed to providing time and support to our secondary schools as they move to consider and implement the MYP and increase rigor and expectations for all our students in grades 6-10.

**How will a decision be made on MYP implementation?**

Individual schools will determine if they will move forward with MYP implementation, or design and plan for implementation of another way or ways to increase rigor and expectations for all their students in grades 6-10.