

Glasgow MS/ Stuart HS International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Participation/ Official FCPS Recognition



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to meet entrance requirements or submit an application to be part of the IB Middle Years Program?

All students enrolled in our IB World School participate in the program. In the student information system, each student's service program record is marked "MY." There are no entrance requirements.

Are there special classes to take?

The IB Middle Years Program is the framework through which we deliver the FCPS Program of Studies that supports Virginia's Standards of Learning. Student complete coursework as required by the School Board and the Commonwealth. We establish clear pathways by which students can complete the requirements for formal MYP recognition. The highest levels of recognition require that students complete courses in all 8 MYP subject areas during each year of the program. (Advanced academic courses in the 9th and 10th grade are titled "pre-IB" or "honors" in high school course listings to mark them as especially appropriate preparation for challenging work in the IB Diploma Program.)

Am I required to study another language?

Learning a new world language is an important part of the MYP's fundamental commitment to communication and intercultural awareness. We expect students to choose a language to study throughout all five years of the MYP. Advanced language study is necessary in 11th and 12th grade in order to achieve fluency in another language, (Basic study of a world language is required for students seeking the FCPS Advanced High School Diploma.)

Many of our students have complex language histories, and we work to support their mother tongue(s). For students who receive support through English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), English can qualify as their "Language B." We offer courses for fluent speakers of Spanish as well as a credit exam program in world languages.

What if I'm part of a special academic program (for example: students with disabilities, English language learners, literacy intervention, SOL remediation, or AVID) that requires me to take additional classes that prevent me from completing the MYP?

The MYP addresses the needs of the whole child, and each child's unique educational needs are our most important concern. We believe these needs take

precedence over the formal requirements of the MYP. When students are unable to complete all MYP subjects, they participate in the program's core instruction and other courses to the greatest possible extent. Students with limited schedules are eligible for MYP recognition by through the FCPS Record of Achievement.

How does FCPS recognize my accomplishments in the MYP?

Like surrounding public school systems, Fairfax County offers two level of recognition for students who participate in the MYP. These awards are patterned after meet identical standards required for student grades validated by the IB. Students are awarded the FCPS MYP Certificate when they

- complete the minimum required assessment tasks, gaining a general MYP grade of at least 2 in each subject area
- successfully complete the personal project, gaining an MYP grade of at least 3
- participate in at least the final two years of the program
- meet school community and service expectations
- gain a grade total of at least 36 from the eight subject groups plus the personal project (out of a possible maximum of 63).

Students can receive a Stuart High School MYP Record of Achievement when they complete the minimum required assessment tasks in at least five MYP subject areas. The Record of Achievement also notes completion of the personal project and participation in the school's program of community and service.

If I don't go to an MYP school for all five years of the program, am I still eligible to receive official FCPS recognition?

Official FCPS recognition is patterned on the requirements for grade validation requested from the IB, which requires students to participate in the final two years of the program in order to receive an MYP Certificate or Record of Achievement. Students are better prepared for meeting 10th grade assessment criteria when they have pursued progressively their study of all 8 MYP subject areas in grades 6-10.

Students who complete the required fifty hours of instruction in all MYP subject areas for all years of the program receive "Five Star" recognition.

Which FCPS high schools offer the final two years of the MYP?

Most Glasgow students attend 9th and 10th grade at J.E.B. Stuart High School, with whom we partner to deliver the MYP. Students from a small portion of our attendance area go to Annandale High School, another FCPS IB World School that offers both the MYP and the Diploma Program (DP). The MYP and DP are also available at Mt. Vernon and South Lakes High Schools.

Do I have to choose special courses in 9th and 10th grade to continue in the Middle Years Program?

All 9th and 10th grade classes at J.E.B. Stuart deliver instruction through the MYP. During the course of the program's final two years, students seeking FCPS recognition will complete the minimum required assessment tasks in all eight MYP subject areas. Students who are considering pursuit of the IB Diploma must make careful decisions about their course of study in science, math, and world languages. Please consult your counselor.

Is official MYP recognition required if I want to work toward the IB Diploma, or take advanced academic (IB Diploma Program) courses in 11th and 12th grade?

IB World Schools in Fairfax County offer the Diploma Program as an open enrollment option for all students in 11th and 12th grade. Any student is eligible to accept the challenge and experience the rewards of study in the Diploma Program. The MYP provides excellent preparation for the Diploma Program's intellectual demand and approach to learning, but it is not a prerequisite for DP coursework.

Are there formal MYP exams?

Unlike the IB Diploma Program, there are no external examinations in the MYP. All IB assessment in grades 6-10 is developed and administered internally by our teaching staff. MYP students take part in assessments required by the school district as well as by state and federal law.

Why should I accept the challenge of completing the IB Middle Years Program?

The MYP provides a well-rounded, rigorous education built around your needs. Completing the MYP gives you an advantage in high school because your work will help develop habits for lifelong learning that lead toward personal and academic success. You will go beyond being promoted to the next grade and collecting high school credits. You will make real progress toward larger goals that are important for your success, not only in academics, but also in life skills and effective global citizenship. You will be very well prepared to succeed in advanced academic courses in the IB Diploma Program.

Students who receive the Stuart High School MYP Record of Achievement will be recognized at a school ceremony; students who receive the beautifully-framed, diploma-quality FCPS MYP Certificate will be recognized at a School Board reception. You will be able to include official information about your achievement in college applications and your resumé. You can build important mentoring relationships with your teachers and create unique learning experiences on your own, with others, and in your community.

Most importantly, you will learn a lot about the world and about yourself. You will begin to take charge of your future.