

# PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

## **What is the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP)?**

The IB Primary Years Programme, for students aged 3 to 12, focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. At the heart of the programme's philosophy is a commitment to structured, purposeful inquiry as the leading vehicle for learning.

## **Curriculum model**

The curriculum is expressed in three interrelated ways:

- the written curriculum—what do we want to learn?
- the taught curriculum—how best will we learn?
- the assessed curriculum—how will we know what we have learned?

## **The written curriculum**

The most significant and distinctive feature of the IB Primary Years Programme is the **six transdisciplinary themes**.

These themes are about issues that have meaning for, and are important to, all of us. The programme offers a balance between learning about or through the subject areas, and learning beyond them. The six themes of global significance create a transdisciplinary framework that allows students to "step up" beyond the confines of learning within subject areas.

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

## **The taught curriculum**

The **six transdisciplinary themes** help teachers to develop a programme of inquiries—in-depth investigations into important ideas, identified by the teachers, and requiring a high level of involvement on the part of the students. These inquiries are substantial, in-depth and usually last for several weeks. Teachers are guided by these six transdisciplinary themes as they design units of inquiry that both transcend and articulate conventional subject boundaries.

## **The assessed curriculum**

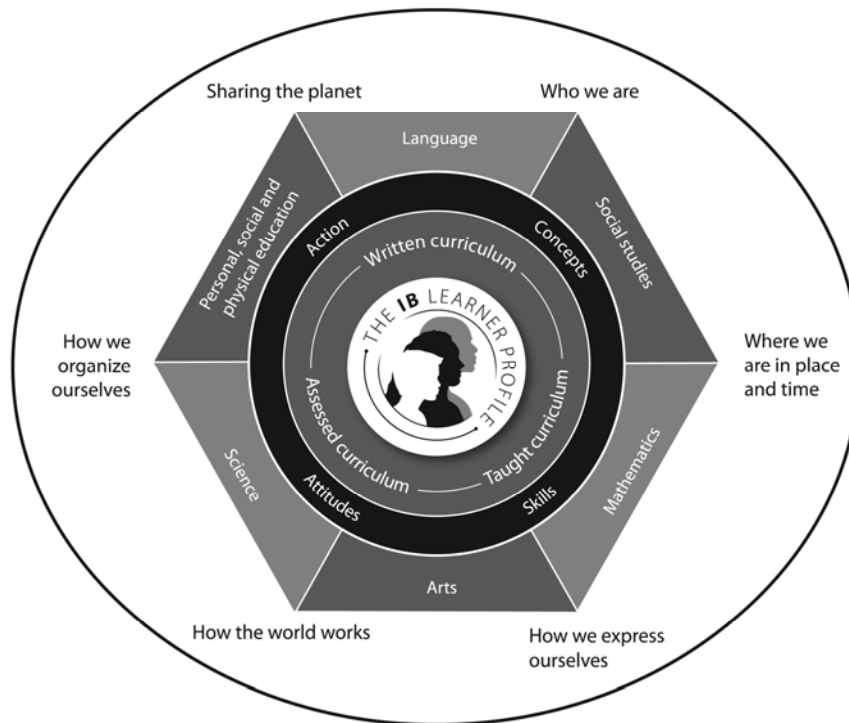
Assessment is an important part of each unit of inquiry as it both enhances learning and provides opportunities for students to reflect on what they know, understand and can do. The teacher's feedback to the students provides the guidance, the tools and the incentive for them to become more competent, more skillful and better at understanding how to learn.

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The programme can be illustrated by a hexagon with the six transdisciplinary themes surrounding six subject areas:

- language
- social studies
- mathematics
- arts
- science
- personal, social and physical education.

The transdisciplinary themes and subject areas outlined above form the knowledge element of the programme.



## **Five essential elements**

The five essential elements—concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes, action—are incorporated into this framework, so that students are given the opportunity to:

- gain knowledge that is relevant and of global significance
- develop an understanding of concepts, which allows them to make connections throughout their learning
- acquire transdisciplinary and disciplinary skills
- develop attitudes that will lead to international-mindedness
- take action as a consequence of their learning.

## **PYP in AACPS**

**Germantown Elementary School, Manor View Elementary School and Southgate Elementary School** are community (not magnet) schools. These schools have been accepted by the IB organization as IB PYP candidate schools.