Special Content

How ISD's MYP helps students think beyond the classroom

Can a lesson on climate change teach students about responsibility? Can a robotics project teach them teamwork as well as technology? And what happens when a personal interest becomes a project that takes months of research and effort?

At International School Dhaka (ISD), these connections are an important part of learning. Through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP), students are encouraged to look beyond their textbooks, explore ideas that interest them and understand how their knowledge can make a difference in the world.

Designed for students in Grades 6 to 10, the MYP builds on the curiosity nurtured during the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and helps the students to grow more independent, to think critically, to appreciate different perspectives and become more aware of their responsibilities towards others.



Learning to connect ideas with the real world

At ISD, subjects are not taught in isolation. With the school's inquiry-based learning, students learn to question information, connect different ideas across subjects and use their knowledge to solve real-world issues.

They also learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, come up with novel ideas, consider new perspectives and solve problems by working in teams through classroom discussions and collaboration.

"Through the MYP, we want our students to have the ability to question and think critically. We believe, when they see how their courses relate to the world outside school, they can use those learnings to explore and address global challenges," says Steven Ellis, Secondary School Principal, ISD.



From personal interests to independent projects

Personal Project is an important part of the MYP programme, where Grade 10 students conduct an independent inquiry based on their personal interests.

With this project, students gain valuable experience in research, communication and self-management skills, culminating in a journey that reflects their learning.

Students develop different interesting projects, such as documentaries, fashion journals, cooking videos, scientific models, awareness campaigns, other research-based projects and so on.

Learning to make a difference

Hands-on learning is another crucial part of MYP. Through Service as Action, students get involved in community-focused service learning where they find out ways of responding to real needs and making contributions to their communities. These experiences help them develop empathy and a stronger sense of social responsibility.

Beyond classroom, ISD's Week Without Walls programme offers opportunities of experiential learning for secondary students. The school's robotics programme offered in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University for grades 1 to 10 is an example of practical problem solving and computational thinking.

"When students step outside their comfort zones, work with others and engage with their communities, they begin to see how their choices affect the people around them. We want them to develop the empathy to understand different perspectives and the confidence to take action," says Nilanthi Das, Vice Principal and MYP Coordinator at ISD.



Preparing for what comes next

ISD's MYP essentially helps students become lifelong learners. It helps them critically appreciate their own culture and personal history as well as the values and traditions of other. Moreover, it provides a foundation for the rigorous IB Diploma Programme (DP). Students in Grades 9 and 10 can work towards the internationally recognized IB MYP certificate through portfolio work and optional e-Assessments.

Beyond academic preparation, the programme helps students become independent thinkers who can approach challenges with confidence, appreciate different perspectives and take responsibility for their actions.

At ISD, these qualities are central to preparing young people not only for further education, but also for meaningful contributions to an increasingly interconnected world.

