



What Is an IB Education?



The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a global education framework that sets a clear philosophy and approach to teaching and learning and maintains rigorous benchmarks, while letting schools design and implement content suited to their local context and culture.

IB programmes help students make sense of a complex, global world by developing critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning, and an appreciation of diverse cultures and perspectives.

How the IB Shapes Your Child's Learning and Growth

- **Global mindset:** Children learn about themselves and others, and our shared responsibility for the planet.
- **Strong character & habits:** IB learners are curious, thoughtful, kind, open-minded, and reflective, always growing and learning from the world around them.
- **Connected learning:** Big ideas link subjects to real-world issues.
- **Skills for life:** Inquiry, collaboration, research, communication, critical thinking, and self-management.
- **Outcome:** Beyond grades, IB students take thoughtful action and help build a more sustainable, compassionate world.

The IB offers four programmes for students ages 3–19:

- Primary Years Programme (PYP)
Prek3 to Grade 5.
- Middle Years Programme (MYP)
Grade 6 to Grade 10.
- Diploma Programme (DP)
Grade 11 to Grade 12.
- Career-Related Programme (CP)
Grade 11 to Grade 12.

Together, these programs form a seamless, holistic “continuum” of education that supports students as lifelong learners. **Dwight School Hanoi** is an IB Continuum School, authorized to offer three programmes, the PYP, MYP, and DP.



What Does an IB School Look Like?

- **Learner-first:** Teaching is caring, ethical, and tailored to each child.
- **How we learn:** Students ask questions, reflect often, and use feedback to improve.
- **World focus:** Lessons draw on languages, local and global cultures, and global issues.
- **What we learn:** A broad, balanced curriculum built on big ideas that connect subjects.



What Is the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)?



The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme for children aged 3–12. It guides how teaching and learning take place in the Primary School.

The PYP is based on the idea that children are naturally curious, creative, and able to think about their own learning. It aims to support the whole child, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically, and to help them develop a lifelong love of learning.

The PYP is transdisciplinary, which means children do not just learn subjects separately. Instead, they explore big, meaningful ideas that connect different subjects, helping them see how learning fits together in real life.

A Framework for Meaningful Learning

The International Baccalaureate (IB) has clear standards that help schools make sure their teaching and classroom practices match IB values and philosophy. In the Primary Years Programme (PYP), these standards provide a framework for how students learn and how teachers teach. Students explore ideas and concepts through “units of inquiry”, in-depth projects that connect different subjects.

Each year, these units are organized around six broad transdisciplinary themes that help children learn about themselves, other people, and the world they live in.

- 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

These units authentically weave together ideas and skills from:

- Language
- Social studies
- Mathematics
- Arts
- Science
- Personal, social and physical education

This integrated approach helps students make meaningful connections between what they are learning and the world around them.

What Does Each School Decide Locally?

In the PYP, each school designs learning that fits its own community and context. This means:

- Choosing topics and big ideas to explore under each theme that are relevant to the students and the world around them.
- Helping students develop key learning skills so they can become more independent and take charge of their own learning.
- Encouraging students to take action based on what they have learned, in ways that are meaningful, responsible, and connected to real life.

In this way, the PYP has both structure and flexibility, it maintains high standards while allowing each school to reflect its own unique character and community.



What Is the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)?



What Does a PYP Lesson Look Like?

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In the PYP, learning is organized into Units of Inquiry, big, connected learning experiences that usually last between 5 to 6 weeks. A PYP unit or lesson often includes:

A big idea

Each unit starts with a “big idea” that helps children explore the world, such as Sharing the Planet.

Guiding questions

Guiding questions are intentionally designed to help students think more deeply about the unit’s big idea.

- They focus students’ thinking. Instead of giving them all the answers, these questions guide them toward the main ideas of the unit.
- They spark curiosity. Open-ended questions invite children to wonder, explore, and ask more questions of their own.

- They connect learning. Children start to see how different subjects (like math, language, science, and social studies) link together around one central idea.
- They deepen understanding. As students come back to these questions over time, their answers grow and become more thoughtful and detailed.

Hands-on learning: Lessons include activities such as experiments, group projects, stories, art, role-play, and real-life problem solving. Children learn by doing.

Learning across subjects: A single lesson can include reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social skills all connected to the unit’s big idea.

Student voice and choice: Students are encouraged to share their ideas, ask their own questions, and make decisions about how they want to show their learning.

Reflection: Students think about what they learned, how they learned, and what they might want to explore next. Reflection helps them become confident, independent learners.

PYP Exhibition, Grade 5: A student-driven, inquiry-based project where learners investigate a real-world issue or passion that matters to them. They spend several weeks researching, taking action, and creating a presentation that demonstrates their understanding, skills, and growth.



10 Reasons Why the PYP Builds Lifelong Learners



1 It Encourages Students to Inquire

The PYP encourages children to be naturally curious and to enjoy learning in classrooms that are creative, caring, and full of teamwork.

3 PYP Students Are Confident Communicators

PYP students learn to communicate in a variety of ways and in more than one language.

5 It Encourages International-Mindedness

In the PYP, students learn about their own culture and diverse cultures in the wider world, helping them become more respectful, open-minded, and able to collaborate with others.

7 Students Take Action

PYP students believe they are able to grow and succeed. They make appropriate choices and take responsibility for their actions.

9 It Involves the Whole School Learning Community

We celebrate our common humanity and the belief that education can help to build a better and more peaceful world.



2 Understanding a Complex and Interdependent World

PYP students make sense of the world and deepen their understanding by exploring real-life questions and situations that matter to them.

4 Learning How to Learn

PYP students work collaboratively with teachers and other students to plan, present and assess their own learning.

6 Seeing Things From Different Perspectives

PYP students use critical and creative thinking to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within and across subject areas.

8 Thinking About Issues

Creative learning helps children develop the flexibility and imagination they need to handle new challenges in today's changing world.

10 Caring and Responsible Citizens

Students learn to express ideas and opinions, and they can propose solutions that make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

What Does the IB PYP Looks Like at Dwight School Hanoi?



ENCOURAGING INQUIRY

At Dwight School Hanoi, learning goes beyond the classroom. Collaboration spaces, a dedicated age-appropriate makerspace and library, and our learning gardens give children room to explore, experiment, collaborate, and investigate real-world ideas. Guided by experienced IB teachers, students move through cycles of questioning, hands-on exploration, and thoughtful reflection. These environments transform natural curiosity into purposeful inquiry, helping young learners think deeply and make meaningful connections across subjects.

UNDERSTANDING A COMPLEX AND INTERDEPENDENT WORLD

Students build understanding by engaging with integrated experiences, collaborative inquiries, rich discussions, and diverse literacy resources. Field trips, expert visits, and connections across the Dwight global network open windows into different cultures, perspectives, and local contexts. Supported by trained IB PYP teachers, families, and a community of fellow learners, students develop the knowledge and mindsets needed to navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

LEARNING AS A WHOLE-SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The PYP at Dwight celebrates our shared humanity and the belief that education can shape a better, more peaceful world. Learning regularly brings the entire school together through cross-grade activities and special events.

We leverage the strength of the Dwight global network to share resources, launch collaborative projects, and build connections across campuses, from Early Childhood Division pen pal partnerships to joint initiatives that broaden students' view of the world. In Grades 5 and 6, the PYP Exhibition unites students with community experts and guest speakers who mentor student groups, offering authentic insights that deepen learning and connect it to global and local issues.

BECOMING CARING AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

Every child at Dwight School Hanoi is known, valued, and supported. When students feel safe and confident in their classroom community, they are more willing to take risks, share their thinking, and take on new challenges.

Through group activities and daily interactions, students practice listening, taking turns, and supporting their classmates. Over time, they develop a clear understanding of how they learn best and take responsibility for their choices and actions. This nurtures an intrinsic motivation to learn and grow and helps them become passionate leaders and responsible global citizens, both within the school and beyond it.

TAKING ACTION

At Dwight, students learn not only what to know, but how to learn. Teachers offer real choice in how children demonstrate understanding. They might build a model, craft a story, film a video, deliver a presentation, or design a prototype. These varied pathways help each child discover their strengths and grow in confidence.

Through the IB Approaches to Learning (ATL), children practice essential life skills every day: thinking critically and creatively, researching responsibly, communicating clearly, collaborating effectively, and organizing their time with ever increasing independence. Teachers provide close guidance at first, then gradually step back as students take ownership.

Mistakes are embraced as valuable learning moments, encouraging students to try new strategies, persevere, and reflect on their growth.

