



***The Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School***

# The International Baccalaureate PYP



## A Guide for All

### Information about the Primary Years Program

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

—Marcel Proust

The International Baccalaureate PYP—A Guide for All  
Sources used in compiling this guide book:

Making the PYP Happen  
The Primary Years Program-A basis for practice  
The Randolph Elementary School, Arlington, Virginia  
Wikipedia  
The IB Learner Profile in Review (April 2013)

A. Graff- PYP Coordinator 2016-2017



*The United Way of Tri-County funded International Baccalaureate teacher training at Wilson Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year. UWTC is eager to support young learners in their education as inquisitive, knowledgeable, and caring people who understand academic subjects and how they connect to the world in which they live.*

## ***What is the International Baccalaureate Organization?***

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a non-profit educational and non-governmental (NGO) organization of UNESCO. The IB's alliance with UNESCO encourages the integration of its educational goals into the IB curriculum.

- It was established in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is governed by a 16-member council and is funded by fees from IB World Schools.

The IBO offers three programs of international education for students aged 3-19 years old:

- The Diploma Program at the high school level (grades 9-12).
- The Middle Years Program (MYP) (students 11-16 years old).
- The Primary Years Program (PYP) (for students 3-12 years old).
- There are 651,000 IB students and 2,390 authorized IB schools (242 in the United States) in 129 countries.

## ***What's the story behind the IBO?***

Marie Therese Maurette created the framework for what would eventually become the IB Diploma Program, in 1948, when she wrote: Is There a Way of Teaching for Peace?, a handbook for UNESCO. In the mid-1960's a group of teachers from the International School of Geneva (Ecolint) created the International Schools Examinations Syndicate (ISES), which would later become the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). The IB headquarters were officially established in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1968, for the development and maintenance of the Diploma Program, which provided an internationally acceptable university admission qualification for young people whose parents worked as diplomats or with international and multi-national companies.

## ***What is an IB PYP School?***

Regardless of location, size, or make-up, an IB PYP can be any school that strives to develop an internationally minded person that encourages the integration of the educational goals of the IB curriculum.



***The mission of the IBO:***

- To develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people.
- To create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
- To work with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.
- To encourage students worldwide to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

***How does the mission of the IBO affect Woodrow Wilson as an IB World School?***

Students at the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School are being taught **WHY** they should know something and **HOW** it connects to other subjects and the world around them. IB Students often decide the direction of instruction, based on their curiosities and inquiries. The IBO's mission promotes high quality teaching and learning while challenging instruction and introducing global understanding.

***How does the IB PYP teach students to be internationally minded?***

IB teaches students to be internationally minded through teaching and modeling the "Learner Profile." Regardless of the IB school a child attends, these characteristics or "Learner Profile" remain the same. They are foundational to the IB PYP learning experience.

***What does it mean to be "internationally minded" and why is it important?***

Being internationally minded is a thoughtful, critical perspective that applies to who we are and what we do. It includes how we communicate, our awareness, cultural understanding, celebrating diversity, awareness of global issues, and a reflection on how knowledge is constructed and applied. At the Woodrow Wilson IB World School, focus is placed on moving students toward becoming people who reflect the characteristics of the "Learner Profile."



### ***Who is an “internationally minded” person?***

According to the IB PYP, an “internationally minded” person is someone who demonstrates the attributes of the “Learner Profile.”

### ***What is the “Learner Profile”?***

These are qualities determined to be most important in creating positive and productive citizens of the world.

### ***What are these “Learner Profile” qualities?***

- ***Inquirers***—I am curious and know how to discover answers to many of my questions. I love to learn!
- ***Thinkers***—I use my thinking skills to make good choices and solve problems.
- ***Communicators***—I understand and share ideas in more than one language.
- ***Risk Takers***—I try new things, love to explore, and confidently share my experiences.
- ***Knowledgeable***—I explore big ideas that are important. I know and can do a lot of important things.
- ***Principled***—I am fair and honest. I can make good decisions about what is right and wrong for me.
- ***Caring***—I am concerned about other people’s needs and feelings. I believe it is important to help others.
- ***Open-Minded***—I am comfortable with differences. I welcome and respect other people’s points of views and ways of doing things.
- ***Balanced***—To be healthy, it is important for me to balance the needs of my mind and body.
- ***Reflective***—I think about and discuss my learning, skills, and products.

### ***What Are the IB “Attitudes”?***

The “Attitudes” are the daily expressions of the “Learner Profile” used by teachers in teaching and by students in their learning.

*“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”*  
--Winston Churchill



- ***Appreciation***—seeing and being thankful for the wonder and beauty of our world.
- ***Commitment***—being responsible for learning, showing self-discipline, and perseverance. Sticking with a difficult task until it is completed.
- ***Confidence***—Knowing I can do it! Having courage to take risks, using what I have learned, and making good choices.
- ***Cooperation***—Working with others and being willing to lead or follow as needed.
- ***Creativity***—using imagination while thinking and doing things.
- ***Empathy***—being able to put myself in someone else’s place in order to understand her or him.
- ***Enthusiasm***—being excited about learning and life.
- ***Independence***—Thinking and acting on my own.
- ***Integrity***—being fair and honest.
- ***Respect***—showing that I care for others, our world, and myself.
- ***Tolerance***—Understanding, appreciating, and celebrating differences in each other.

### ***What will children learn at The Woodrow Wilson School-An IB World School?***

Inquiry is the main vehicle for learning with the IB PYP at Woodrow Wilson Elementary school. Six Trans-disciplinary themes provide the framework for exploration and construction of knowledge. Teachers and students are guided by these Trans-disciplinary themes as they design units of inquiry for exploration and study. Through their studies, students develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop particular attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.



### ***What does “Trans-disciplinary” mean?***

“Trans-disciplinary” is the word that IB uses to describe how all subjects are inter-related. A “Trans-disciplinary” concept stretches across math, science, language arts, social studies and the arts and ties it all together. It is not isolated to one subject.

For example, under the Trans-disciplinary theme **Who We Are in Place and Time**, art may be incorporated into the central idea or theme of the unit. This unit could be about *Explorations and Migrations of Humankind*. The art teacher might teach the students that; “Human migration has many causes and effects on the way art influences people throughout many places in our world over time”.

The IB PYP strives to demonstrate the concept of “trans-disciplinary” giving different points of views simultaneously. This in turn provides a broader understanding to a real-life world.

### ***The IB curriculum incorporates 5 essential elements:***

**CONCEPTS**—there are eight fundamental concepts; expressed as key questions, to propel the process of inquiry. These universal concepts drive the research units—called **UNITS OF INQUIRY**, but they also have relevance within and across all subject areas (Trans-disciplinary). The eight fundamental concepts are:

- **Form:** What is it like?
- **Function:** How does it work?
- **Causation:** Why is it like it is?
- **Change:** How is it changing?
- **Connection:** How is it connected to other things?
- **Perspective:** What are the points of view?
- **Reflection:** How do we know?



**SKILLS**--There are 5 sets of Trans-disciplinary skills acquired in the process of structured inquiry. These are:

- **Thinking**-Acquisition of knowledge; comprehension; application; analysis, synthesis, evaluation, thought
- **Communication**-Listening; speaking; reading; writing; viewing; presenting; non-verbal communication.
- **Social Skills**-Accepting responsibility; respecting others; cooperating, resolving conflict; group decision-making; adopting a variety of group roles.
- **Research**-Formulating questions; observing; planning; collecting data; recording data; organizing data; interpreting data; presenting research findings.
- **Self-Management**- Gross motor skills; fine motor skills; spatial awareness; organization; time management; safety; healthy lifestyle; codes of behavior; informed choices.

**ATTITUDES**--The PYP promotes attitudes that Woodrow Wilson Elementary IB Candidate school students are encouraged to feel, value, and demonstrate.

**ACTION**- Woodrow Wilson Elementary IB Candidate School students are encouraged to reflect, to make informed choices and to take **action** that will help their peers, school staff, and the wider community. IB students are expected to demonstrate a deeper sense of learning, by applying their knowledge to service and positive action.



**KNOWLEDGE**—PYP has identified themes and/ or areas of knowledge, which are used to organize the 6 Units of Inquiry. They are taught from kindergarten through grade 5. These Units of Inquiry provide the framework for a wide variety of resources to be explored in order to accomplish the objectives within each Unit of Inquiry:

- **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**

*[Unit Standards are found in the Common Core State Standards and WIDA]*

### **What is a “Unit of Inquiry”?**

A Unit of Inquiry usually lasts for 4-6 weeks and the overall objective is to cover all 6 IB themes throughout the school year. For example, during the Unit of Inquiry “Sharing the Planet” students may spend 4-6 weeks looking at the resources we have in the world and how various countries use and share and dispose of these resources. Students will answer questions like: How do these resources connect people around the world? How these resources changing and what are does that mean for people? These concepts and questions move across all school subjects and apply to real life and the world around us.

### **How does Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School, implement these Units of Inquiry?**

These themes or Units of Inquiry, provide a framework on which our teachers build students’ knowledge. With the IB PYP, the priority is not on using a set of textbooks, but rather the emphasis is on a wide variety of resources from which teachers and students extract knowledge, develop understanding, and explore ways of applying that to real life.



## **How are students at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School tested?**

Students at Woodrow Wilson IB World School are assessed in a variety of ways, including written tests, exams, projects, oral presentations and written reports. Assessment in IB PYP is “criterion referenced.” This means students are scored against Standards and using a rubric, not against each other. Teachers will give the students a rubric on larger assignments that explains to the students what is expected of them. The rubric states what the criteria are for the assignment (on a paper, for instance) and what the score will be for addressing or not addressing each point in that criteria. The rubric allows students to take ownership of their effort and learning.

## **What is a RUBRIC?**

A rubric defines what the standards or requirements are that need to be accomplished in order to achieve the overall target or goal. Examples of rubrics can be seen in many of the student assignments.

## **How will children be assessed at the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School?**

At the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School, each Unit of Inquiry allows students opportunities to demonstrate that learning is taking place—that there are shifts in their understanding. This may look different across all subject areas—however, this shift in understanding is not always best demonstrated through a piece of written work or a traditional exam. Students may be asked to put together a final project, draw, act out a performance, do a presentation, or demonstrate in another way what they have learned. The goal is for students to be able to show what they understand and how they are applying that understanding to real life and the world around them. Authentic learning cannot always be demonstrated through traditional tests or exams.

At Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School, assessment is the continuation of the learning process. It is not assessment of learning, but it is assessment **for** learning. The International Baccalaureate Program views assessment as needing to be authentic, essential, rich, engaging, and feasible—it incorporates students in the process of evaluating their learning. “Formative” assessment is interwoven into the daily lessons and learning. This ongoing process of “checking in” between teachers and students helps both teachers and students find out what they already know, in order to plan for the next stage of learning.



“Formative” assessment and teaching are directly linked; effective learning cannot take place without one or the other. “Summative” assessment takes place at the end of the teaching and learning process. This is the time that students have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and application of what has been learned.

### **How can parents help students with schoolwork?**

Parents should follow up daily with their child to see what homework they have. Help your child schedule time so they don't feel overwhelmed. Realize that you may need to help your child with (not do) some of the larger projects (especially as the students' progress into the upper elementary grades).

### **How Can a PARENT/GUARDIAN, get involved?**

- Parents are always welcome to volunteer: a CORI form must be completed in order to volunteer-please do not let that change your mind about volunteering.
- Communication between parents and school should be regular, 2-way, and meaningful.
- Participate as a full partner in decisions that impact your child and family.
- Collaboration with the community, through partnerships, which are mutually beneficial to our school and the community.
- Parents/Guardians/Volunteers are always welcome at Woodrow Wilson Elementary. We value your support and assistance to make Woodrow Wilson Elementary the great place that it is!



## A summary of the IB PYP

***“The whole art of teaching is only the awakening of the natural curiosity of young minds.”***  
—Anatole France

***“I cannot teach anybody anything; I can only make them think.”***  
—Socrates

At the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School, through the IB PYP, students in all grades have the opportunity to guide their own learning. At Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, students take the lesson or learning process—they do it, make it, and experience it. Students ask questions and learn how to find the answers to their questions and apply knowledge to their lives and the world around them. Through the IB PYP, students see how all things in the world can have a connection, rather than simply being fragmented into school subjects.

What makes the IB PYP so effective at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School-An IB World School?

Woodrow Wilson School is truly an international community and is committed to the IB philosophy that students need to be at the center of inquiry based learning by using their natural curiosity.



United Way of Tri-County

*The United Way of Tri-County funded International Baccalaureate teacher training at Wilson Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year. UWTC is eager to support young learners in their education as inquisitive, knowledgeable, and caring people who understand academic subjects and how they connect to the world in which they live.*