FAQ – International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme

Why is All Saints becoming an IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) School?

Research has shown that students participating in the IB MYP: 1) build confidence in managing their own learning; 2) learn by doing, connecting the classroom to the larger world; 3) outperform non-IB students in critical academic skills; 4) consistently have greater success in IB Diploma Programme examinations; 5) thrive in positive school cultures where they are engaged and motivated to excel; 6) develop an understanding of global challenges and a commitment to act as responsible citizens.

What is the IB Middle Years Programme?

The IB Middle Years Programme is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. The MYP aims to develop active learners and internationally minded young people who can empathize with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning. The programme empowers students to inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally. The result is young people who are creative, critical and reflective thinkers.

Does the IB programme teach students the importance of service and community?

Action and service are highly valued in the IB programme. Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service — making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. Service as action is an integral part of the programme, especially in the MYP community project.

Does the IB Middle Years Programme help students prepare for IB high schools?

Research has reported that students view the rigor of IB as a benefit of MYP programme (Wade and Wolanin, 2013) and that an MYP background prepares students for IB high schools by providing them with an understanding of criterion-based assessment and by developing their organizational skills and inquiry skills (Walker, Bryant, and Lee, 2014). These studies provide strong evidence that MYP participation is positively related to greater success on Advanced Placement (AP) and IB exams.

Can you compare and contrast IB with the current All Saints Middle School program?

There are many points of intersection between IB and the current All Saints Middle School program. For example, IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. IB also fosters International Mindedness, which is a multi-faceted and complex concept that captures a way of thinking, being and acting that is characterized by an openness to the world and a recognition of our deep
interconnectedness to others. These learning goals are closely aligned with the All Saints’ mission and philosophy.

**Which grades will this affect?**

The IB MYP will affect sixth grade (year 1), seventh grade (year 2), and eighth grade (year 3). Fifth grade will be designated as year 0 of the program. There will be an organic roll out of the IB programme at All Saints over the next two years (2018 to 2020).

**Will teachers at All Saints need training to implement the IB programme?**

There are excellent resources for teachers offered by International Baccalaureate programme. All Saints teachers will participate in professional development activities, which are administered online, in-school, and at regional events. Teacher support materials and teacher resource exchanges will become available to the faculty after All Saints is granted candidacy status.

**How will the IB programme impact tuition fees?**

We do not anticipate implementation of the IB programme to affect tuition rates.