

IB-MYP Update

January 2020

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Our International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program is gaining ground. As such, you may begin to notice some changes in the delivery of our instruction. Teachers are working to design instruction in a more student centered way. In order to accomplish this, teachers first need to know what your student already understands about a “new” concept and what misconceptions your student may have. Teachers are beginning to incorporate more pre-assessments (assessment prior to instruction) to help them determine an action plan for the unit of study. These pre-assessments do not impact your student’s grade.

Throughout instruction, teachers are incorporating more formative style assessments. These assessments may/may not be graded, but are used to check for understanding and provide your student with feedback mid-cycle. Based on the information gleaned from these assessments, teachers can adjust their instruction to ensure optimal learning.

Most of our teaching and learning cycles will end with some kind of a summative assessment. This will incorporate the information learned throughout the unit of study and encourage students to apply their understanding in a new situation. True understanding is the ability to *apply* knowledge in new situations.

As we continue refining our instruction you will notice more and more of these forms of assessments. While we try to articulate the purpose of each assessment to students, often the word assessment implies “test” and the purpose can be lost. As always, if your student is ever unsure of the purpose behind an assessment, encourage him/her to reach out to his/her teacher, either in person or via email.