



Creating Lifelong Learners: IB Middle Years Programme & Great Books

Our Common Goal

The International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Great Books Foundation share the common goal of encouraging students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who have global perspectives and deep understanding of people of different cultures.

Focus

IB Middle Years Programme

The IB Middle Years Programme provides a framework of learning that encourages students to become creative, critical, and reflective thinkers. The programme:

- Addresses students' intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being
- Enables students to understand and manage the complexities of our world, and provides them with the skills and attitudes they need in order to take responsible action for the future
- Ensures breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding through the study of eight subject areas
- Requires the study of at least two languages to support students in understanding their own culture and that of others
- Provides the opportunity for students to undertake an independent project into an area of interest

Great Books

Great Books offers products and professional learning to facilitate inquiry-based learning in each and every classroom. We provide:

- Experiences that address students' intellectual and social and emotional needs
- Literature by some of the world's greatest classic and contemporary authors as well as high-quality nonfiction materials
- Opportunities for students to gain insights and perspectives by wrestling with questions and issues of enduring human concern
- A framework of inquiry-based learning that hones student skills in close reading, critical thinking, and civil discourse across content areas
- Support for teachers to become experienced facilitators of inquiry-based learning

For more information about Great Books classroom programs and professional development, contact us at 800.222.5870 or visit greatbooks.org.

Approach

IB Middle Years Programme

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. An IB education empowers young people for a lifetime of learning, independently and in collaboration with others. It prepares a community of learners to engage with global challenges through inquiry, action, and reflection.

- Sustained inquiry forms the centerpiece of the written, taught, and assessed curriculum in IB programmes. The programmes feature structured inquiry both into established bodies of knowledge and into complex problems. In this approach prior knowledge and experience establish the basis for new learning, and students' own curiosity provides the most effective provocation for learning that is engaging, relevant, challenging, and significant.
- Principled action, as both a strategy and an outcome, represents the IB's commitment to teaching and learning through practical, real-world experience. The IB World Schools value action that encompasses a concern for integrity and honesty, as well as a strong sense of fairness that respects the dignity of individuals and groups.
- Critical reflection is the process by which curiosity and experience can lead to deeper understanding. Reflective thinkers must become critically aware of their evidence, methods, and conclusions. Reflection also involves being conscious of potential bias and inaccuracy on one's own work and in the work of others.

Great Books

Our inquiry-based approach to learning, is built around a core approach of students working collaboratively to unearth answers to authentic questions of meaning that lie embedded in high-quality fiction and nonfiction materials. By discussing, and writing about these selections, they gain knowledge about other people's ideas as well as about the world around them. Through this process, they learn to:

- Look first to their own experience and thinking for insights into the meaning of a text
- Reflect carefully on the ideas presented in a text
- Communicate orally—stating their ideas clearly and fully
- Work confidently in a group—listening carefully and respectfully to their peers while developing their abilities to weigh and analyze different perspectives
- Create, articulate, and support their ideas with textual evidence.

Students learn the art of collaboration, building new intellectual alliances across different backgrounds and perspectives while engaging in civil discourse. By thinking in depth about a text, students also learn to sustain focus and transfer the strategies and insights gained so they can apply them to all content areas.

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Curriculum

IB Middle Years Programme

The MYP's core features five contexts for learning that provide powerful opportunities to engage in the study of issues that affect students today. Using a common language, teachers organize the curriculum through the following areas of interaction.

- Approaches to learning represents learning skills that students will develop and apply during the programme and beyond
- Community and service considers how students can learn about their place within communities and be motivated to act in new contexts
- Health and social education is designed to help students identify and develop skills that will enable them to function as effective members of societies. They also learn about how they are changing and how to make informed decisions that relate to their welfare
- Environments explores how humans interact with the world at large and the parts we play in our virtual, natural, and built environments.
- Human ingenuity deals with the way in which human minds have influenced the world and considers the consequences of human thought and action

Great Books

With Great Books, great emphasis is placed on understanding the use and levels of questioning strategies, for both teacher and student, across the curriculum. In addition, there are numerous opportunities for both teachers and students to become more proficient at developing authentic questions that encourage students to delve deeply into both the meaning and resonance of a given topic.

- Great Books offers an accelerated cycle of learning that parallels that of IB
- Students use a text as a model and springboard to their own inquiry
- Students gain skills in participatory citizenship by engaging in discussions with their peers
- Students develop as independent thinkers and writers, moving their critical thinking across disciplines into further research, creative or evaluative writing, and other applications both personal and global in scope

Outstanding Fiction and Nonfiction Offerings from Great Books

Great Books Roundtable™

All three Roundtable levels include:

- 12 works of fiction, two works of nonfiction, and six poetry selections
- Leader's Editions with unit guides and recommended sequence of activities
- Audio CDs, Activity Cards, and CD-ROMs with blackline masters for interpretive activities



Literature & Thought

- Outstanding anthologies on historical events and eras, government and current events, literary genres, and literary themes
- Great Books Discussion Guides with specific close reading questions for key selections

