



Julius West MS and Richard Montgomery HS
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
Grades 6-10
Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can my child apply to the IB Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) at Julius West MS?

The IBMYP at Julius West MS and Richard Montgomery HS is designed exclusively for students who live in the JW/RM attendance area. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are a part of the program and there is no application procedure.

2. How is the curriculum different in an MYP school?

MYP classes at Julius West and Richard Montgomery implement the same curriculum as other MCPS middle and high schools. Teachers present this curriculum focused through the MYP methodology which includes:

- An emphasis on inter-disciplinary instruction
- An awareness of international and cultural influences related to the topic of study
- An emphasis on the process of learning (Approaches to Learning)
- An emphasis on critical thinking skills
- An emphasis on independent work habits and research skills
- An emphasis on student reflection
- Extensions related to the Areas of Interaction (Approaches to Learning, Community & Service, Health & Social Education, Environments and Human Ingenuity) as appropriate
- An emphasis on the development of the IB Learner Profile Characteristics (Inquirers, Thinkers, Communicators, Risk-takers, Knowledgeable, Caring, Principled, Balanced, Open-minded, and Reflective)

Students are expected to develop a broad and balanced base of knowledge through the study of eight subjects in each year of the program. The eight subjects are:

- Arts - Performing and Visual
- Humanities - World Studies
- Language A - English
- Language B - Chinese, French, Spanish
- Math
- Physical Education
- Science
- Technology

3. If this is a 5 year program, what happens when my child goes to Richard Montgomery High School?

The final 2 years of the IB Middle Years Programme (Grades 9 and 10) remain open to all students who live in our attendance area, with a change in the program delivery model. All high school MYP classes are taught at an honors level. In addition students must commit themselves to an independent research project known as the Personal Project and complete a specific community service requirement (15 hours each in Grades 9 and 10).

Students who do not continue in the Middle Years Programme for Grades 9 and 10 will enroll in classes in the Career and College Preparatory Pathway, the Honors/Advanced Placement Pathway, or a combination of the two. Some students will also apply to enter the IB Magnet Pathway. We believe participation in the IB Middle Years Programme in Grades 6, 7 and 8 will help students make a successful transition to high school, regardless of their chosen pathway. Please click on “Pathways of Studies at Richard Montgomery HS” for a visual representation. Sample middle school schedules leading to enrollment in IB high school classes may be found at “Planning with the End in Mind”.

4. What acknowledgment does my child receive for completing the 5- year program?

All students who successfully complete the IB Middle Years Programme will be eligible for an MYP certificate. To be eligible for the certificate, students must:

- Demonstrate mastery of IB-established objectives in all eight MYP subject areas: Arts, Humanities, Language A, Language B, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science and Technology.
- Complete the Personal Project (an independent piece of work intended to be the culmination of the student’s involvement with the five Areas of Interaction) with a score of 3 or higher.
- Achieve at least 36 of a possible 63 points (8 subjects + the Personal Project = 9 final scores multiplied by a maximum of 7 points each = 63 possible points).
- Complete at least Algebra II with Analysis and at least level 3 of a world language by the end of their tenth grade year (must be the same language for the five years of the program).
- Complete 30 hours of Community and Service
- Participate for a minimum of two years in the MYP (grades 9 and 10).

Please note in the table below - Typical MYP Schedules for Grades 9 and 10 - that courses followed by an * may affect eligibility for an MYP Certificate and/or application to the IB Diploma Program at Richard Montgomery HS.

Additional information regarding middle school course selection and transition to high school IB Pathways may be found by clicking on “Planning with the End in Mind”.

Typical MYP Schedules - Grades 9, 10

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10
English (Language A)	MYP English 9 MYP ESOL 5	MYP English 10
Social Studies (Humanities)	MYP Government IB Magnet Government (AP) **	MYP US History AP US History
Mathematics	MYP Geometry MYP Alg 2 w/ analysis	MYP Alg 2 w/ analysis Pre-Calculus
Science	MYP Biology	MYP Chemistry
World Language (Language B)	MYP Spanish, French or Chinese Level 1*, 2, 3	MYP Spanish, French or Chinese Level 2*, 3, 4, 5/AP
Arts	MYP Arts or Music or Theater	MYP Arts or Music or Theater
	OR	OR
Technology	MYP Technology	MYP Technology
Phys Ed	MYP PE	MYP Health (.5)
MYP Personal Project	Proposal due Spring, 2010	Due January, 2010
Community and Service Hours	15 - at least 10 during the school year (up to 10 in the summer	15 - at least 10 during the school year between Grades 9 and 10)

* may affect eligibility for MYP Certificate and/or the IB Diploma Program

** by selection process

5. What is the difference between honors classes and MYP classes for Grades 9 and 10?

The MYP offers students an entire program which includes ALL honors courses (integrating the areas of interaction), the completion of the personal project, and completion of a community service requirement. Students participating in MYP must commit to all components of the program, while honors classes offer students more flexibility in choosing courses that best fit their academic strengths and interests. MYP classes are more accelerated than honors courses and require students to advance at a higher level and faster pace.

6. How is the IB Middle Years Programme different from the IB Program already available at Richard Montgomery HS?

Richard Montgomery HS has offered the IB Diploma Program since 1987. It is a countywide magnet program for academically capable and committed students interested in pursuing a rigorous pre-university course of studies. Any Montgomery County Grade 8 student may apply. Students are selected for each Grade 9 class based on a variety of criteria including standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, grades and evidence of motivation. Students who are selected for this program enroll in an IB Magnet course of study for Grades 9 and 10 before entering the IB Diploma Program for Grades 11 and 12.

In contrast, Grade 9 and 10 MYP classes are a continuation of the program begun at Julius West and follow the MYP methodology as described in Question # 2. In addition MYP students are required to complete the Personal Project and MYP teachers are required to administer appropriate assessments that will lead students toward the awarding of an MYP Certificate.

While many of the concepts and underlying philosophy found in the IB Middle Years Programme are consistent with those found in the IB Diploma Program, they are separate and distinct programs.

7. If my child completes the IB Middle Years Programme at Richard Montgomery HS, will she/he automatically enroll in the IB Diploma Program for Grades 11 and 12?

As stated in Question #6, the IB Middle Years Programme and the IB Diploma Program are separate and distinct. Consequently, enrollment in one does not guarantee enrollment in the other. Grade 10 Richard Montgomery HS students have an opportunity to apply to join the IB Diploma Program for Grades 11 and 12. The application process is similar to the one in place for Grade 8 student applicants and application information will be distributed to students in the fall of Grade 10.

Grade 10 MYP students who do not apply to join the IB Diploma Program will join the Honors/Advanced Placement (AP) Pathway for Grades 11 and 12.

8. How is the IB Middle Years Programme recognized by colleges and universities?

The IB Americas Office actively supports the work of its College and University Recognition Task Force in promoting an understanding of the complexity, rigor and holistic approach of IB programs. On a local level, a letter will be included in the college file of each student who successfully completes the Middle Years Programme program to explain the challenging requirements.

Regarding the college application process, other advantages of participation in the IBMYP include the following:

- MYP graduates report that the development of critical thinking and time management skills and improved academic confidence are proving to be excellent preparation for successful participation in Advanced Placement, IB Diploma Program and advanced level high school classes in upper grades.
- An MYP Certificate will be a valuable and distinctive award to list on college applications
- The Personal Project may well provide an exciting opportunity to develop a college essay.

Further questions regarding the IB Middle Years Programme at Julius West MS and Richard Montgomery HS may be referred to:

Gail Fribush
IBMYP Coordinator
Julius West MS
301-279-3979
gail_b_fribush@mcpsmd.org

Parfait Awono
IBMYP Coordinator
Richard Montgomery HS
301-610-8157
parfait_awono@mcpsmd.org