

# Martin Luther King Jr. Middle IB Quarterly Middle Year Programme Newsletter

ISSUE 1 Volume 2 (August 2017)



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## Our Mission

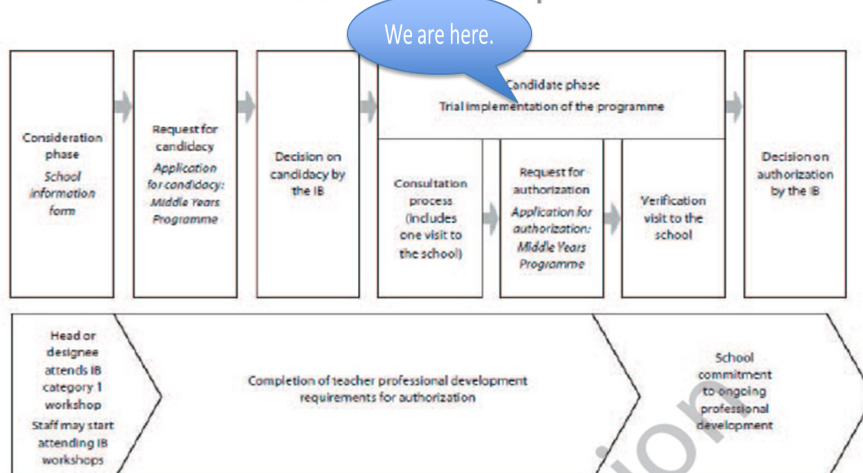
To prepare students for a globally competitive environment in which students graduate college and career ready while fostering principles of responsibility, service, respect, compassion, international-mindedness within an academically challenging educational framework.

Thank you for reading the King Middle School IB Quarterly. We will publish four newsletters throughout the school year. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about the implementation of the IB program at King Middle School. We are in our second year of candidacy. As a candidate school, we are phasing in many components of the IB program (for example, learner profile, unit writing, foreign language requirements, community service, etc.). To learn more about the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), visit <http://www.ibo.org> or our blog <http://ibmpkingmiddleleaps.weebly.com>

## What is MYP?

The MYP is the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Program, (in England that would be Programme!) The MYP is for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades. We have IB Candidate feeder elementary schools and at the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades at Jackson HS. The King MS and Jackson HS programs are part of a K to 12 continuum in our neighborhood schools.

## Overview of the authorization process



## IB Information Sessions Save the Dates !!!

September 12, 2017—Curriculum  
Night 5:30pm @ King

September 16, 2017—Block Party  
1:00pm @ King

September 26, 2017—Principal's  
Coffee 10:30am @ King

September 28, 2017—Dad's Empower-  
ment Breakfast 9:30am @ King

October 17, 2017—PTSA Meeting  
6:00pm @ King

October 28, 2017—Fall Festival  
10:00am @ King

Students will experience a full continuum of the IB curriculum. Jackson Cluster's six elementary feeder schools will eventually offer the IB Primary Years Programs for students in grades 1-5. King Middle and Jackson High IB Candidate Schools will offer the Middle Years Programme, which spans sixth through tenth grade. Accordingly, King students begin the Middle Years Programme in sixth grade and complete the final two years of this program during ninth and tenth grade at Jackson High School. The IB experience concludes with the Diploma Program, which is an elective curriculum for grades 11 and 12. In contrast to many schools that reserve the Diploma Program for select students, all Jackson HS students have the option to pursue the IB diploma if they wish to do so. The IB Diploma Program at Jackson HS is the second Diploma Program in Atlanta Public Schools.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum is a globally recognized leader in the field of international education. IB programmes encourage students, ages 3 to 19 years, to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. Founded in 1968, IB programmes are offered by more than 3,000 schools in 139 countries to approximately 845,000 students. Today, the community stakeholders are committed to establishing the IB Middle Year Programme (MYP) at our school. Our school is focused on ensuring that all students reach an ever-increasing standard of academic excellence despite the socio-economic, interpersonal, and familial challenges that many community students (and their families) face. The surrounding communities have demonstrated unprecedented support for King Middle School and Maynard Jackson High School. We believe the IB MYP will help in closing achievement gaps within our school community.

### What will be different at King MS?

Your child will engage in rigorous inquiry lessons that teaches them how to think and problem solve. Your child will learn how to use the IB rubrics (grading descriptors) and begin to study a world language. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students participate in a community project. They will investigate a topic of their own. Parents and King MS teachers will come in to celebrate their achievements. Each student who meets all the MYP requirements will receive the MYP certificate at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

### Will my child have to apply to be part of the program?

No, if your child attends King MS or Jackson HS, your child will automatically be enrolled in the MYP. All of our students are part of the program. Every student is part of the MYP.

### How does the MYP work?

As teachers, the first thing we do is organize your child's sequence of lessons. We also plan using the same guidelines from sixth to tenth grades. We want to create an intelligent flow of instruction. Next we design concept based units to deliver instruction in meaningful chunks. Each unit includes an emphasis on one of our three big concepts, holistic education, communication skills and internationalism.

### So is IB a set of classes that my child will take?

No, the MYP is a philosophy, or approach to the organization of curriculum, and guiding concepts. King MS and Jackson HS teachers use the five lenses to view our subjects. We expect quality work and thoughtful reflection, and we help the students archive their achievements in portfolios. We hope that the IB experience will help kids acquire the needed skills to function well in the world and make it a better place.

### What else do I need to know about the MYP?

We often talk about the "student profile." This refers to a list of the characteristics we help you to foster in your students. The qualities include being principled, open-minded, caring, balanced, inquiring, and knowledgeable. We try to encourage kids to be thinkers, communicators and risk-takers. We want to set them up to be lifelong learners.

### My child is not in the gifted program. Will the MYP be too hard?

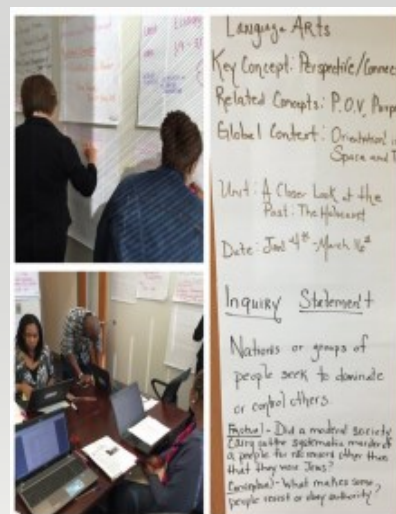
In MYP we stress academic rigor. We know that all students live up to set expectations, so we expect a lot. Teachers will continue to differentiate their instruction so that every child can succeed. We never want to leave a child behind.

### How can I support my child (or children) in the MYP?

Your interest in school work is always a great motivator for your child's success. Continue to help them to grow academically and socially. Encourage academic honesty. (Googling a subject, cutting, pasting, and changing a word or two is not writing.) Talk about our environment, international affairs, international understanding, and cultural awareness, as you continue to build your child's knowledge and pride in our home culture. Listen to how your children are changing as thinkers. The middle years are very exciting. Don't ask, "How was school?" Ask questions that start with "Tell me about...", "Suppose you could...", "Can you elaborate on...?", or perhaps "What do you think about...?" Show interest in your child's higher level thinking skills. Your kids will step up to new realms when we as teachers, and you as parents value their intellectual capacity and sense of personal integrity.

## Accomplishments

King Middle recently entered year two of candidacy as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school. Over 75% of our teachers completed IB professional learning. Last school year, over teachers drafted their first Middle Year Program Unit, and continued the implementation of the IB Learner Profiles.



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