



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF NUR-SULTAN

SCHOOL BROCHURE

MISSION AND VISION OF ISA

Mission is to create conditions to nurture healthy, intelligent, creative and successful individuals with high moral values, who appreciate their own culture and respect other cultures, and who are prepared to learn throughout their lives and contribute to creation of a better world.

We, as a school community, create a safe environment and positive culture for the holistic development of each student.

SCHOOL VALUES:

- Respect
- Development
- Cooperation
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Safety

HISTORY OF ISN

International School of Nur-Sultan (ISN) first opened its doors in 2013 with 4 classes and 10 teachers. In 2014 academic year, school grew to 400 students for twenty classes from grades 1 to 4. In addition, kindergarten for 36 students was opened the same year.

Our school received the status of "IB World school" for IB Primary years Programme in 2017, IB Middle Years Programme in 2018, and IB DP in 2019.



IB LEARNER PROFILE

The aim of all IB programmes is for students to develop and demonstrate international-mindedness. It is a multifaceted concept that captures a way of thinking, being and acting. Internationally minded students are open to others and to the world, and are cognizant of our deep interconnectedness (IB 2017).

The attributes of the learner profile represent a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that encompass intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth. The development and demonstration of these attributes are foundational to students becoming internationally minded, active and caring community members who respect themselves, others and the world around them.

What are these Learner profile attributes?



WHAT IS PYP?

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is a curriculum framework for young learners aged 3–12 designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB). Founded on a philosophy that recognizes a child's natural curiosity, creativity and ability to reflect, the PYP generates a stimulating, challenging learning environment to nurture those assets and foster a lifelong love of learning in every child. The PYP, like all IB programmes, is transdisciplinary, meaning students learn across subject areas while investigating big ideas.

THE PYP CURRICULUM

In the PYP, students learn about significant concepts through units of inquiry. The six transdisciplinary themes that guide units of inquiry and compose a year of study are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet.

Units of inquiry interweave subject areas such as mathematics, language arts, science and social studies. This approach encourages students to make their own connections between what they learn in core subject areas and how it relates to the world around them. The Units of Inquiry are further enhanced by Arts and PSPE (Personal, social and physical education) through mastering transferable skills, promoting physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.



WHY STUDY IN PYP

1. It encourages students to inquire. The PYP fosters natural curiosity and learning in creative, supportive and collaborative environments.
2. Understanding a complex and interdependent world. PYP students create meaning for themselves and build understanding through exploring real-world issues.
3. PYP students are confident communicators. They learn to communicate in a variety of ways in more than one language.
4. Learning how to learn. PYP students work collaboratively with teachers and other students to plan, present and assess their own learning.
5. It encourages international-mindedness. Collaboration and understanding of their own and other cultures are an important focus of the PYP - students learn how to be respectful and open-minded.
6. Seeing things from different perspectives. PYP students use critical and creative thinking to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within and across subject areas.
7. Students take action. PYP students believe they are able to grow and succeed. They make appropriate choices and take responsibility for their actions.
8. Thinking about issues. Creative learning gives students the agility and imagination to respond to new and unexpected challenges and opportunities in an increasingly globalized and uncertain world.
9. It involves the whole school learning community. Together we celebrate our common humanity and the belief that education can help to build a better and more peaceful world.
10. Caring and responsible citizens. Students can express ideas and opinions, and they can propose solutions that make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.



ACTION IN PYP

Action, the core of student agency, is integral to the Primary Years Programme (PYP) learning process and to the programme's overarching outcome of international-mindedness. Through taking individual and collective action, students come to understand the responsibilities associated with being internationally minded and to appreciate the benefits of working with others for a shared purpose.

Students taking action in response to their inquiries lays a foundation for community service in the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and creativity, activity, service (CAS) in the Diploma Programme (DP). Action is a means for students to show that they have linked their learning to real-life issues and opportunities, and that they are developing responsible dispositions and behaviours towards social and physical environments and to the community within and beyond school. Through action, students develop a sense of belonging to local and global communities. They understand and recognize the interconnectedness and interdependence of issues, and consider these from multiple perspectives

PYP EXHIBITION

All IB programmes include a culminating or consolidating learning experience in their final year: the exhibition in the PYP; the personal project in the Middle Years Programme (MYP); the extended essay in the Diploma Programme (DP); and the reflective project in the Career-related Programme (CP).

In the PYP exhibition, students demonstrate their understanding of an issue or opportunity they have chosen to explore. They undertake their investigation both individually and with their peers, together with the guidance of a mentor. Through the exhibition, students demonstrate their ability to take responsibility for their learning—and their capacity to take action—as they are actively engaged in planning, presenting and assessing learning.

The exhibition is a powerful demonstration of student agency, as well as the agency of the community that has nurtured them through their years in the PYP. The learning community participates in the exhibition, supporting and celebrating the development of internationally minded students who make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others.

*Taken from www.ibo.org



WHAT IS MYP?

The MYP is designed for students aged 11 to 16. It provides a framework of learning that encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. The MYP emphasizes intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement—essential qualities for young people who are becoming global leaders. The MYP is flexible enough to accommodate most national or local curriculum requirements. It builds upon the knowledge, skills and attitudes developed in the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) and prepares students to meet the academic challenges of the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and the IB Career-related Programme (CP).

The IB Middle Years Programme:

- addresses holistically students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being

- provides students opportunities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need in order to manage complexity and take responsible action for the future
- ensures breadth and depth of understanding through study in eight subject groups
- requires the study of at least two languages (language of instruction and additional language of choice) to support students in understanding their own cultures and those of others

- empowers students to participate in service within the community

- helps to prepare students for further education, the workplace and a lifetime of learning.

THE MYP CURRICULUM

The MYP consists of eight subject groups: language acquisition, language and literature, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical and health education, and design.

Student study is supported by a minimum of 50 hours of instruction per subject group in each academic year. In years 4 and 5, students have the option to take courses from six of the eight subject groups, which provides greater flexibility.

The MYP aims to help students develop their personal understanding, their emerging sense of self and responsibility in their community.

MYP teachers organize the curriculum with appropriate attention to:

- Teaching and learning in context.

- Conceptual understanding.

- Approaches to learning (ATL).

- Service as action (community service).

- Language and identity – MYP students are required to learn at least two languages.

WHY STUDY IN MYP

10 reasons why the MYP encourages you to become a creative, critical and reflective learner:

1. Becomes a life-long learner. Learn 'how to learn' using communication, research, self-management, collaboration and critical thinking skills.
2. Learn by doing and experiencing. Through the MYP community project you learn to service the community and connect what you learn in the classroom to "real life".
3. The MYP encourages critical thinking. It teaches you to analyse and evaluate issues, generate novel idea and consider new perspectives.
4. Explore global challenges. The MYP helps you increase your understanding of the world by exploring globally significant ideas and issues.
5. Learn for understanding. Not just to memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.
6. Train yourself to:
 - Organize and plan your work
 - Meet deadlines
 - Concentrate
 - Bounce back
 - Persist
 - Think positively
7. Subjects are not taught in isolation. You are encouraged to make connection between subjects.
8. It empowers you to develop your talents. Feel empowered to prove what you know and earn the MYP certificate or MYP course results.
9. It prepares you for future education. Prepare yourself for the IB Diploma Programme or IB Career-related Programme delivered by IB World Schools globally.
10. It encourages international-mindedness. The MYP helps you critically appreciate your own culture and personal history, as well as the values and traditions of others.



SERVICE AND ACTION

Action in the MYP builds upon the action initiated in the PYP and continues as an essential component of the learning process, both as part of the programme's educational philosophy and as a practical outcome of students' learning. The MYP aims to help students develop their personal understanding, their emerging sense of self and their developmentally appropriate responsibility in their community. In the IB continuum, this continues with the service component of the DP's creativity, activity, service (CAS) requirements, in which students continue to increase their awareness of their own strengths and areas for growth, undertake new challenges, plan and initiate activities, work collaboratively with others, show perseverance and commitment, engage with locally and globally significant challenges and consider the ethical implications of their actions.

SOCIAL PROJECTS

The community project focuses on community and service, encouraging students to explore their right and responsibility to implement service as action in the community. The community project gives students an opportunity to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through service learning. As a consolidation of learning, the community project engages in a sustained, in-depth inquiry leading to service as action in the community. The community project may be completed individually or by groups of a maximum of three students.

PERSONAL PROJECTS

The personal project encourages students to practise and strengthen their approaches to learning (ATL) skills, to consolidate prior and subject-specific learning, and to develop an area of personal interest. The personal project provides an excellent opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and often creative product/outcome and to demonstrate a consolidation of their learning in the MYP. The project offers many opportunities for differentiation of learning and expression according to students' individual needs. The personal nature of the project is important; the project should revolve around a challenge that motivates and interests the individual student. Each student develops a personal project independently.

*Taken from www.ibo.org



DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

WHAT IS DP?

The IB DP is an assessed programme for students aged 16 to 19 that is well respected by leading universities across the world.

THE DP CURRICULUM

The DP core and six subject groups make up the curriculum.

The three core elements include Theory of knowledge (TOK), the extended essay and Creativity, activity, service (CAS).

The six subject groups are: Studies in language and literature, Language acquisition, Individuals and societies, Sciences, Mathematics and the Arts.

International school of Astana can offer the following subjects to be taken within each subject group in DP.

Group 1: Language/language and literature	English and literature (SL and HL) Kazakh literature (SL) Russian and literature (SL)
Group 2: Language acquisition	English B (SL and HL)
Individuals and societies	History (SL and HL) Information technology in global society (SL and HL) Systems of environment and society(SL)
Sciences	Physics (SL and HL) Chemistry (SL and HL) Biology (SL and HL) Systems of environment and society(SL)
Mathematics	Analysis and approaches (SL and HL) Application and interpretation (SL and HL)
Arts	Theatre (SL and HL)

Each student takes at least three (but not more than four) subjects at higher level, and the remaining at standard level.

WHY STUDY IN DP

- 1.It increases academic opportunity
- 2.IB students care about more than just results
- 3.It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner
- 4.The IB encourages critical thinking
- 5.Graduates are globally minded
- 6.It's an international qualification
- 7.DP students have proven time management skills
- 8.Subjects are not taught in isolation
- 9.It encourages breadth and depth of learning
- 10.It assesses more than examination techniques

*Taken from www.ibo.org: 10 reasons why the IB DP is ideal preparation for university

For more information on the International Baccalaureate Organization, please visit www.ibo.org
If you would like more information about ISN, please visit our website www.isa.nis.edu.kz