

Franklin Academy Boynton Beach International Baccalaureate PYP Candidate School



Parent Information Packet

Franklin Academy Boynton Beach

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For any questions, please contact:

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Franklin Academy Boynton Beach is a candidate school* for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme and pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to improve the teaching and learning of a diverse and inclusive community of students by delivering challenging, high quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision.**

**Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.*

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org

***Mission Statement from the IB The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.*

Resources:

IBO.org

What is the International Baccalaureate Program?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) is a curriculum framework designed for students aged 3 to 12.

It prepares students for the intellectual challenges of further education and their future careers, focusing on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside.

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What does the PYP offer to students?

By choosing to implement the PYP, schools will develop students' academic, social and emotional wellbeing, focusing on international-mindedness and strong personal values. The PYP nurtures independent learning skills, encouraging every student to take responsibility for their learning.

The programme incorporates local and global issues into the curriculum, asking students to look at six related, transdisciplinary themes and to consider the links between them. The themes include 'who we are', 'where we are in place and time' and 'how the world works'.

Benefits of the IB Programme:

Students at IB World Schools are given a unique education.

They will:

- be encouraged to think independently and drive their own learning
- take part in programmes of education that can lead them to some of the highest ranking universities around the world
 - become more culturally aware, through the development of a second language
 - Be able to engage with people in an increasingly globalized, rapidly changing world.

What are the 5 elements of the IB PYP?

Knowledge* The 6 Transdisciplinary Themes

The PYP recognizes that it is inappropriate to dictate what every child should know in an international school community. The PYP has identified themes (areas of knowledge) which are used to organize the six Units of Inquiry, taught from childhood through 5th grade. These Units of Inquiry provide the curriculum framework (as opposed to the typical textbook based curriculum) for a wide variety of resources to be explored in order to accomplish the objects of each Unit of Inquiry.

Units include:

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

Concepts

Franklin Academy Boynton Beach

There are eight fundamental concepts expressed as key questions used to propel the inquiry process. These universal concepts drive the research and lessons of the Units of Inquiry, and they have a relevance within and across all subjects.

The concepts are:

FORM- What is it like?

FUNCTION- How does it work?

CAUSATION- Why is it like it is?

CHANGE- How is it changing?

CONNECTION- How is it connected to other things?

PERSPECTIVE- What are the points of view?

RESPONSIBILITY- What is our responsibility?

REFLECTION- How do we know? (This particular concept is now implemented throughout each of the units studied year round.) Reflection takes place daily, weekly, monthly and yearly.

Approaches to Learning

There are five sets of Approaches to Learning (formerly called Transdisciplinary Skills) that are acquired through the daily process of inquiry. The skills include: thinking skills, communication skills, social skills, research skills, and self-management skills.

Attitudes

The IB promotes twelve attitudes that they want their students to feel, value and demonstrate. They should be an expression of the Learner Profile (see below) being used by teachers, students, and staff in and out of the classroom environment. The attitudes are: appreciation, commitment, confidence, cooperation, creativity, curiosity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect, and tolerance.

Action

IB students are encouraged through their Units of Inquiry to reflect, to make informed decisions, and to take action that will help their classmates, the school staff and/or the community for the greater good. The action should be voluntary and student initiated. It should come from a genuine concern and commitment to helping others.

What does it mean to be “transdisciplinary”?

Within the IB programme, transdisciplinary is the word that IB has chosen to describe a curriculum that applies across all subjects. It is interconnected to all subjects and can also be applied to the students’ real life. The PYP strives to demonstrate that concepts stretch and can affect others through learning and giving an understanding to a real life world. The IB curriculum is set up where the 5 essential elements are all transdisciplinary.

What is a “Unit of Inquiry”?

A Unit of Inquiry is based on one of the six transdisciplinary themes and incorporates the Florida State Standards. A Unit of Inquiry usually lasts for about four to six weeks. The goal is to work through all six Units within one school year for first to fifth grade (Kindergarten will complete four longer Units). The goal is to create a broad overarching Central Idea, and work throughout the weeks through the Inquiry Cycle steps to delve deep into the concepts and apply them to real life and the world around us. The steps in the Inquiry Cycle include: Tuning In (thinking), Finding Out (investigating), Sorting Out (categorizing), Going Further (exploring), Making Conclusions (linking), and Taking Action (applying).

What is the Learner Profile?

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared responsibility to the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners, the student should strive to be: knowledgeable, balanced, risk-takers, caring, principled, inquirers, reflective, thinkers, open-minded and communicators.

The IB Learner Profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools Organization. We believe these attributes, and others similar to them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

How can a parent get involved in the PYP?

-Volunteer to be a “Resource Parent” by presenting a “how-to” demonstration, delivering a talk on an area of expertise, allowing yourself to be interviewed on a subject, telling an anecdote about your experiences, bringing in artifacts or cultural items, telling a story from your culture, playing an instrument, painting or athletic skill demonstration, etc...

-Asking your students about the Learner Profile attributes and consistently reinforcing them at home through conversations and modeling.

-Encouraging your students to “find out” answers and new information, rather than just giving them the answers. Encourage them to seek out their new interests and pursue new information.

-Ask your students about their learning and have them explain it to you. Ask them about the Central Idea and theme they are in. Show interest in the learning and even plan activities around them to support it at home when you can.

Additional Information Can Be Found At:

-Our FABB IB Weebly: www.christinevanburen.weebly.com

-IBO: www.ibo.org

-Project Zero: <http://www.pz.harvard.edu/>

-Project Zero-Visible Thinking: <http://pz.harvard.edu/projects/visible-thinking>

-Concept to Classroom: <http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/inquiry/>