

The International Baccalaureate develops inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.



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SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY

A DCPS IB WORLD SCHOOL



INTRODUCTION

The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) at Shepherd Elementary includes all students aged 3 to 12. The program focuses on developing internationally-minded learners who inquire about the world and take action in both their local and global communities. At Shepherd Elementary, we provide a student-centered approach to learning through which students' questions guide the learning process. In addition to offering core content areas, our school also offers Spanish, French, Music, Art, Library, and Physical Education.

CURRICULUM FEATURES

1) Learner Profile

The Learner Profile consists of ten qualities that develop students into successful, lifelong learners. At Shepherd, we strive for our learners to become:

- Caring
- Open-Minded
- Principled
- Inquirers
- Thinkers
- Knowledgeable
- Balanced
- Reflective
- Communicators
- Risk-Takers

2) Transdisciplinary Themes

There are six transdisciplinary themes of global significance which provide the framework for inquiry-based instruction at Shepherd Elementary. These six transdisciplinary themes include the following:

- 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



All transdisciplinary themes are taught through the different content areas such as Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, the Arts, Spanish, French, and Physical Education.

3) Key Concepts

The key concepts consists of seven essential questions that transcend content areas and encourage students to think deeply about the world. These key concepts include the following:

- 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?

4) Approaches to Learning

There are five approaches to learning in the IB PYP framework. These approaches to learning provide students with the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. Throughout the IB PYP Programme students will be provided with numerous opportunities to develop the following skills:

- Social Skills
- Research Skills
- Thinking Skills
- Communication Skills
- Self-Management Skills