

IB Middle Years Programme at SSSL

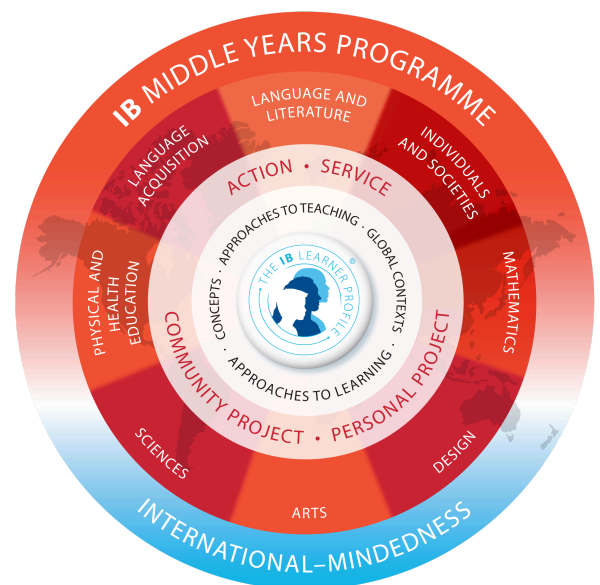
Aiming to provide students from different backgrounds with an education preparing for an international future, SSSL introduced The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) in 1998.

The MYP is the *International Baccalaureate Organization's* middle school programme, which at SSSL starts in MYP4 (year 9, ages 14/15) and extends to MYP5 (year 10, our first high school year). After MYP5, students continue into the *IB Diploma Programme* or *IB Career-related Programme* (years 11-12). Our MYP students are also well prepared for a Swedish high school programme.

Our well-qualified teachers, with both international and domestic experience, teach the MYP programme in English.

This programme model highlights the features of IB MYP:

- The student is at the centre of developing the attributes of the IB learner profile that describe 21st-century learning skills. The MYP addresses holistically students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being. Surrounding the learner there are different approaches to learning and approaches to teaching. The MYP is a concept-driven curriculum and the global contexts show how learning best takes place in context.
- The second ring describes important outcomes of the programme. Meaningful inquiry-based learning results in student-initiated action involving service within the community. The culminating project at SSSL is the Personal project in MYP5.
- The MYP contains an organized and aligned structure of eight subject groups to ensure breadth and depth of understanding. The distinction between the subject groups blurs to indicate the interdisciplinary nature of the MYP connected by global contexts and key concepts.
- The development of international mindedness is a primary aim and context for learning.



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The MYP stresses intellectual challenge encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the surrounding world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement – essential qualities for young people who are becoming global citizens.

Teaching and learning in the IB grow from an understanding of education that celebrates the many ways people work together to construct meaning and make sense of the world. Represented as the interplay between asking (*inquiry*), doing (*action*) and thinking (*reflection*), this approach leads towards open classrooms where different views and perspectives are valued.

The IB “aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect” (IB mission statement). SSHL is proud to be a part of this recognized organization as an IB world school and the IBO continuously evaluates our programme.

SUBJECT GROUPS

Language and Literature (L&L)

The *Language and literature* subject in the MYP is mostly the language of instruction and/or the student’s native language. SSHL offers English and Swedish in this subject group. The aims of Language and literature are i.e. to encourage and enable students to:

- develop the skills involved in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting in a variety of contexts
- develop critical, creative and personal approaches to studying and analyzing literary and non-literary texts

Language Acquisition (LA)

Language acquisition is defined as foreign languages. SSHL offers *Swedish* at beginners or more advanced levels from MYP 4 in phases 1-4.

In Language acquisition students are to develop the communication skills necessary for further language learning, and for study, work and leisure in a range of authentic contexts and for a variety of audiences and purposes. The subject wants to enable the student to develop an appreciation of a variety of literary and non-literary texts and to develop critical and creative techniques for comprehension and construction of meaning. The aim is also to offer insight into the cultural characteristics of the communities where the language is spoken. Students can have the possibility to also study a ‘Modern language’, *French* or *Spanish*.

Mathematics

Students come to the MYP with different prior knowledge of *Mathematics* and teachers therefore strive to differentiate the teaching e.g. by using flexible teaching methodology with many aspects incorporated; projects, games, open problem solving and the use of calculators. SSHL also strives to make teaching challenging for all students and to provide special needs tuition when needed.

Some of the aims of MYP Mathematics are to encourage and enable students to:

- enjoy mathematics, develop curiosity and begin to appreciate its elegance and power
- develop an understanding of the principles and nature of mathematics
- communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts
- develop logical, critical and creative thinking.

Sciences

Subjects included in the *Sciences* at SSSL are *Biology, Physics* and *Chemistry*, taught with a cross-curricular approach.

One aim of MYP Sciences is to encourage and enable students to cultivate analytical, inquiring and flexible minds that pose questions, solve problems, construct explanations and judge arguments. The students are also to develop skills to design and perform investigations, evaluate evidence and reach conclusions.

Individuals and Societies (I&S)

In *Individuals and societies* at SSSL, students undertake a range of academic disciplines traditionally associated with social sciences in Swedish schools. In MYP4, all students study *History, Geography, Religion* and *Civics/Social Studies*. In MYP5, the study becomes more geared towards the IB Diploma subjects and the students will meet units that include *History, Global Politics, Philosophy, Economics* and *Business Management*.

In an increasingly globalized society, it is vital that all SSSL students are equipped with the academic and social skills required to make a positive impact on their world as they develop, move forward and become responsible global citizens of tomorrow. By fostering a sense of curiosity about our planet, the people and events that have shaped its development, and by encouraging an open-minded approach to the study of the complexities of today's society, students in I&S are encouraged to become active and responsible global citizens.

Arts

At SSSL the subjects included in MYP4 *Arts* are both *Visual art* and *Music*. In MYP5, the students choose either *Visual art* or *Music*.

The main aims of MYP Arts are to encourage and enable students to create and present art, develop skills specific to the discipline, and respond to and reflect on art. In addition, SSSL also offers extra-curricular activities within *Visual art, Music* and *Drama*.

Design

The subject group *Design* includes *Home and consumer studies* and *Design technology*. *Design* at SSSL finishes in MYP 5.

The aims of MYP Design include to encourage and enable students to:

- develop knowledge, understanding and skills from different disciplines to design and create solutions to problems using the design cycle
- use and apply technology effectively as a means to access, process and communicate information, model and create solutions, and to solve problems.

Physical and Health Education (P&HE)

In *Physical and health education* SSSL offers a variety of activities. Sweden has distinct seasons, so the students experience both summer and winter activities. Many classes are held outdoors in our beautiful school grounds to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful surroundings. SSSL also offers many different opportunities for physical exercise, recreation and competition outside school time.

Physical and health education aims to encourage and enable students to participate actively in a variety of physical activities and achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

PERSONAL PROJECT

In a final *Personal project* in MYP 5, students choose a topic to investigate with an aim towards a learning goal and product goal. The project is to reflect what the student is passionate about and can be both practical and theoretical. The process is recorded in a journal and the results are in a report.

The Personal project is awarded a 1-7 grade moderated by the IBO and it provides a very good preparation for the IB Diploma *Extended essay, Reflective Project in the IB Career Related Program*, or similar future essays or projects.

The objectives of the Personal project are to encourage and enable students to participate in a sustained, self-directed inquiry within a global context, using their ATL Skills as well as how well the students have developed their attributes as IB Learners. The students generate creative new insights and develop deeper understandings through in-depth investigation. In the investigation, the students make a plan which enables them to take action and reflect on the process during the whole project.

SERVICE AS ACTION

With appropriate guidance and support, MYP students should through their engagement with Service as action:

- become more aware of their strengths and areas for growth,
- undertake challenges that develop new skills,
- discuss, evaluate and plan student-initiated activities,
- persevere in action,
- work collaboratively with others,
- develop international-mindedness through global engagement, multilingualism and intercultural understanding,
- consider the ethical implications of their actions.
- Fulfilment of the school's expectations for participation in Service as action is a requirement and will appear on each year's report card.

ASSESSMENT

A student's work is continually and rigorously assessed according to consistent MYP criteria, and SSHL students and parents can follow the assessment by logging in on the Internet software ManageBac. Students in our MYP are awarded IB grades 1-7 at the end of each MYP year and are expected to reach at least a grade 4 average.

Further information

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