

# What is IB?

**“WHAT IS IB?”** IB stands for International Baccalaureate. MYP stands for Middle Years Program and is for students in grades 6-10.

**“IS SEQUOIA ‘GOING’ IB?”** Sequoia is currently a Middle Years Programme (MYP) “candidate school” and we are hoping to be authorized as an IB school in the near future. The MYP is a 5-year program (grades 6-10) and we are partnering with Newbury Park High School who will have a 9th and 10th MYP programme on their campus.

**“HOW IS IB DIFFERENT THAN TRADITIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL?”** IB uses slightly different approaches to teaching and learning. IB uses “big ideas” to connect what students are learning to the world around them. IB schools strive to develop caring, knowledgeable, and inquisitive students who are curious and interested about what they learn. IB celebrates multiculturalism and helps develop young people who want to build a better world. IB students also learn how to be stewards of the environment and take care of our planet.

**“I’VE HEARD IB IS JUST FOR HONORS-LEVEL KIDS”**

At the MYP level (grades 6-10) IB is for every learner. Teachers will continue to differentiate for each learner in each classroom. The IB Diploma Program (grades 11-12) is a rigorous, globally recognized and distinguished high school diploma that can lead to an IB Diploma.

**“WHAT CHANGES WILL WE SEE ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM?”** You will begin to see posters and signage about IB Learner Profiles (characteristics that help students become successful lifelong learners), Inquiry Questions to inspire students to ask questions and take action, and Global Context ideas to understand how we are all connected as humans. We will grade students on what they have learned and what they know using an IB grading scale similar to what many CVUSD teachers currently use.

**“WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME?”** Once authorized as an IB school, Sequoia will not change its curriculum and will still follow district guidelines, but MYP teachers will use a slightly different framework. Students will continue to study English, social studies, math, science, PE, and elective classes. Students will continue to have opportunities to take band, strings, choir, yearbook, and ASB. Sequoia will still offer intramural sports, GATE, and special education programs. Some of the course names will be different but the curriculum will remain the same.

### **“WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DISCOVER ACADEMY?”**

The Middle Years Programme is quite similar to the Discover Academy program in that its main focus is connections between the students and what they are learning, and connections to the global community. The main difference is that the ENTIRE STUDENT BODY will have access to MYP, whereas only a portion of our campus was able participate in Discover. Once we are IB-authorized, the Discover Academy will phase out as the MYP Program begins to thrive. Most Discover families will see the similarities between the two programs.

### **“WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?”**

Here are some links to important documents and IB information. Feel free to share with anyone interested in learning more about IB and the MYP.

[Video from IB about Middle Years Programme](#)

[Official Announcement about Sequoia becoming an IB Candidate School from the CVUSD Public Relations department:](#)

[10 Reasons Why the IB Middle Years Programme \(MYP\) encourages you to become a creative, critical and reflective learner.](#)

[International Baccalaureate \(IB\) website](#)