

# PYP- Frequently Asked Questions



## **What is the difference between an IB school and a regular neighborhood school?**

“The Primary Years Program (PYP) provides an educational experience upon what is currently known about how young children learn. It draws on the best practices in elementary school instruction. “ Teachers collaboratively plan their instruction around six organizing themes —Who we are; Where we are in place and time; How we express ourselves; How the world works; How we organize ourselves; and How we share the planet. Students are given the opportunity to build meaning through structured inquiry. “In PYP schools, the teachers’ structuring of new experiences, and the support they give to students’ ideas about new experiences, are fundamental to students’ knowledge, understanding, and conceptual development—the ability to have an understanding of abstract concepts, to make links between them, and to think conceptually. In the PYP it is recognized that development and learning are interrelated, and the PYP curriculum framework allows for concept development that applies across and beyond subject-specific areas.” (IBO website– [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org))

## **Is the program for gifted or accelerated students?**

The PYP is designed for all students regardless of their learning needs. The IB refers to this as a “whole-school approach.” Our teachers at Leroy Drive are trained to meet the diverse needs of all learners — physical, social, intellectual, aesthetic, or cultural. Our teachers plan their instruction with their students’ needs and interests in mind to give them the engaging and relevant experience IB strives for in an educational setting.



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### **What is the Learner Profile and why is it so important?**

The PYP strives to develop “internationally-minded” students. Internationally-minded students exhibit all of the attributes of the learner profile. The goal of IB is to graduate students who are:

—>*Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective*

The development of the profile will depend on more than just curriculum. It will depend on a multitude of factors contributing to the overall success, each driven by beliefs and values embodied in the profile. (Making the PYP Happen, 5)

### **Do teachers have to attend a special training?**

All teachers of PYP schools receive ongoing professional development from the International Baccalaureate Organization in the form of a workshop. Professional development is an ongoing process as schools do not become authorized IB schools for three years. Schools also work with an IB consultant to get feedback and direction to ensure proper implementation.

### **Will Leroy Drive continue to use Adams 12 Curricular Materials?**

The Primary Years Program provides a set of organizing themes that helps schools to incorporate state and district content standards into a balanced program in order to address the five essential elements — knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes, and action. Leroy Drive will continue to use Adams 12 District curriculum in Math (EDM, Reading (Literacy by Design), Science (FOSS), Social Studies and other areas, but it is presented to students in a unique way to emphasize the active construction of meaning so that students’ learning will be purposeful.



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### **Does Leroy Drive offer a language component?**

All IB schools are required to begin second language instruction to students aged seven and older. At Leroy Drive, all students, K-5 will receive Spanish instruction. “Exposing students to languages other than their mother tongue provides an insight into and appreciation of other cultures, and an awareness of other perspectives.” (Making the PYP Happen, 5)

### **What if my child wants to continue in the Middle Years Program (MYP)?**

The Middle Years Program (MYP) is currently only offered at Century Middle School (grades 6-8), and Thornton High School (grades 9-10). The MYP requires an application to be submitted, however special priority will be given to the students of Leroy Drive who wish to continue their journey in the IB programs.