

MYP Biology Course and Curriculum

What: This course will provide students with an introduction to biological concepts and themes. Its goal is provide a framework or foundation of biological principles and practices that will prepare students for success in AP biology and most importantly Higher Level IB Biology.

Why: In order for most high school students to show mastery on the AP Biology Exam and Higher Biology Exam both of which represent college level standards students need sufficient time and practice. This course will serve as the first of three years of preparation for the Higher Level Biology Exam.

How: This course will mirror the common curriculum model for that applies to Diploma Programme Group 4 Subjects. The aims and objectives will be the same for the MYP classes as it is for Diploma Programme with the content, material and practices taught at a level appropriate for the MYP audience. (see aims and objectives in Diploma Programme Biology guide pages 6 and 7). MYP students will become familiar with IB action verbs and other IB specific terminology. This course should provide a framework of understanding and a foundation of knowledge for both the external and internal assessment they will be asked to do as seniors.

To prepare students for their internal assessment in the Diploma Programme the MYP class will establish a framework of understanding by establishing a lab curriculum that will consist of 6 typical biology labs that address collectively the eight criteria and aspects of the Diploma Programme's internal assessment such as data collection, data processing and presentation, conclusion and evaluation, manipulative skills, and personal skills. Two additional labs will also be required of the students that will address the aspects of planning A and planning B specifically.

To prepare students for their external assessment the MYP class will establish a foundation of knowledge through lecture and presentations. The curriculum will be driven by the 13 topics and 2 option topics required in Diploma Level Biology. Additionally this course will emphasize in each and every unit the four themes of Diploma Level Biology: Structure and Function, Universality and Diversity, Equilibrium within Systems and Evolution. The collaborative efforts of both the AP Biology and the Higher Level IB Biology, along with the syllabus overview from the biology diploma guide will determine the level and time spent on each unit that is appropriate for the MYP audience. Teachers and students will realize that the Diploma Programme wants students to acquire "a limited body of facts and at the same time develop a broad, general understanding of the principles of the subject (biology)"