
HUDA SCHOOL MYP QUARTERLY NEWS

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Huda School & Montessori is dedicated to the adherence to the rigorous principals of the International Baccalaureate framework in the classroom through a collaborative and cross-cultural curriculum and an internationally-minded approach to understanding the course content mandated by Michigan. With the oversight of the Huda School Administration, the middle school curricula framed by the IB-MYP program is implemented and taught with fidelity.



Ms. Mona Helmy, Principal
Aamna Saleem, IB Coordinator

November 7, 2019.

Dear IB-MYP Community,

Alhumdulillah, we have had an amazing start to the new school year. It was great to see more parents this year during curriculum night. We hope that you were able to have a good overview of the IB program at Huda School and even a brief introduction to our new initiative (during our circle activity) of restorative practices for conflict-resolution and behavior management.

The students are now in full swing of learning: our sports programs and student council are underway and teachers have concluded their first IB units and assessments for the year. It is a good idea to keep regular communication with your child and look at their assessments and rubrics to have a good idea of the discussions and concepts that are taught in the classrooms and to help them reach their goals.

Teachers have also been focusing on addressing learner profiles with our character education themes and Approaches to Learning Skills in the classrooms in aims to help provide students the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. A lot of this information is in the new student planners this year, it is a good idea to look those over with your child and reinforce those learning skills at home.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning and growing.

Sincerely,

Aamna Saleem
IB Coordinator and MYP Science Teacher

Upcoming Events

November 8

Parent – Teacher conferences

November 15

7th grade Religious Diversity Journey

November 27-29

Thanksgiving break

December 8

Fundraising Dinner

December 20

Arabic Culture Day

Dec 23 – Jan 3

Winter Break



IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. The 10 attributes are Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective.

The Learner Profile is integrated within our character education program – a learner profile attribute is highlighted each month. Learner profiles that have been highlighted this year are Thinker and Open-minded.

The learner profile attribute of the month is **Communicator**. Effective communicators are respectful listeners that value others' opinions and share their own ideas using constructive and positive language depending on their audience. Communicators are also able to express their ideas and information confidently by writing, and at times in multiple languages. This is an important learner profile to have as good communicators lead to communities that are based on understanding and respect.

Being an MYP Parent

The MYP is a strong curriculum framework, building knowledge, skills, attitudes and conceptual understanding, as well as encouraging students to take action and become lifelong learners. This learning and personal development does not stop once the school day ends. As IB MYP parents, the reinforcement and consolidation of student learning and development away from the classroom is critical and powerful. Through the Learner Profile, the MYP aims to develop the whole child, fostering positive attitudes and skill development.

The Learner Profile strives to build global citizens and lifelong learners, challenging us all to be the best that we can be at home and at school. As parents, using this language and terminology in the home can be a powerful way of reinforcing these ten personal attributes. Below are some ways of encouraging your child to continue their personal development using the **Learner Profile Attribute of November: Communicator**.

Reinforcing the Communicator attribute at Home:

Students don't naturally possess the skills needed to be an effective communicator and it must be modeled and guided not only by teachers but by parents.

How can parents model effective communication techniques at home?

- When conversing with different family members, practice being an engaged listener. This means we truly try to listen to understand what the other individual is saying. We mind our body language by facing the person and do not interrupt.
- Reinforce the concept of thinking before we speak. Often times children may say things to their friends, teachers and parents that they regret later. If we don't have anything nice to say, better not to say anything at all.
- Whenever children get angry or stressed at home, use that as a teaching moment to practice pausing and taking a break before continuing. A good communicator keeps a positive attitude and uses purposeful language.
- When communicating through writing, such as sending emails to group members or teachers, it is always good to double check your work. Ensure that your writing is clear, respectful, to the point and different ideas should be separated into new paragraphs.
- Practice using, I statements to get your point across: I feel...when...because...what I need is...Check out [examples of using I statements](#) and practice them during difficult conversations at home.

IB Spotlight: IB Teachers!

Language and Literature

Ms. Erin Burke

The start of ELA 6 and 7 has been wonderful! We started the year discussing the IB learner profiles and students seemed to easily grasp the concepts and how we can relate them to our world through literature.

The 6th and 7th graders have already read two novels: *Tuck Everlasting* and we are soon to finish *Surviving the Applewhites* (6th) and *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Rules* (7th). Within the context of each text, we have focused on the Thinking and Reflective profiles as students have written in their journals to relate to some key issues in each text. We have also practiced using text evidence to improve the quality of their writing and to expand their ideas

Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between knowledge of higher-level words and ideas, and we have been working diligently on vocabulary and personal reading units. Students also completed a group media project on coping with stress in middle school to increase research and communication skills.

Mathematics

Mr. Vigil

Great start to the school year with students embracing all aspects of the IB program. Students have been constantly challenged to meet our high demands in the classroom.

In 6th grade; students have completed their first unit on ratios and proportional relationships. The major standard here was to understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve real world problems. Approaches to learning skills that were focused on this quarter were Information Literacy and organization. Students used these skills particularly in the unit project regarding the U.S. Census. They compared different characteristics of states' populations to determine how states and counties distribute federal funds. Students at the end of the quarter then choose a particular Learner profile which they could use to reflect on based on the Unit and the project.

Our 7th grade students have completed their first unit on ratios and proportional relationships. The major standard here was to analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Approaches to learning skills that were focused on this quarter was informational and media literacy. Students used these skills particularly in the unit project regarding trip costs. They research a particular vacation spot and gave details to all costs from flight costs to tips. Students at the end of the quarter then choose a particular Learner profile which they could use to reflect on based on the Unit and the project.

Furthermore the 8th graders students have completed their first unit on relationships between quantities. The major standard here was to interpret and write structure expressions in equivalent forms to solve real world problems. Approaches to learning skills that were focused on this quarter were Creativity and Innovation. Students used these skills particularly in the unit project regarding universal postal codes (UPC). They research the use of UPC and developed their own algebraic algorithm for future supply chain management. Students at the end of the quarter then choose a particular Learner profile which they could use to reflect on based on the Unit and the project.

Sciences

Ms. Aamna Saleem

We have had a great start to the year this year in science. Students in all grades started off the year by focusing on the learner profile of being a Thinker, in which we talked about how scientists think and approach problems. We also focused on the Approaches to Learning skill of Thinking in which we discussed how to think (make connections, ask questions, come up with new ideas, look at things through different perspectives).

In 8th grade, our unit on the chemistry of water focused on the global context of fairness and development - equal access to clean water. We discussed issues not just in developing countries but right in our backyard of Flint and even California. I hope this has been an insightful unit for the 8th graders as they worked on their summative projects in which they presented to the United Nations and shared their water filtration devices. It is important that as IB students, students feel the need to take action and use their skills and knowledge to benefit others.

In 7th grade, we looked at elements, their properties, physical and chemical changes and ultimately the conflicts that surround the use of these elements by humans. Not only did students learn how to gather evidence when chemical reactions occur to determine if it is a physical or chemical reaction, but students had to look at the real-life impacts over the use of these elements that we studied. This helps students be informed of what is happening around the world and understand that our choices and actions have real impact on the environment, health and warfare on a global stage.

Our 6th graders' units revolved around ecology. Students had great discussions about the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity around the world. We discussed how the Amazon rainforest which is on another continent, benefits the entire world and in nature we are all interconnected and interdependent on one another. The IB project focused on invasive species which threaten the biodiversity of our ecosystems - specifically students explored the current problem of Asian carp in the Great Lakes and created a presentation to present to the 'mock' Michigan senate to propose solutions to the Asian Carp problem.

Individuals and Societies

Language Acquisition - Arabic (Roula Arafeh & Samar Dalati)

Wow! The first marking period flew fast like blowing leaves in the fall wind. The 6th grade students have completed the unit "Health and Healthy Foods." The 7th grade students have completed the unit "Communications." Lastly, the 8th grade students completed the unit "Cleanliness." I'd like to summarize a little about each unit below beginning with each statement of inquiry.

6th: "The importance of healthy food in relation to physical, psychological, and social development." The students were excited to work on the unit project and demonstrated their interest in living a healthy and full life!

7th: "Using communication to relay a message to an audience." The unit project was a PowerPoint presentation between the means of communication from the historic past compared to modern day society. The topic offers an important lesson in the benefits of technology!

"Our physical, spiritual, and environmental cleanliness are connected to each other to form the structure of our personal and cultural expression in Islam." The 8th grade students were challenged to really consider what exactly cleanliness is meant within Islam, especially in the spiritual context!



Spanish (Ms. Obeid)

Bienvenidos a la clase de español! This year has been off to a VERY exciting start, alhamdulillah! Our 8th grade Spanish class has jumped right into the curriculum, entering a world of new ideas and cultures. Most days, our class begins with a warm-up song that reinforces what we are learning. Students enter class and get started on the Bell Work while we all get situated. This year, we have an exciting addition to class - La Frase de la Semana, or the Phrase of the Week. Students have been learning useful phrases, and even sharing them with the rest of the school during morning announcements. We started with the very basics - el alfabeto, or the alphabet. We learned greetings/taking leave, asking for names/age/how someone is, the numbers, and the weather. We had a few projects thus far: 1) The Flag Project - each student chose a Spanish-speaking country, drew its flag, and researched important facts about the country. The flags can be seen in the classroom. 2) Greetings skits - students put on short skits greeting each other, asking names/age/how are you. 3) Hispanic American Project - in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, students chose a famous Hispanic American and made a poster about him/her. Posters can be seen in the hallway on the second floor.

We have been making a list of interesting "Cultural Facts" in our notebooks. We've also started to have some "interactive notebook" assignments where students cut & paste helpful study tools into their notebooks. Students practice vocabulary using Quizlet, which we sometimes reinforce with a game of Kahoot! I am trying to include many opportunities for listening practice. This week, we are watching an episode of Peppa Pig in Spanish. The focus isn't so much understanding every single word; but rather, training their ear to pick up as much Spanish as possible. Right now, students are working on their new projects, The Weather Forecast. They will be recording/presenting themselves giving the weather report in Spanish.

Students are progressing very well! We have a lot of fun together and are currently practicing the song "Solidaridad" (Solidarity) for the Fundraising Dinner. Students are excited to show off their excellent pronunciation! We can't wait to see you there!

Physical and health Education

Ms. Beth Luttrell

During the first marking period, our middle school students focused on fitness and football.

All students took the following Fitnessgram tests at the beginning of the year: 1-mile run, Pacer Test, Push-ups, Curl-ups, Sit and Reach and Shoulder Stretch. Once the tests were completed, they reflected on their scores and created an Activity Plan for the first marking period. 6th graders focus on one component of Health-Related Fitness, 7th graders focus on 2 components and 8th graders focus on all 3. Every week, students are required to turn in journals that reflect on their activities (at school or at home) that are related to their goals. These journals help the students understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being. Students also participated in a Flag Football (invasion game) unit/tournament which was their first sports unit of the year.



Community Service: It is so impressive that so many of our students have already begun to fulfill their community service hours for this year. Just a reminder that all 6th and 7th graders are required to complete 4 hours benefitting our school, 3 hours benefitting the general community, and 3 hours benefitting the Islamic community. Hours need to be recorded on the Community Service log form and turned into me by Friday May 15th, 2020. 8th graders are required to complete the group CAP (Community Action Project). Even though the Community Service Hours are an IB requirement, the students truly care and enjoy helping the different communities.

This picture is a group of students and teachers who participated in 2 different charity events: Zaman Run/Walk or Women for Humanity 5k.

Art

Ms. Elizabeth Panley

Design

Ms. Valerie Hanley

6th-8th grade- Our school year is off to a wonderful start, thank you parents for your educational support! We started off by creating a **solid classroom community** by learning about one another using an app called **Google Slides to learn formatting skills**. Students created a flyer that was displayed in the hallway that includes specific elements about that student **as an individual**. By creating this “**All About Me Flyer**” students learned about graphic design, visual interest, and color choice for visual appeal.

Students also created a **S.M.A.R.T. goal**: specific, measurable, attainable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound for quarter one. S.M.A.R.T. goals help students organize themselves, pushing themselves to the next level, and gives them a sense of direction. **Setting goals is an important skill/tool to monitor personal growth.**

Keyboarding skills is an essential life skill. Students completed a goal-oriented typing log to keep track of the number of minutes they typed each week. Students also kept track of their WPM (words per minute) and average percentage of typing word accuracy for each set of lessons. Learning to type is more important than ever. It's a fundamental skill that will always be used, in and out of school/work settings. Typing is a basic requirement in today's world where we're all using computers all the time. With regular practice, the fingers' muscle-memory grows and there's no more need to look down at the keyboard so the thought process continues uninterrupted. In other words, proper typing skills enable better **thinking** while typing and this facilitates the **sharing of ideas**. Learning to type correctly also helps to **save time** while being **more productive, improves focus**, posture and **improves accuracy**.

<https://www.typing.com/>

ATL learning Skills: **Thinkers, Communicator, and Time Management.**

Michigan State Standard for Technology-Grades 6-8:

6-8.Cl. apply common software features to enhance communication with an audience and to support creativity.

International Baccalaureate (IB) and Middle Years Programme Design Guide (MYP) Objectives: Inquiring and Analysing, Developing Ideas, Creating a Solution, and Evaluating.

<https://www.typing.com/>

Reflection/Inquiry Question: Why is truthfulness important in being a good communicator?

