

The Middle Years Programme

Francis Scott Key Middle School



Learn! Lead! Succeed!

*910 Schindler Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903*



An International Baccalaureate World School Authorized since 2009

Montgomery County Public Schools

A Letter from the Middle Years Programme Coordinator

Dear Francis Scott Key community members:

We are a proud International Baccalaureate World School authorized to teach the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Over the years, our staff has worked diligently to implement this exciting program with fidelity. Trans-disciplinary learning, critical thinking, and global responsibility are MYP tenets that consistently support our school program. It has been our mission to provide students with engaging instruction that promotes inquiry, critical thinking, and independence among our students. Preparing students as twenty-first century learners requires that students understand other perspectives and cultures. Students are able to develop these skills through a variety of activities including, International Night, Green Day, The Homeless Walk, and other community and service related activities.

This MYP booklet provides information about the International Baccalaureate and the Middle Years Programme at Key Middle School. You will be able to meet our dedicated administrators, as well as, learn about the variety of activities we sponsor that support the MYP. Please refer to the IB website at www.ibo.org to obtain more extensive information about IB and the various programs that are offered. Our school website provides current information about upcoming school events and happenings. I hope that this booklet serves to broaden your understanding of the MYP program at Key Middle School.



Sincerely,

Beth Hester

Beth Hester
Middle Years Programme Coordinator

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Francis Scott Key Middle School Mission Statement

As members of an international society with a culturally-diverse student body, Francis Scott Key Middle School partners with parents, students, and community members to ensure student excellence and success.

As an International Baccalaureate World School, we provide a safe, supportive, nurturing environment that fosters collaboration and develops knowledgeable, compassionate, and reflective learners.

Through inquiry-based learning and a rigorous instructional program, our students gain confidence and competence as life-long learners who are career and college ready, open-minded, and responsible global citizens.



WHAT IS THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)?

The IB Middle Years Programme provides a pathway for students aged 11 to 16 to be challenged academically by developing connections between 8 core subjects (mathematics, science, technology, humanities/world studies, English, foreign language, the arts, and physical education) and the real world. Students are taught to become critical thinkers using rigorous teaching strategies. Through inquiry and reflection, students learn to challenge the status quo and ultimately increase their capacity to be empowered for life in the 21st century.

The program encourages:

- **International Mindedness**
- **Critical Thinking**
- **Positive attitudes** toward learning
- **Connections** to real life and subject matter
- Development of **communication skills**, including oral and written communication
- Development of the whole student through the **learner profile** – physically, cognitively, emotionally, and ethically
- **Community and Service**

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RESEARCH ON THE IB

Students at Key Middle School have maintained a level of academic excellence promoted by the International Baccalaureate. An increasing number of students are enrolled in advanced courses at every grade level. These courses allow students to interact with challenging and rigorous material, use the inquiry process and self-discovery to strengthen their knowledge base, and exercise critical thinking to aid in problem solving. The data below provides an overview of the student enrollment data for the advanced English, math, and foreign language classes offered at Francis Scott Key Middle School.

The IB seeks to examine the impact and value of IB programs by identifying attributes that distinguish IB World Schools and students. This is driven by the IB's programme impact research.

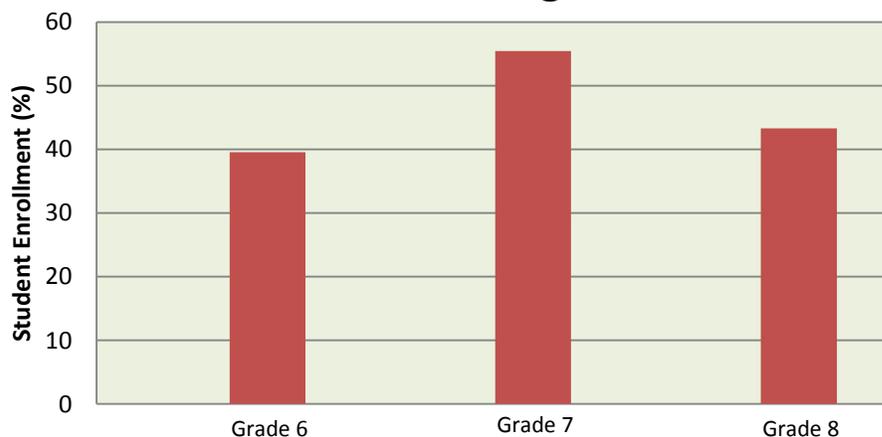
Studies associated with **student performance** compare the academic achievement of IB students and non-IB students. The key findings include:

- A higher percentage of students in MYP schools achieved a proficient or advanced performance level on mathematics and science assessments than counterparts in comparison schools. (Julie Wade, 2011)
- A fully developed Middle Years Programme (MYP) to DP pathway in US Title I schools showed a pattern of increased diplomas awarded.

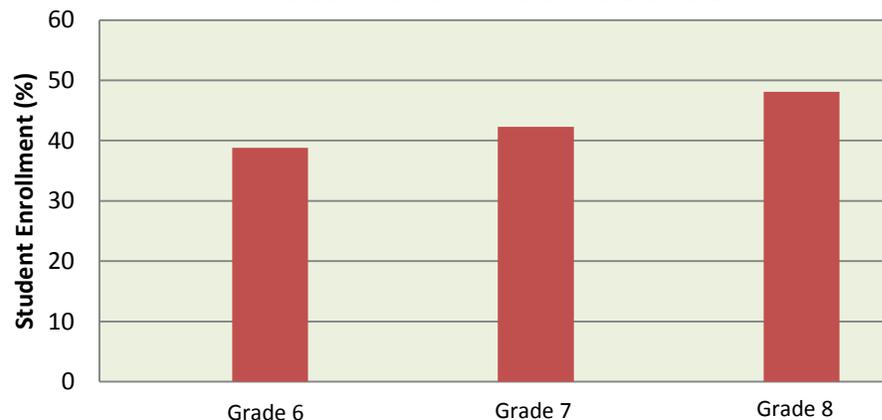
Research on the **learner profile** seeks to explain the extent to which IB students demonstrate the characteristics of the profile, and what distinguishes IB students in levels of motivation, values and attitudes. Key findings include:

- In US high schools, IB students rated higher levels of academic, social and emotional engagement, and the IB World Schools in general had significantly higher rates of engagement.
- IB high school students were more likely than their peers to have written papers of five pages or more on a regular basis, discuss ideas with teachers outside of class, believe their school contributed very much to their ability to think critically, and strongly agree they felt academically challenged by their coursework.

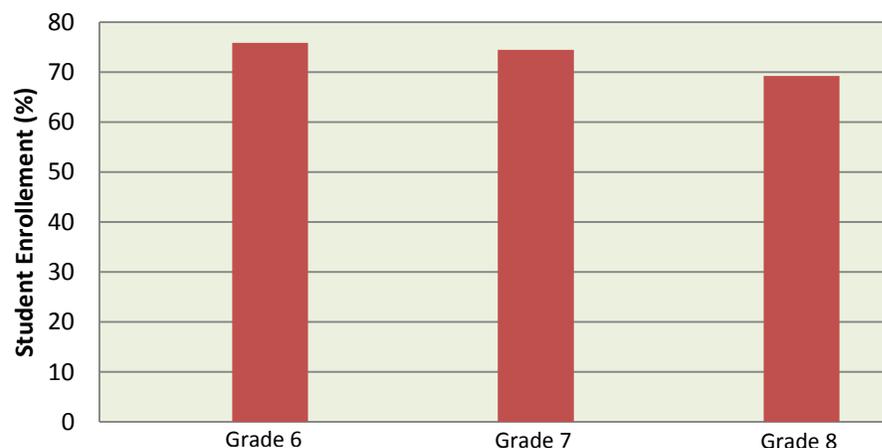
Advanced Level English Courses



Advanced Level Math Courses



Foreign Language Courses



History of the International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate (IB) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation.

Its purpose was to encourage cooperation between international schools, facilitate research on educational issues, and establish a common curriculum that would facilitate university entrance. The IB Diploma Programme (DP) was IB's first program. It provides students with rigorous course work and exams designed to prepare high school students aged 16-19 for college. Students earning an IB diploma often gain access to the world's foremost universities.

In 1994, The Middle Years Programme (MYP) was developed out of a need for a program that promotes international perspectives, communication, and intercultural awareness. The IB focuses on developing MYP students in grades 6-10 to be lifelong learners who are prepared to enter the IB Diploma Program in high school. IB understands that the needs of children in the middle grades require new approaches and a better understanding of the learning process. The Middle Years Programme centers learning around the student. MYP meets students where they are academically, socially, and emotionally, and seeks to provide them with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to make positive contributions in a rapidly changing global world. There are currently 979 IB World Schools offering the Middle Years Programme in 75 countries.



APPROACHES TO LEARNING

The aim of the Approaches to Learning is to teach students **how to learn** by helping them find out about themselves as learners. Students are explicitly taught thinking and learning skills that empower them during the program and beyond. The combination of these five skill organizers ensures that students are prepared to handle transdisciplinary learning that supports a variety of subjects.

There are five skill organizers:

Communication Skills

Research Skills

Self-Management Skills

Social Skills

Thinking Skills

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MYP at Francis Scott Key

Francis Scott Key Middle School began implementing the IBMYP in 2006 and became officially authorized as an International Baccalaureate World School in 2009.

Francis Scott Key Middle School offers MYP as an inclusive, whole-school model. We believe that all students are capable of achieving at high levels when they are both challenged and nurtured. MYP provides a healthy balance of academic support and extension that will help all students perform to their full potential.

MYP students may articulate into Springbrook High School for the final two years of the program. Students can earn a Middle Years Programme certificate if they take all eight subjects areas each year of the program, score well on MYP assessments, and complete a personal project in Grade 10.

Benefits of MYP

- Increased Rigor
- High expectations for critical thinking
- Student –centered learning
- Coherent and relevant curriculum
- Variety of teaching methods
- Global perspectives
- Community pride
- Prepares students for the IB Diploma Programme at Springbrook High School
- Prepares students for college and career experiences.



GLOBAL CONTEXTS

LENSES USED TO FRAME INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS AND LESSONS

Identities and relationships

Students will explore identity; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; and human relationships.

Orientation in space and time

Students will explore personal histories; discoveries; explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between, and the interconnectedness of, individuals and civilizations, from personal, local and global perspectives.

Personal and cultural expression

Students will explore the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

Scientific and technical innovation

Students will explore the natural world and its laws; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on communities and environments; how humans adapt environments to their needs.

Globalization and sustainability

Students will explore the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the relationship between local and global processes; the impact of decision-making on humankind and the environment.

Fairness and development

Students will explore rights and responsibilities; the relationship between communities; sharing finite resources with other people and with other living things; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

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.

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers

They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable

They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers

They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators

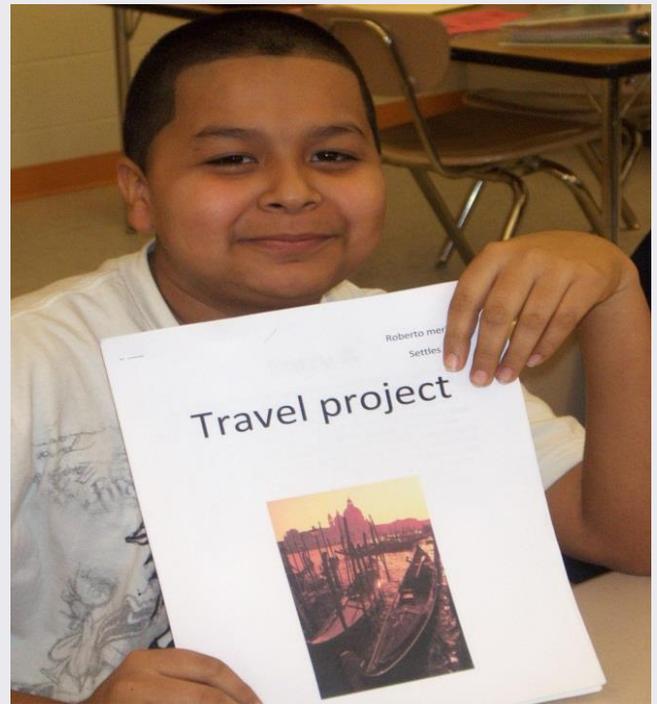
They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled

They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded

They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.



Caring

They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers

They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced

They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective

They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

What does an IB Middle Years

Curriculum Framework

Instruction at Francis Scott Key Middle school is framed by the standards and practices of the IB Middle Years Programme. Although our teachers use the same Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum, the way we teach differentiates us from other schools.

Global Contexts: The Middle Years Programme aims to develop international mindedness in a global context. Global contexts allow for relevance, engagement and a direct route for inquiry for the 21st century student. Global contexts are six lenses that MYP teachers use to frame each instructional unit. The global contexts provide relevance to teaching and learning in the Middle Years Programme.

Inquiry Questions: Teachers develop inquiry questions that frame each unit of study. Inquiry questions are broad-based, engaging questions that connect to the global context and encourage students to think critically about the focus unit. For example, eighth grade humanities students consider the question “When should people push for change?” in their study of democracy.

Transdisciplinary Focus: Teachers identify specific real-world concepts they want students to remember over time. Teachers collaborate with other content area teachers to explore connections between various subjects. This process leads to the development of integrated units which help students further understand the interconnectedness of their world. For example, Green Day is an annual school-wide event that teaches students to be more globally aware. This is achieved through activities that incorporate math, English, and science.

Varied Assessments: Assessment may take on a variety of forms from written essays and power point presentations to Socratic seminars and panel debates. IB teachers create authentic assessment tasks that provide information on student achievement. Each subject has its own set of objectives and assessment criteria used to evaluate students’ work and provide them with MYP grades based on subject specific rubrics. Student MYP grades are shared with parents and students through the **MYP Progress Report** which is sent home twice per year, in February and in June.

Creating a Better Planet

Celebrating Green Day

As a LEED Gold School and the only Montgomery County Public school recognized as a US Green Ribbon School, we take our responsibility to the environment very seriously. We commit to be green every day through our daily habits and practices. We recognize and celebrate this commitment every spring. Green Day is a major event that we use to further our students' understanding of environmental issues and their responsibility to the earth as global citizens.



Green Apple Day of Service

Staff and students reserved September 28 to commemorate Green Apple Day of Service which is recognized nationally to bring attention to service projects that increase global awareness of our environment among the Francis Scott Key school community. On this special day, teachers and students captured personal mantas for a green planet on index cards which ultimately were used to create a whole-school pledge.



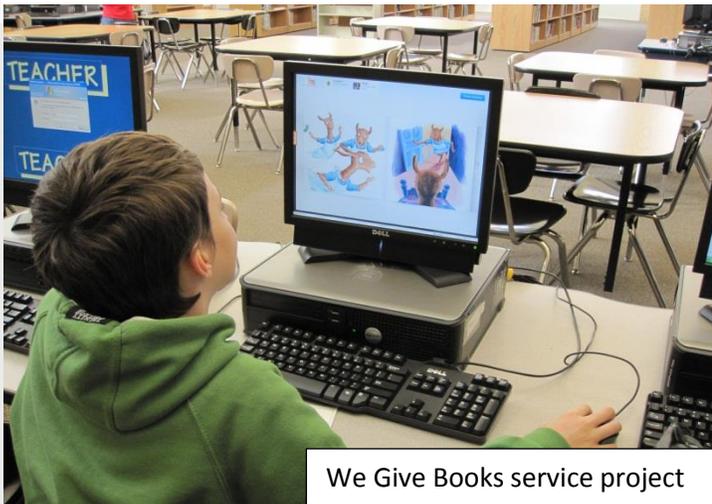
LEARN! LEAD! SUCCEED!

Community and Service



Serving the Community

Community Service is a major component of the IB Middle Years Programme. Each grade level, along with the Physical Education Department, has developed various community service projects. The experiences teach students that their world is bigger than the four walls of the school building.



We Give Books service project

Francis Scott Key students show their support for the community in a variety of ways, including the 8th Grade 5K walk/run to benefit Children's Hospital, food and clothing drives, and letters of support to the armed forces abroad. The **We Give Books** service project allows students to read and donate children's book to children in need around the world.



Student Government Association



Annual Walk for the Homeless

Focus on Arts and Culture

International Night

As an International World School, developing an awareness of other cultures is paramount to The Middle Years Programme. International Night is an opportunity for all members of the Key community to represent and teach about their culture through song, dance, and literature.



Theatrical Performances



These young ladies prep for their long awaited performance, while this young artist perfects his sculpture.

Arts and Tech Festival

International Baccalaureate encourages us to focus on the whole child. Course work in the visual and performing arts allows our students to become well-rounded young people with a variety of interests. The Arts and Tech Festival is a night for all to see the great work that takes place in the arts department. Students play instruments, sing songs, and display work from their visual arts classes.



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Developing our students into

Our ultimate focus as a Middle Years school is to help our students' transition into the future leaders of this ever-changing world by building their confidence, critical thinking skills, and their ability to inquire and be brave enough to take on new 21st century challenges. It is instilled in Francis Scott Key students every day that it is their responsibility to LEARN! LEAD! and SUCCEED!



Technologically Savvy



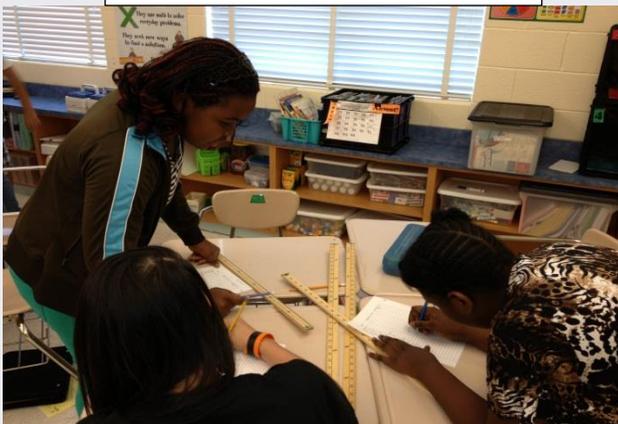
Critical thinkers

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National Junior Honor Society

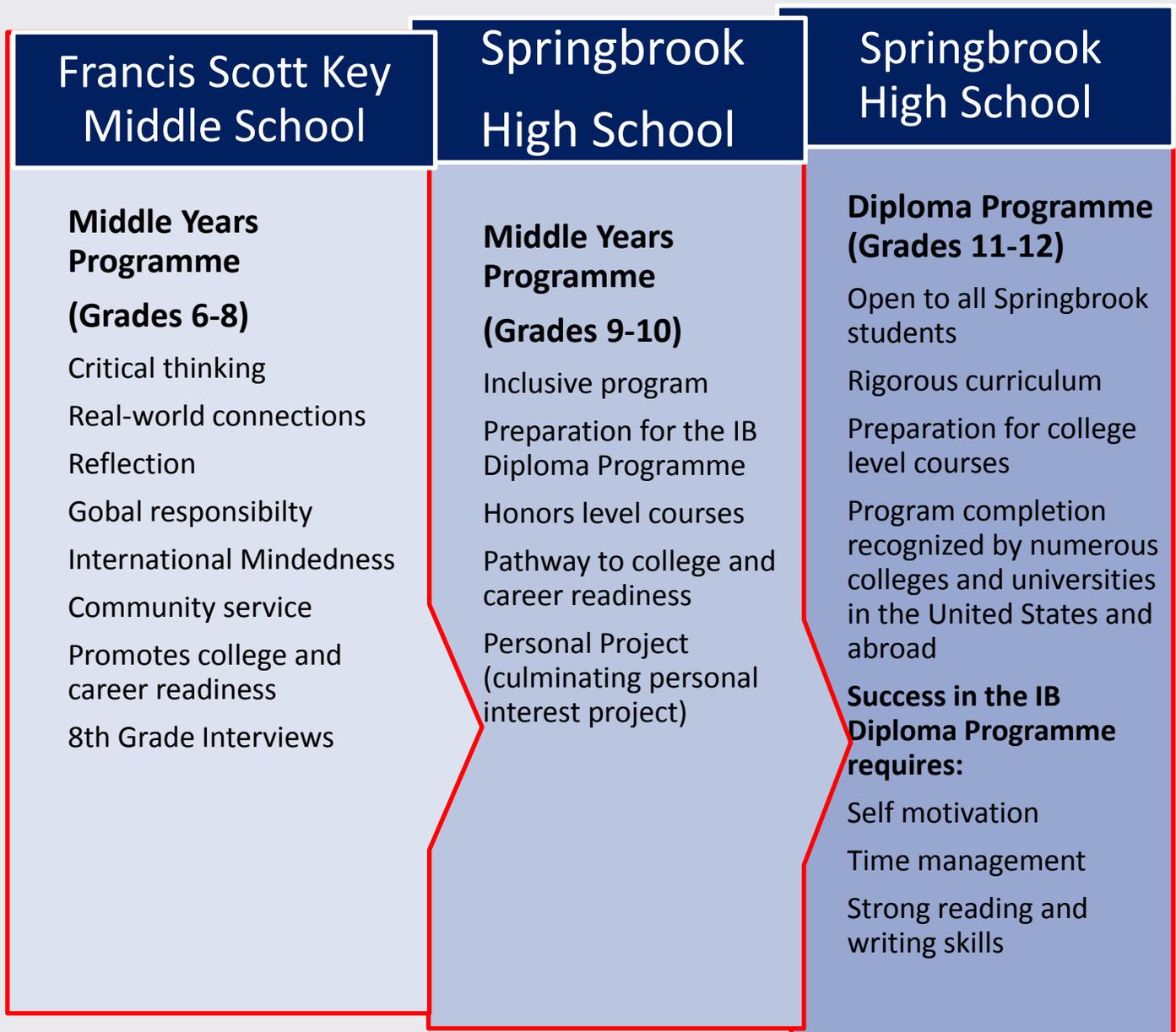
Intellectual risk-takers



Francis Scott Key Middle School & Springbrook High School

Partners in the IB

Students who attend Francis Scott Key Middle School have the option of attending Springbrook High School where they will continue their educational program in the International Baccalaureate. The diagram below details the foci of each program as students transition from middle school to high school and beyond.



Francis Scott Key Middle School



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For more information about the International Baccalaureate, visit the IB website at www.ibo.org

IBMYP information was obtained from The International Baccalaureate Organization, www.ibo.org, 1/13.