



Friendship Woodridge International School

As an International Baccalaureate School, Friendship Woodridge International is committed to student academic success. We strive to broaden student capacity far beyond intellectual development to cultivate the whole child as they embark on their personal journey in becoming critical and reflective thinkers.

What is an IB Education?

An International Baccalaureate (IB) education is learning through inquiry. The inquiry process allows students to investigate beyond and across subject areas. Students investigate **big ideas**, or **concepts, relevant to everyday life** and real world events through subject content. They then consider ways in which we can interact and solve those issues and challenges. The chart below provides additional differences when learning in a traditional classroom versus and IB (inquiry-based) classroom.



Traditional classroom environment	IB (inquiry-based) classroom environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student learning primarily led by teacher. • Rote memorization and practice • Silent work • Surface coverage • Skill drill texts and workbooks as evidence of learning • Isolated subject content learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and teachers as a community of learners. • In-depth exploration of large concepts (<i>i.e. time, change, power, systems</i>) • Discussion between students • In-depth discussions • Multiple displays of student learning (thinking maps) • Across subject content learning • Increase emphasis on student agency (voice and action)

What are the benefits of an IB Education?

Every scholar has access to an IB education because the IB framework is our school's approach to learning and teaching. The IB framework aims to develop the whole student by placing emphasis on the IB learner profile and attitudes. Students engage in inquiry to acquire an internal appreciation for learning. Rather than being given facts to remember, they must discover knowledge on their own and construct meaning in their brains.

How does IB happen?

Student inquiry occurs throughout the school day, as students are introduced to the **six transdisciplinary themes** throughout the school year (also known as the **program of inquiry**). **Our program of inquiry can be found on the back of this informational.**



1. Who we are
2. Where we are in place and time
3. How we express ourselves
4. How the world works
5. How we organize ourselves
6. Sharing the planet

These six transdisciplinary themes provide students the opportunity to explore human connectivity from a local and global perspective. The inquiry process is also guided by a set of **7 key concepts** (with **REFLECTION** as an ongoing concept) to discourage the teaching of subject areas in isolation. As students explore subject content they investigate the following concepts to develop a better understanding of how learning is transferable.

7 Key Concepts

- **Form**- What is it like?
- **Function**-How does it work?
- **Causation**-Why is it like it is?
- **Change**-How is it changing?
- **Connection**-How is it connected to other things?
- **Perspective**-What are the points of view?
- **Responsibility**-How do we know?



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What can I expect to see and hear about my child learning in an IB (inquiry) setting?

Learning in the PYP is a continuous journey of learning through investigation, thinking, and reflection. This year you can look forward to learning more about our IB program through:

- Student-led conferences
- Grade level showcase of learning
- 4th Grade Exhibition
- Inquiry unit newsletters
- IB (learner profile) student of the month recognition
- IB incentive trips
- Exploratory Learning Experiences (Space Camp)

FPCS Woodridge International Baccalaureate Program of Inquiry

PreK3	PreK4	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Who We Are I Am Special, I Am Me	How We Express Ourselves Emotions	How We Organize Ourselves Signs & Symbols	How We Organize Ourselves Building the Ideal Community	How We Organize Ourselves Systems (in our everyday world)	Sharing the Planet Natural Disasters	How we Organize Ourselves Systems
How the World Works Let's Move	Who We Are Families	Where We Are in Place and Time Homes Around the World	Sharing the Planet Animal Adaptations	Sharing the Planet Habitats and Community	How We Express Ourselves Artistic Expression	How the World Works Soils, Rocks, and Erosion
How We Express Ourselves Express Yourself	How We Organize Ourselves Community Helpers	Who We Are Celebrations	Who We Are Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies	Who We Are Our Actions	Where We Are in Place and Time The District of Columbia	Where We Are In Place and Time Migration
Sharing the Planet Making Observations	How the World Works Life Cycles	Sharing the Planet Living and Nonliving	Where We are in Place and Time A Journey through My History	Where We Are in Place & Time Historical Figures	How the World Works Motion and Stability	Who We Are Energy or Environments
PreK3 and PreK4 are required to offer a minimum of four units of inquiry. Grades K through 4 are required to offer all six units.		How the World Works Weather	How the World Works Light and Sound	How the World Works Waterways	How We Organize Ourselves Engineer Design	Sharing the Planet Exhibition
		How We Express Ourselves Recreation	How We Express Ourselves Writing	How We Express Ourselves Personal Narrative	Who We Are Beliefs and Values	How we Express Ourselves Digital Responsibility