

The BMS Programme of Inquiry

At the heart of the Berlin Metropolitan School's curriculum for both our Early Learning Center and Primary School is a commitment to inquiry as the leading pedagogy for learning. Through the framework of the Primary Years Programme (PYP) students are engaged in inquiry-based learning journeys during which they ask questions, make connections to prior knowledge, explore new ideas, investigate ways to address problems or shape new behaviors as a result of their learning. Our curriculum is organized around six transdisciplinary themes as featured below. The IB PYP is a transformative program that invigorates teaching and learning through engaging, relevant, and meaningful learning opportunities. The PYP focuses on the development of the whole child, paying attention to their social and emotional development as well as their academic progress. At the heart of the program philosophy is a commitment to developing internationally-minded young people, who go on to make a difference in the world.

These themes are designed around areas of knowledge which are of global significance for all students and are revisited each year with increasing complexity. They offer students the opportunity to explore knowledge of genuine importance in the understanding of the human condition. Students study six units of inquiry, with the exception of four for our Early Learners, which balance subject-specific knowledge with conceptual understanding and a range of skills which support students in the HOW of learning. Concept-driven, inquiry-based learning, the IB Learner Profile, as well as Approaches to Learning, are what define an IB education across the learning continuum. The BMS Program of Inquiry articulates coherently how learning is structured in a developmentally appropriate process.

The PYP is transdisciplinary in nature, focusing on meaningful and relevant issues that transcend subject areas. These six themes create a framework that allows students to think and make connections beyond the confines of traditional subject areas. These units of inquiry are substantial, in-depth and may span 3 to 8 weeks, and may run in parallel to other units throughout the year, organizing student inquire into each of the six themes.

 BMS is an authorized IB World School



EARLY YEARS

HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES

An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES

An inquiry into ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME

An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories, homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

WHO WE ARE

An inquiry into the nature of the self, beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures, rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

HOW THE WORLD WORKS

An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understandings of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and the environment.

SHARING THE PLANET

An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

	HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES	HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES	WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME	WHO WE ARE	HOW THE WORLD WORKS	SHARING THE PLANET
KINDERGARTEN AGE 3-5	Unit 1 30.08.21 - 05.11.21 Central Idea: Organising our spaces enhances learning. Conceptual Lenses: Function, Reflection, Systems Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Social Thinker, Reflective	Unit 2 15.11.21 - 21.01.22 Central Idea: The inspiration to create comes from materials and objects around us. Conceptual Lenses: Causation Change, Perspective, Interpretation Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Thinking, Inquirer, Risk Taker	Alternate Cycle K1	Unit 3 24.01.22 - 01.04.22 Central Idea: The relationships we have with others help us grow. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility, Change, Collaboration Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Communication, Caring, Balanced	Alternate Cycle K1	Unit 4 02.05.22 - 24.06.22 Central Idea: Minibeasts are essential to our life on earth. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Form, Causation Interdependence, Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Thinking, Open Minded, Knowledgeable
PRESCHOOL AGE 5-6	Alternate Cycle Preschool 1	Unit 3 24.01.22 - 01.04.22 Central Idea: We can express our ideas and feelings through art forms and symbolism. Conceptual Lenses: Form, Perspective, Opinion, Symbolism Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Thinking, Caring, Open Minded	Unit 2 15.11.21 - 21.01.22 Central Idea: Inquiry journeys shape our thinking and actions. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Change, Growth, Sequences Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Research, Inquirers, Thinker	Unit 1 30.08.21 - 05.11.21 Central Idea: Self-confidence in our abilities comes from opportunities to move beyond our comfort zone. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility Form, Change, Growth, Transformation Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Communication, Principled, Risk-taker, Communicator	Unit 4 02.05.22 - 24.06.22 Central Idea: Light travels and interacts with objects, materials, and living things. Conceptual Lenses: Function, Causation, Energy, Impact Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Thinking, Knowledgeable, Inquirer	Alternate Cycle Preschool 1

PRIMARY YEARS

HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES

An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES

An inquiry into ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME

An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories, homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

WHO WE ARE

An inquiry into the nature of the self, beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures, rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

HOW THE WORLD WORKS

An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understandings of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and the environment.

SHARING THE PLANET

An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

	HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES	HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES	WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME	WHO WE ARE	HOW THE WORLD WORKS	SHARING THE PLANET
GRADE 1 AGE 6-7	Unit 01 August to October Central Idea: A cooperative and organized learning community helps us to become independent learners. Conceptual Lenses: Function, Form, Systems Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Self-Management, Principled, Caring	Unit 3 October to December Central Idea: Traditions help connect and unify people. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Belonging Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Open-minded, Inquirers	Unit 2 Year long starting in January Central Idea: Personal journeys lead to growth and change. Conceptual Lenses: Change, Perseverance Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Communication, Reflective, Risk-Takers	Unit 04 February to March Central Idea: Making responsible choices promotes a balanced, healthy lifestyle. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Health Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Social, Communication, Balanced	Unit 05 April to May Central Idea: Cycles in nature are interconnected. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Transformation Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Thinking, Inquirers, Knowledgeable	Unit 06 June to July Central Idea: People's use and disposal of materials can alter the natural environment. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility, Pollution Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Self-management, Caring, Thinkers
GRADE 2 AGE 7-8	Unit 04 March to April Central Idea: Community needs are met through organized groups. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility, Function Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Self-Management, Caring, Balanced	Unit 02 November to December Central Idea: Stories communicate ideas and experiences. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Connection, Interpretation Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Open-minded	Unit 06 June to July Central Idea: People construct housing based on the location and availability of resources. Conceptual Lenses: Form, Connection Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Knowledgeable, Inquirers	Unit 01 August to October Central Idea: Humans look to each other for inspiration to grow and change. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Change Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Communicator, Principled	Unit 03 January to February Central Idea: People understand and use forces to help meet different needs. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Function, Gravity Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Inquirer	Unit 05 April to May Central Idea: Habitats support interdependent relationships between organisms. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Causation Interdependence, Adaptation Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Principled, Caring
GRADE 3 AGE 8-9	Unit 04 February to April Central Idea: Marketplaces depend on the ability to produce goods and supply services that can be exchanged. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Supply and Demand, Organization Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Self-Management, Reflective, Principled	Unit 01 August to October Central Idea: Film is a powerful medium for communicating ideas about the world. Conceptual Lenses: Form, Interpretation, Perspective, Expression Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Communicator, Open-minded, Thinkers	Unit 02 October to December Central Idea: Exploration leads to discoveries, opportunities and new understandings. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Causation, Values, Impact Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Thinkers, Risk-takers, Principled	Unit 05 April to May Central Idea: The effective interactions between human body systems contribute to health and survival. Conceptual Lenses: Function, Form, Interdependence, Systems Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Communication, Balanced, Knowledgeable, Inquirer	Unit 03 January to February Central Idea: Human responses to natural geological events reflect a shared humanity and survival instinct. Conceptual Lenses: Change, Causation, Consequences, Impact Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Thinking, Knowledgeable, Inquirer	Unit 06 May to July Central Idea: Children worldwide encounter a range of challenges, risks and opportunities. Conceptual Lenses: Rights, Responsibility, Connection, Scarcity Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Communication, Caring, Open-minded
GRADE 4 AGE 9-10	Unit 05 April to May Central Idea: Transportation systems develop over time to meet the changing needs of communities. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Form, Innovation, Networks Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Social, Inquirer, Thinker	Unit 01 September to October Central Idea: Creative endeavors can help develop and express a sense of self. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Perspective, Creativity, Culture Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Thinking, Communicators, Risk-taker	Unit 04 February to March Central Idea: Perspectives of significant events are shaped through personal experience and knowledge. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Change, Truth, Subjectivity, Pattern Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Critical thinking, Caring	Unit 03 December to February Central Idea: Beliefs and values offer explanations about the world around us and what it means to be human. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Responsibility, Values, Beliefs, Symbolism Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Open-minded, Thinker	Unit 06 May to June Central Idea: Inventions are designed using materials that serve a particular purpose. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility, Function, Design, Sustainability Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Research, Knowledgeable, Communicator	Unit 02 October to December Central Idea: Energy may be converted and used to support sustainable life on Earth. Conceptual Lenses: Change, Function, Process Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Principled, Knowledgeable
GRADE 5 AGE 10-11	Unit 03 December to February Central Idea: Government systems and decisions can promote or deny equal opportunities and social justice. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility, Equality, Rights, Structure, Community Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Research, Reflective, Knowledgeable	Unit 06 June and July Central Idea: Communication is served by science and technology. Conceptual Lenses: Form, Perspective Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Social, Inquirer, Reflective	Unit 05 April to May Central Idea: Evidence of past civilizations connects to present-day societies. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Perspective, Pattern Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Research, Thinking, Risk-takers, Inquirers	Unit 02 November to December Central Idea: The physical changes of adolescence shape our emotions and behaviour. Conceptual Lenses: Function, Growth Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Caring, Balanced	Unit 04 February to March Central Idea: Exploring the nature of matter allows people to transform use and develop new understandings. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Change, Procedures, Properties, Measurement, Matter Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Selfmanagement, Reflective, Inquirers	Unit 01 August to October Central Idea: Conflict resolution involves the will and skill of all parties. Conceptual Lenses: Responsibility, Perspective, Strategies, Relationships Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Self-management, Principled, Balanced
GRADE 6 AGE 11-12	Unit 06 June to July Central Idea: In times of transition, change creates opportunity, growth and reflection. Conceptual Lenses: Form, Change, Transition, Expectations Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Self-management, Social, Communication, Inquirers, Thinkers	Unit 05 PYP Exhibition: March to May Central Idea: Action starts with us but has wider connections and broader consequences. Conceptual Lenses: Connection, Causation, Activism, Impact Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Social, Communicators	Unit 03 December to January Central Idea: Social and political movements may inspire profound local and global changes. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Change, Consequences, Roles Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Principled	Unit 01 September to October Central Idea: Ethics are shaped by experience and knowledge. Conceptual Lenses: Perspective, Responsibility, Bias, Citizenship Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Self-management, Open-minded, Reflective	Unit 02 October to November Central Idea: The earth is part of a vast and complex universe that science helps us to understand. Conceptual Lenses: Change, Function, Technology, Systems Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Communication, Research, Knowledgeable, Communicators	Unit 04 February to March Central Idea: The interdependent balance of organisms on Earth is subject to disruption. Conceptual Lenses: Causation, Responsibility, Interdependence, Ecosystems, Balance Approaches to Learning and IB Learner Profile: Thinking, Balanced, Caring