



# CURRICULUM GUIDE

*In 2015, Eliot-Hine became only the second middle school in DC to offer an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP). IB schools offer a curriculum that promotes independent learning, critical thinking and inquisitiveness. We look forward to fostering learners who embrace Excellence, Rigor, Integrity and Community in our state-of-the-art renovated building for IB learning (whenever in-person learning resumes).*



The purpose of IB Middle Years Programme is to provide a thorough study of the various core disciplines, a holistic view of knowledge, intercultural awareness and communication and the development of global ethics and values. The aim is to awaken the intelligence of students and teach them to recognize relationships between school subjects and the world outside the school walls by combining knowledge, experience and critical observations. IB schools are known for their rigorous college preparatory program. With the addition of the MYP at Eastern High School, there is now an IB pathway from middle school through high school in our feeder pattern.



An IB curriculum doesn't change the content of the material required by the Common Core Curriculum but rather the approach to how it's taught. Instead of teaching subject areas in isolation, an IB curriculum often blurs lines across subjects, focusing on Latin American culture in Geography to reinforce Spanish or introducing a global element to unit rates in Math by incorporating the challenge of converting US dollars to foreign currency and figuring out how many things you can afford with your money.



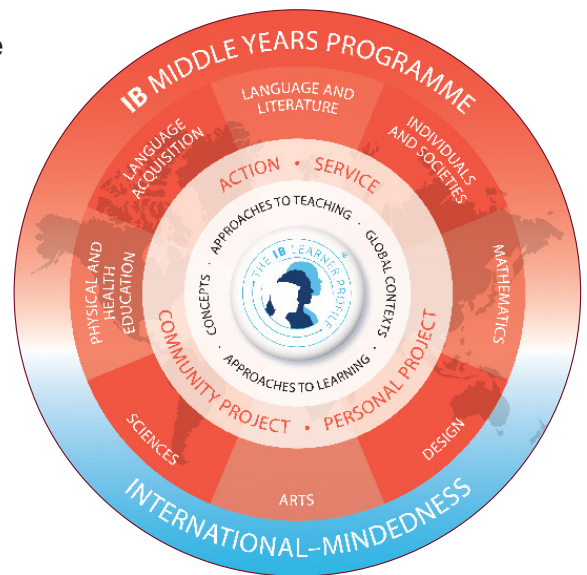
**The MYP aims to develop students who are**

- Active learners
- Internationally-minded
- Able to empathize with others
- Equipped with the intellect and skills needed to pursue lives of purpose and meaning



**The MYP offers students opportunities to**

- Develop their potential
- Explore their own learning preferences
- Take appropriate risks and reflect
- Develop a strong sense of personal identity
- Achieve success in school and in life beyond the classroom



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## Science

Eliot-Hine's curriculum is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which are a set of science standards based upon the National Research Council's 2011 Framework for K-12 Science Education. The NGSS standards focus on science and engineering practices, emphasize critical thinking and designing solutions to real-world problems, and are conducive to project-based learning. Students study Earth Science, Life Science, Robotics, Physical Science and Design & Modeling in an interactive, project-based environment. Our students are encouraged to compete in the city-wide Science Fair, and we're using Project Lead the Way grant money to build our IB Design class.



## Math

Eliot-Hine offers pre-Algebra and Algebra in both standard and accelerated classes aligned with the Common Core State Standards. In these classes, students demonstrate their ability to use various tools to model and represent understanding of algebra and apply algebraic principles to real-world problems. Students use technology, cooperative learning activities and other strategies to enhance their critical thinking skills. Students with a strong mastery of grade-level material are challenged with more advanced concepts and may sometimes help tutor classmates who need additional support to master the current lesson, which can provide benefits to both students.



## Radio/Television Broadcasting

Eliot-Hine's Radio and Television Broadcast Network is the only one of its kind in DCPS, and it forms the backbone of our Communications classes. The student-led broadcast teams learn how to fill all roles in front of and behind the camera. Interviews with a variety of politicians and celebrities give students the opportunity to develop confidence in research, writing interview questions and public speaking. Students get lots of hands-on experience with behind-the-scenes technical, keyboard and coding skills well beyond the usual scope of middle school coursework. To round out a full complement of communication tools, this course also introduces students to the Cornell notes system, which can be applied to several of their other middle school courses and beyond.



## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to core and inner core class offerings, Eliot-Hine students have options to participate in several types of academic enrichments. While the exact mix of opportunities varies slightly from year to year, the following is a sampling of programs offered at Eliot-Hine over the last 3 years:

**Embassy Adoption Program** for sixth graders; this year's partner is Costa Rica

**Monarch Sister School Program** (Spanish language & cultural exchange)

**Project Lead the Way** (hands-on STEM activities in the context of an IB Design course)

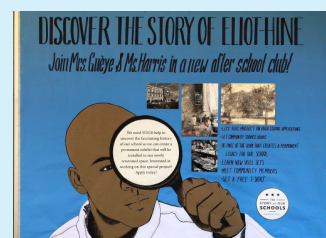
**Student TV Broadcaster Competition**

**Service learning opportunities sponsored by the school** - In recent years, these have included making hundreds of peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for Martha's Table and Valentines for area senior citizens.

**Story of Our Schools** - For SY19/20, Eliot-Hine was awarded a grant to participate in this program, where students will research the school's history and develop a permanent exhibit.

**Science Fair** - In SY18/19, Eliot-Hine students participated in the inaugural Ward 6 Science Fair and the citywide DC STEM Fair. As a parent-led initiative, we look forward to seeing what this year's student scientists come up with.

**National History Day projects** - As a parent-led initiative, students are given the opportunity to develop projects on the theme of Breaking Barriers in History, honing both their research and presentation skills as they share their projects with jurors.





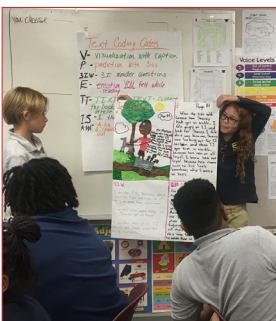
## Common Core Standards

The Common Core State Standards establish guidelines for English Language Arts (ELA) as well as for literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and technical subjects. Because students must learn to read, write, speak, listen, and use language effectively in a variety of content areas, the standards promote the literacy skills and concepts required for college and career readiness in multiple disciplines.

*The Common Core asks students to read stories and literature, as well as more complex texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas such as science and social studies. Students will be challenged and asked questions that push them to refer back to what they've read. This stresses critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are required for success in college, career, and life. For more information, go to [Core-standards.org/ELA-Literacy](http://Core-standards.org/ELA-Literacy).*



**“Just try new things. Don’t be afraid. Step out of your comfort zones and soar, all right?”**  
–Michelle Obama



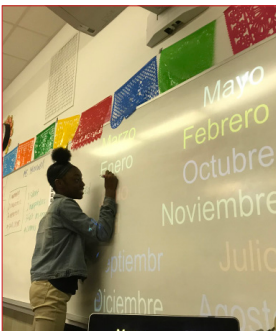
## English Language Arts

Through extensive reading of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, Eliot-Hine students gain literary and cultural knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements. Students learn to use writing as a way to offer and support opinions, demonstrate understanding of the subjects they are studying, and convey real and imagined experiences and events. They learn that a key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly to an external, sometimes unfamiliar audience, and they begin to adapt the form and content of their writing to accomplish a particular task and purpose. They also develop the capacity to build knowledge on a subject through research projects and respond analytically to literary and informational sources.



## Geography

Sixth grade students take World Geography covering eight units of study on the cultures and geography of different regions of the world. Students focus on an exploration of the civilizations and governmental systems, and the sixth grade also participates in the Embassy Adoption Program. Seventh grade students focus on ancient civilizations, and eighth graders study US history and geography. Students are assessed through extension-based projects where they must showcase skills acquired in class to relate their knowledge to a global issue, concept or concern. Projects can be tailored to students' interests and shaped by their creativity.



## World Language

This school year, we are offering French and Spanish as our world languages. Spanish is presented and explored around four major modes: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Authentic language resources are frequently used, including video-clips, flyers, magazine excerpts, school schedules and more. Eliot-Hine has been building its Spanish-language library and moving towards literature-based instruction, rolling out a Spanish Literature course in SY18/19. Eliot-Hine's has also participated in the Monarch Sister School program, which deepens cultural awareness and language skills via Skype exchanges with a school in Mexico.

## Visual Arts

Students get a variety of visual arts (design, drawing, painting, sculpting, print making) experiences that encourage them to journey within themselves, engage in thought provoking journaling and open discussions about their art and their lives. Students explore media, use of tools, techniques and processes leading to the development of a portfolio. Students also develop skills in making critical judgments related to art, their environment, and themselves. Our goal is to prepare students to utilize and identify the elements and principles of art and design, employ a functional art vocabulary and walk away with a quality student portfolio and a heightened sense of self. Our newly renovated building includes a kiln and a great outdoor courtyard space to support our visual arts program.

## Physical Education & Health

All Eliot-Hine students take Physical Education/Health. Students are usually able to utilize our six-acre campus for running, sports, games and other activities that promote teamwork as well as a life-long love of physical activity, but we have been a little constrained during the renovation of our building. We look forward to the completion of the renovations to our school grounds this spring, which will include a large soccer field, a baseball diamond and basketball courts. These will be a great complement our brand-new indoor facilities - a spacious gym, locker rooms and a fitness room. In addition, the Eliot-Hine curriculum teaches students to maintain a healthy lifestyle and ensures physical activities per the District's Healthy Schools Act.

## 8th Grade Community Project

As part of the IB Middle Years Programme, 8th graders must complete an extended service project that addresses a need that they see in their community. These projects are always personal to the students, and they are passionate about their topics. These are the three areas that will set students up for success:

### GROWTH

As students do their research and community action, they realize how what they do affects others. A few years ago, two students spent six months building trust and effecting change when they tutored Maury Elementary students after school. In addition to feeling great about helping others, it helped them become more responsible with planning ahead and keeping an organized schedule.

### ENRICHMENT

Realizing that they can make an impact in their community and seeing first-hand that what they do matters builds confidence and character, making students want to continue to have a positive impact.

### LEARNING

One goal of the community project is for students to learn to be accountable for their own learning. Students are challenged to stretch their comfort levels and skill sets, learn how to navigate a group dynamic or work effectively with an adviser, how to best use technology in a presentation (e.g. PowerPoint vs. static website) and how to conduct an interview. One student did a phone interview with a DC police officer about gang violence and learned that the responses may have been different and more dynamic had they been face-to-face.

This project culminates in a review panel made up of teachers, parents, community members, peers and students from Eastern High School's IB Diploma Programme.

