

September 2020

Dear Families:

During the elementary school experience at an AACPS International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme school, students are provided with single-subject classes that include world and classical language, art, music, physical education and library media. Each of these programs is designed to develop specific skills and concepts and to foster an appreciation for world cultures, arts, physical fitness, and international mindedness. Single-subject classes in an IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) school connect with and extend the learning occurring in the grade-level classroom whenever possible. These flowing connections help the IB school realize the interconnectedness of all learning and the world around us. The following is an overview of the programs your child will experience this year.

The **World and Classical Language specific to this school** program provides students with language experiences which include the use of hands-on learning and practice in the target language through authentic settings and situations. The WCL class promotes international-mindedness and constructive interaction with a variety of cultures, regionally, and in the world. World Language instruction begins with an emphasis on oral, viewing, and presenting skills while in later elementary grades, students develop reading and writing skills. Assessment in World Language class is frequent and formative. It is used to determine next steps for developing the internationally minded world language communicator.

The **Music** program provides students with a variety of experiences including listening to music, singing, playing instruments, reading standard notation, moving to music, composing, improvising, analyzing, evaluating, and performing. Skills, concepts, and experiences are presented within a differentiated music framework that exposes children to a variety of styles, genres, and cultures. Music classroom experiences tap heavily into world cultures, brain-based learning strategies, music literacy, 21st century skills, arts integration, College and Career Ready Standards, and the IB PYP Arts scope and sequence. Students in grades K-5 will engage in a balanced, comprehensive program in general music and an opportunity for students in grades 3-5 to study instrumental music.

The **Visual Arts** program provides students with a variety of experiences including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Skills, concepts, and experiences are presented within a differentiated visual arts framework that exposes children to a variety of tools, techniques, and master exemplars. Visual Arts classroom experiences tap heavily into world cultures, brain-based learning strategies, and 21st century skills. In addition, College and Career Ready Standards, IB PYP Arts scope and sequence, arts integration and STEM practices are embedded in instruction. All factors combine to offer students in all grades a balanced, total program in a visual arts education.

The **Physical Education** program provides a variety of motor-skills, fitness concepts, rhythms, and game experiences intended to enhance the cognitive, motor, and affective development of every child. The curriculum is designed so that all children are involved in a sequential and differentiated program that provides for maximum physical activity during every class. Instruction focuses on the development of aerobic fitness, flexibility, and muscular strength and endurance. This is accomplished through the delivery of themes that include but are not limited to fundamental movement patterns, rhythms and dance, manipulatives, and ball skills. In addition, College and Career Ready Standards, and the IB PYP Personal, Social and Physical Education scope and sequence are implemented throughout instruction.

The **Library Media** program provides students with the skills to become lifelong readers and effective users of technology and information. Students are provided with access to literature and information resources. Students are able to check out books weekly. They are exposed to a wide range of

genres during instruction, including stories of imagination as well as factual accounts from informational text. They learn to locate, evaluate, and use information efficiently and effectively. Students learn the importance of a digital footprint and to use safe behaviors when using electronic communication. Students come to understand the concept of intellectual property and to use resources in a responsible manner. Through instruction in library media, students acquire the foundation needed to be effective users of ideas and information in everyday life. The development of the skills and use of tools in Library Media support the transdisciplinary learning, conceptual understanding, collaboration, and communication emphasized by the IB.

**Assessment for Art, Music, and Physical Education Grades 1-5:** All students will have documented assessments at least three times per marking period based on the state standards for each of the content areas. Report cards will indicate “consistently demonstrates skill,” “progressing in the development of skill,” “emerging in the development of skill,” and “needs development” in each program area. Further clarification as to how these grades are determined will come from each teacher.

We are looking forward to a well-rounded, exciting, and productive year for your child. If you desire additional information, please contact your child’s Cultural Arts teacher.

Sincerely,