

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As part of the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) Middle Years Program, 8th grade students are required to complete a Community Project. This project provides students with the opportunity to engage in research and service to help their community.

As explained to students: *In the IB - Middle Years Programme, students are encouraged to engage in principled action. Action means learning by doing and experiencing, and students engage in principled action when they explore personal and global challenges through service learning, advocacy, and educating themselves and others.*

**There are four types of action students may engage in as they complete their community project:**

1. **Direct service:** Students have **interactions** that involve people, the environment or animals.
2. **Indirect service:** Though students do not see the recipients during indirect service, they have verified that their actions will **benefit** the community or environment.
3. **Advocacy:** Students **speak** on behalf of a cause or concern to *promote action* on an issue of public interest.
4. **Research:** Students **collect information** through varied sources, analyze data, and report on a topic of importance to *influence* policy or practice.

Student groups are based on personal interest. Students have already chosen their topics, and are in the beginning phase of planning, researching, and constructing a proposal. This project will result in a final presentation in May. As this project is entirely student-directed in terms of topic and outreach plan, it is suggested that you periodically check in with your child on their progress.

**Although our primary goal is to allow student autonomy, it is most important to ensure you are comfortable with the research and project your child has selected.** If you have any concern, or do not feel the topic is appropriate for your child, please contact your child's teacher(s).

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