



# The International Baccalaureate® Programme IB at E. Rivers Elementary

## IB at E. Rivers Elementary: Frequently Asked Questions

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Mr. David White, Principal | Mrs. Sabrina Hayes, Assistant Principal

### What is IB?

IB is a global academic program that E. Rivers embraces. IB presents both a philosophy and a framework to enhance your child's ability to live, learn, and work in our globalized world.

The Programme focuses on four critical areas of development:

- **Intellectual**
- **Personal**
- **Emotional**
- **Social**

### How does my child benefit from the IB Programme?

The IB Programme is integrated into every class and across all subject matters – it is not a stand-alone course. Rather, the IB philosophy and attitudes shape every aspect of your child's experience at E. Rivers.

#### **Academics –**

All subjects address international and cultural elements of the topics they explore.

This adds richness to the topic and creates greater opportunities for students to engage in the learning process.

#### **Inquiry-based learning –**

Children develop their desire and ability to inquire – ask questions of depth which will enhance their learning and integrate material across subjects. Through inquiry-based learning, children expand the ability to solve problems by integrating knowledge that spans and connects several subject areas. For example, your child will experience more hands-on activities and project-based learning.

#### **The Learner Profile –**

The Learner Profile is the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes.

As IB learners, E. Rivers students are:

<b>Inquirers</b>	<b>Open-minded</b>
<b>Knowledgeable</b>	<b>Caring</b>
<b>Thinkers</b>	<b>Risk-takers</b>
<b>Communicators</b>	<b>Balanced</b>
<b>Principled</b>	<b>Reflective</b>

By embracing the learner profile both at school and at home, E. Rivers families create shared values and support our community of learners. By supporting the learner profile at E. Rivers, our staff and leadership encourage an environment in which students work toward developing all these qualities.

#### **Behavior –**

The IB focus on personal and social skills development means that we set standards for behavior based on the IB attitudes. The attitudes of tolerance, respect, integrity, empathy, cooperation, and appreciation shape the way the entire E. Rivers' community acts – both in school and in the larger community. Students are held accountable for these behaviors, and the attitudes shape the way that teachers and administrators interact with our children.



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## What are “IB Attitudes”?

The IB Programme promotes attitudes that enable us to create an environment that fosters lifelong learning in your child. These include:

<b>Tolerance</b>	<b>Curiosity</b>
<b>Respect</b>	<b>Creativity</b>
<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Cooperation</b>
<b>Independence</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
<b>Enthusiasm</b>	<b>Commitment</b>
<b>Empathy</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>

### **Specials –**

Our specials – art, music, PE, and French – provide an opportunity for our children to express their creativity and explore culture through artistic expression, music, games, and language.

## What is the IB philosophy?

IB aspires to create lifelong learners who will make the world a better place. As stated in the IB Mission Statement, “International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

## Why did E. Rivers choose IB?

Because the IB philosophy is consistent with our philosophy. E. Rivers’ leadership, teachers, PTA, and students find the IB philosophy consistent with their own – to create a community of life-long learners who will make the world a better place.

## What makes IB unique?

The IB Programme promotes a love of learning, develops international-mindedness, and provides a continuum of learning that begins in kindergarten, continues in the Middle Years Programme at Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High School, and concludes with the pre-university Diploma Programme at North Atlanta High School. All elementary schools that feed into Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High School are IB schools, which ensures a strong IB foundation.

### **Encourages a love of learning –**

With IB, learning is about satisfying intellectual curiosity and developing a love of learning, not about grades or standardized tests. IB encourages children to ask challenging questions, to reflect critically, and to develop research skills. As an IB school, we encourage children to learn how to learn, in their own way.

### **Develops international-mindedness –**

First, IB students gain self-awareness and understanding of their own cultural and national identity. Then, they learn about other cultures and nations. Throughout your child’s IB experience, he/she has the opportunity to explore his/her own perspective as well as those of other cultures. All IB students learn a second language because it prepares them to live and work with others internationally.



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## **What makes IB unique? (cont.)**

### **Builds a foundation for continuum of education –**

The IB Programme begins in kindergarten and concludes with the pre-university diploma. In the Primary Years Programme, your child develops a strong foundation upon which to build his/her life-long education. After completing the PYP, IB learners go on to the Middle Years Programme (ages 11-16) and then the Diploma Programme (ages 16-19). Students who earn the IB Diploma may enter university with as many as 30 credit hours. For example, a student with the IB Diploma entering the University of Georgia system would earn 30 credit hours and have sophomore standing.

*For more detail and other aspects that make IB unique, see the IBO website.*

## **What other schools are IB schools?**

There are more than 745,000 IB students at 2,715 schools in 138 countries. All Atlanta Public Schools in our cluster, as well as other public and private schools are IB World Schools.

- **Atlanta International School**
- **Atlanta Public Schools – Elementary Schools**
  - **E. Rivers Elementary**
  - **Garden Hills Elementary**
  - **Morris Brandon Elementary**
  - **Sarah Smith Elementary**
  - **Warren T. Jackson Elementary**
- **Fernbank Elementary (DeKalb County, GA)**
- **Glenwood Academy (Decatur, GA)**
- **High Meadows School (Roswell)**
- **Sawyer Road Elementary (Marietta, GA)**

## **Are our teachers IB trained?**

Yes! All of our returning teachers have completed level-one IB training and many are trained at Level Two and Level Three in topical areas such as inquiry, assessment, international-mindedness. Teacher new to E. Rivers receive local, Level One training during their first year. Within each grade level, teachers share a common planning time, which allows them to collaborate in their IB units and materials.

## **How did E. Rivers become an IB school?**

To become an IB World School, E. Rivers completed the rigorous authorization process.

This process includes:

### **1. Feasibility study and identification of resources –**

In spring, 2005, E. Rivers' leadership and teachers determined that the IB philosophy was consistent with E. Rivers philosophy and began their IB-approved professional development and training.

### **2. Trial implementation period: candidate status –**

From fall 2005 through February 2007, implemented the IB programme and curriculum, and teachers continued their training.

### **3. Authorization visit by an IB visiting team –**

In February, 2007, Rivers received full authorization to become an official IB World School after an on-site evaluation and observation by the IB Programme.



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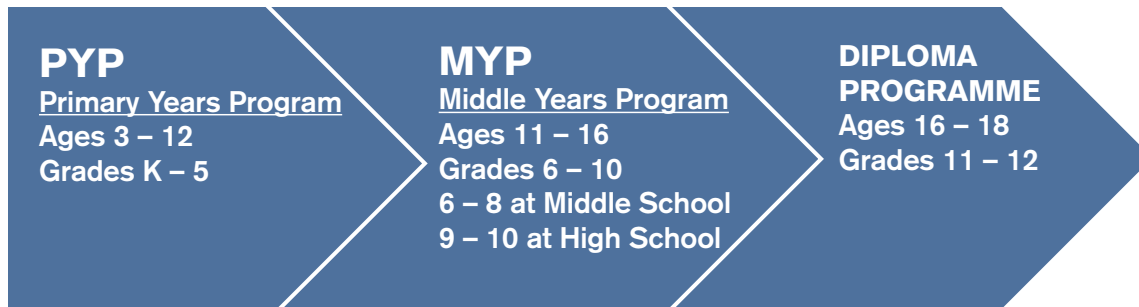
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## How did E. Rivers become an IB school? (cont.)

In 2010, Rivers will complete the IB Programme Evaluation. In this reflective exercise, all stakeholders evaluate themselves and the school in the Programme standards and practices of the IB. We include teachers, parents, students, and administrators in this thorough reflective exercise.

## Who is our IB Coordinator?

Ms. Mary Katherine Peele facilitates the PYP and manages all teacher training and assessment. She interacts with International Baccalaureate and coordinates parent volunteers. Ms. Peele worked for two years at an international in Monterrey, Mexico. She strongly supports developing learners who have an understanding and respect for all cultures.



<http://www.ibo.org/who/index.cfm>

<http://www.ibo.org/pyp/curriculum/written/>

<http://www.ibo.org/>

<http://www.ibo.org/sho/slides.cfm>