



CARSON GRAHAM SECONDARY



Friday, September 1, 2023

Dear grade 8 students, families and friends,

As IB coordinators, Ms. Pross and Ms. Thornhill would like to welcome you to Carson Graham. You are beginning the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and we are here to support you. Students are encouraged to drop by our office in room A202, message us on MS Teams or contact us by email.

The MYP aims to help students develop their personal understanding, their emerging sense of self and responsibility in their community while challenging them to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world. It is **inquiry-based**, which means students inquire into issues and ideas of personal, local and global significance through concepts that have relevance within specific disciplines and across subjects. We find that making learning personal to students and their interests deepens their understanding and helps them make these connections.

One Wednesday per month, we will meet in **Advisory groups** to support students in learning about important Core Competencies we call the Approaches To Learning (ATL) skills. The ATL skills provide the foundation for independent learning and encourage the application of their knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Developing and applying these social, thinking, research, communication and self-management skills helps students learn how to learn. Students will set goals and write self-reflections throughout the year to reflect on their development.

Another critical component of the MYP is our commitment to **Service as Action (SA)**. Students are encouraged to participate in volunteer work and community service each year. In order to qualify for the MYP Certificate, students must complete a minimum of 30 hours of service from grades 8-10. Students who participate in additional hours may qualify for service awards at the end of year. All activities will be recorded in Managebac.

We encourage students to seek out service opportunities within the school and community related to their interests. They can join school clubs or community organizations like the NVRC, City/District of North Vancouver, sports clubs or other local initiatives. Many service opportunities will be shared with students through their Class of 2028 team on Teams throughout the year.

For more information about the MYP certificate requirements or other IB information, please refer to our school's website at www.carsongraham.ca.

Sincerely,

Cora Pross and Liz Thornhill
IB Coordinators

cpross@sd44.ca lthornhill@sd44.ca

