

# Middle Years Programme

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Spojena skola Novohradská, Bratislava, Slovakia

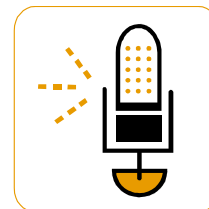
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## Welcome back to school!

Dear parents, students, colleagues,

We hope that you had a relaxed, fun-filled summer.

We wish to welcome all of our IB students back to yet another school year and also we would like to wish them a lot of success throughout the year.

This year is a very special one as many events await us.

There have been several significant changes when it comes to the Middle Years Programme at Spojena skola Novohradská. You can read about these changes in this newsletter. We

sincerely hope that you will quickly get used to them, as have we. In case you have any questions regarding the changes, feel free to contact the MYP Coordinator or your homeroom teacher.

## MYP at GJH is now a 6 year program

Due to the fact that national education in Slovakia takes 13 years to complete, we have decided, with the permission from the IBO, to make our MYP a 6 year long program. Therefore, instead of having 5 years of PYP, 5 years of MYP and a 2 year DP, Spojena skola Novohradská will offer a 5 year PYP, a 6 year MYP and a 2 year DP program which together amount to 13 years of

education (Slovak equivalent - as opposed to the standard IB 12 years).

This way we hope to bridge the gap between our 'old' MYP5 students who go into the Diploma Programme not only a year younger but with a year of compulsory education less. We hope that this change is only a change for the better, as our MYP5 students

who will have completed our 6 year program will be more mature and ready for the challenges of the Diploma Programme.

So if you are wondering why your child is in a class called Pre-MYP, this is the reason. **Students who were admitted to the MYP prior to school year 2012/13 will not be affected by this change.**





*"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."*

**B.B. King.**

## NEW Language B and Humanities

Since IBO is planning on drastically changing the structure of the Middle Years Programme as of 2014/15 school year, some changes are already on their way.

Two major changes in 2012/13 school year are the new Language B (English, Spanish, German) and Humanities (History, Geography) guides.

The Language B criteria have significantly

changed. There are now only 4 criteria: Criterion A – Oral Communication, Criterion B – Visual Interpretation, Criterion C – Reading Comprehension and Criterion D – Writing. Another major change are the so-called phases – students have to be differentiated according to their level of knowledge and therefore, some changes within specific English B groups will

have to be made. As for Humanities, the number of criteria remains i.e. 4 but are changed: Criterion A – Knowing and understanding, Criterion B – Investigating, Criterion C – Thinking critically, Criterion D – Communication.

We will try to explain the changes to the parents during our first Parent-Teacher Conference later this month.

## Changes to the Staff in 2012/13

As it happens every school year, there have been several changes when it comes to our teaching staff.

Some of the 'old' faces have returned, thus, we have our English B teacher Diana Hirnerova back with us (she will be teaching pre-MYP and MYP5) and also Michal Kubalak, our PE teacher, is back from a year spent in Australia. Together with Milan Hasko, our last year's substitute, they will make up the PE section. Unfortunately, we also had to see some of our colleagues leave, like

both of our biology teachers. But we found a perfect replacement – Peter Compel will be teaching biology throughout the whole MYP Program. Also, Milos Kmet is away for the half-term and his substitutes for the term are: Sarlota Dzurikova (you may remember her from last year's MYP 1 and 2), Barbora Okasova and Magdalena Rosova. During his absence, the Personal Project will be coordinated by Beata Peckova, our Slovak A teacher. Furthermore, we also welcomed a back-up for our Spanish

teacher. Ivana Bojnanska will be teaching Spanish B in pre-MYP. Also, there has been another addition to the Geography 'department'. Roman Mikus will be teaching MYP 3 and 4.

Most of the new teachers can be reached via school email, but just in case, check out the Student Agenda for more precise email addresses.

## Aol Leaders and Homeroom Teachers

Our Aol leaders are as follows:

Approaches to Learning:

Diana Hirnerova  
Health and Social Education: Zuzana Popelkova  
 Community and Service/Environments: Gabriela Markusova  
Human Ingenuity: Vladimir Crmoman

Our homeroom teachers:

Pre-MYP: Lydia Schmid  
 MYP2: Andrea Zahorska  
 MYP 3: Matthew Yoder  
 MYP 4: Sona Chalupkova  
 MYP 5: Dusan Zorkocy

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## Dates/Contact Details/Information

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 School psychologist

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Mrs. Zuzana Munkova  
 School Principle

Email: [munkova@gjh.sk](mailto:munkova@gjh.sk)

All the teachers can be reached by using the following email format: [lastname@gjh.sk](mailto:lastname@gjh.sk) unless stated otherwise

The first Parent-Teacher Conference is to take place on September 24<sup>th</sup>. You will be further informed about the exact time of the meeting.

For more information about MYP at our school, please visit the school's website: [www.gjh.sk/MYP](http://www.gjh.sk/MYP) which is actually our own MYP section and is updated on a regular basis. There, you will be able to find all the important information, news and events.



Newsletter written by Sonja Miler, MYP Coordinator