RHS Personal Project

The Big Picture: What? Why? How?

What is the Personal Project?

The Personal Project is a required project for students in year 5 of the MYP program. As such, it is an opportunity for you to guide your own learning in a project driven by *your* interests based on experiences inside or outside of school (or both!).

Why is the Personal Project important for students?

As outlined in the Personal Project guide, the personal project is an opportunity for students to:

1. Inquire (Planning stage of the project)
    - Explore an interest that is personally meaningful
    - Take ownership of their learning by undertaking a self-directed inquiry
2. Act (Apply skills stage of the project)
    - Transfer and apply skills in pursuit of a learning goal and the creation of a product
3. Reflect (Reflection stage of the project)
    - Recognize and evidence personal growth and development

In the process of completing the Personal Project, you'll establish a learning goal, create a product, apply skills, and reflect. While this project is part of school, this kind of project transfers to all sorts of applications outside of school. As always, you get what you give. Invest in the process so you can learn and grow!

Here's the IB Introduction to the Personal Project.

PERSONAL PROJECT



PLAN

Generate a learning goal, intended product, and success criteria. Make an action plan.

APPLY SKILLS

Work towards your learning goal, create your product, track the skills you use to do so through a report.

REFLECT

Evaluate your project and consider the impact the project had on you as a student/person.

GROW

Use your learning in school, work, life!

What are the expectations?

The project is intended to take students approximately 25 hours. Rocket Block is a time when students *can* work. Rocket Block is also a time when you'll receive support as you work through each stage of the project. Will some students take more than 25 hours? Yes. Will some take less? Yes. Everyone will be on a different path driven by their learning goal.

You play a part in setting the expectations as you get to establish success criteria for your specific project. Beyond that, your project is also scored using this Criteria.

How will you do the project?

Project Stages/Phases (Full Calendar)

1. Introduction: September (IB Intro to Personal Project)
2. Planning: September-October (IB Presentation: Planning)
3. Applying Skills: November-December (IB Presentation: Applying Skills)
    a. Due: December 21
4. Reflecting: January-February (IB Presentation: Reflecting)
    a. Deadline: February 10
5. Showcase & Celebrate: February
    a. Showcase: February 17 (during Rocket Block and Registration Fair in the pm)
6. Scoring: March (internal and external moderation)

Supervisor Meetings

You will meet with your Personal Project supervisor at specified times during Rocket Block. These meetings are intended to support you in each stage of the project. Agendas are provided, though they are flexible.

1. Stage 1 (Planning): 10/19, 10/26, or 10/28
2. Stage 2 (Applying Skills): 11/30, 12/2, 12/14 or 12/16
3. Stage 3 (Reflecting): 2/8, 2/10, 2/15

Important References

1. RHS Project Workbook (you get a copy on Google Classroom)
2. RHS Personal Project Website
3. IB Materials
    a. IB Personal Project Guide
    b. IB Teacher Support Material
    c. Approaches to Learning
4. IB Personal Project Examples
    a. Video Games & violence (score: 10/24)
    b. Sustainable driveway (score: 15/24)
    c. Creating an animation (score: 24/24)

Ongoing Support

1. Email your supervisor or communicate with the supervisor in person.
2. Email the Personal Project Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Question: Is the project required?

   Answer: Yes.

2. Question: Can the project be a group project?

   Answer: Parts can be completed by a group, but each individual has to generate a report individually that shows each student went through every stage of the project even if group work is involved. For that reason, an individual project is recommended. See the Project Coordinator to discuss further if there is a group project proposal.

3. Question: Who will my Personal Project Supervisor be?

   Answer: Your Personal Project Supervisor will be an employee at RHS. When possible, those pairings will be driven by the project topic.

4. Question: What is my project supposed to be?

   Answer: It truly can be anything you are personally interested in tied to a learning goal. Scale realistically and be mindful of materials required.

5. Question: Are any materials supplied?

   Answer: As a part of your planning, you do need to brainstorm what materials you need. Some basic materials like markers, colored pencils, scissors, glue, and even poster-boards can be provided to you. Otherwise, keep in mind that spending money on this project is not required, nor expected. With that said, if you find that you are in need of some crafting materials/technology materials, check with the Personal Project Coordinator.

6. Question: What concrete project ideas can you give me?

   Answer: Start with who you are and what interests you (see stage 1 in the workbook for support). You can start with your interests--sports, carpentry, baking, engineering, shoes, fashion, social media, etc.--or you can start with an issue that you're invested in: global issues, national, local issues, etc. Thinking about what has really interested you in your MYP classes is also a good starting point.