

MYP Key Concepts

Key concepts are board, organizing, powerful ideas that have relevance within and across subject and disciplines, providing connections that can transfer across time and culture. Key concepts engage students in higher-order thinking, helping them to connect facts and topics with more complex conceptual understanding.

Key Concepts Associated with Each Subject Group	
Science – Relationships, Change, Systems	Individuals & Societies – Global Interactions, Time/Place/Space, Change, Systems
Math – Relationships, Form, Logic	Language & Literature – Communication, Perspective, Connections, Creativity
Design – Systems, Communication, Development, Communities	Language Acquisition – Communication, Culture, Connections, Creativity
Art – Change, Communication, Identity Aesthetics	Physical & Health Education – Communication, Change, Relationships

Key Concepts – abstract, universal, timeless ideas that interconnects one or more subject groups			
Aesthetics Characteristics, creation, meaning and perception of beauty and taste. The study of aesthetics develops skills for the critical appreciation and analysis of art, culture and nature.	Connections Links, bonds and relationships among people, objects, organisms or ideas.	Form Shape and underlying structure of an entity or piece of work, including its organization, essential nature and external appearance.	Perspective Position from which we observe situations, objects, facts, ideas and opinions. Perspective may be associated with individuals, groups, cultures or disciplines. Different perspectives often lead to multiple representations and interpretations.
Change Conversion, transformation or movement from one form, state or value to another. Inquiry into the concept of change involves understanding and evaluating causes, processes and consequences.	Creativity Process of generating novel ideas and considering existing ideas from new perspectives. Creativity includes the ability to recognize the value of ideas when developing innovative responses to problems; it may be evident in process as well as outcomes, products or solutions.	Global interactions Connections among individuals and communities, as well as their relationships with built and natural environments, from the perspective of the world as a whole.	Relationships Connections and associations between properties, objects, people and ideas—including the human community's connections with the world in which we live. Any change in relationship brings consequences—some of which may occur on a small scale, while others may be far-reaching, affecting large networks and systems such as human societies and the planetary ecosystem.
Communication Exchange or transfer of signals, facts, ideas and symbols. It requires a sender, a message and an intended receiver. Communication involves the activity of conveying information or meaning. Effective communication requires a common “language” (which may be written, spoken or non-verbal).	Culture Encompasses a range of learned and shared beliefs, values, interests, attitudes, products, ways of knowing and patterns of behavior created by human communities. The concept of culture is dynamic and organic.	Identity State or fact of being the same. It refers to the particular features that define individuals, groups, things, eras, places, symbols and styles. Identity can be observed, or it can be constructed, asserted and shaped by external and internal influences.	Systems Sets of interacting or interdependent components. Systems provide structure and order in human, natural and built environments. Systems can be static or dynamic, simple or complex.
Communities Groups that exist in proximity defined by space, time or relationship. Communities include, for example, groups of people sharing particular characteristics, beliefs or values as well as groups of interdependent organisms living together in a specific habitat.	Development Act or process of growth, progress or evolution, sometimes through iterative improvements.	Logic Method of reasoning and a system of principles used to build arguments and reach conclusions.	Time, Place and Space Absolute or relative position of people, objects and ideas. Time, place and space focuses on how we construct and use our understanding of location (“where” and “when”).