



# SPOJENÁ ŠKOLA NOVOHRADSKÁ

PYP, MYP, DP

# ABOUT THE SCHOOL

**Spojená škola Novohradská** is a united state school formed by the Elementary school - **ZŠ Košická** (established in 1963) and the Gymnasium - **Gymnázium Jura Hronca** (established in 1959) on 1st January 2005. It currently provides education to more than 1 200 students. Spojená škola Novohradská **provides education** for children aged 6-20, either **in national or international programmes:**

- a 5-year study in IB Primary Years Programme in English
- a 5-year study in IB Primary Years Programme in Slovak
- a 4-year study at Elementary school - grades 6-9
- a 6-year study in IB Middle Years Programme in English
- an 8-year study at Gymnasium with national curriculum
- a 4-year study at Gymnasium with national curriculum
- a 5-year English-Slovak bilingual study at Gymnasium with national curriculum
- a 2-year study in IB Diploma Programme in English



To help our students study and develop to their best potential, the school offers the following **facilities and services:**

- after-school club
- art studio
- canteen
- computer rooms and every classroom equipped with a data projector
- extracurricular activities
- 4 gymnasias
- 2 libraries
- music room
- new outdoor courtyard and a playground
- school support team – school psychologists and a special counsellor



# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

We pride on being an **IB Continuum school** implementing three International Baccalaureate Programmes: **the Primary Years Programme (PYP)**, **the Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and **the IB Diploma Programme (DP)**. Our school helps students develop academic knowledge together with their personal growth, respecting the uniqueness of each individual and thus supporting the diversity of cultures, religions and attitudes following the principles and values of the IB.

At our school, the **DP** was founded **in 1994** to facilitate the life of foreign and Slovak families coming from diplomatic missions abroad. Later on, **in 2005**, both **PYP** and **MYP** were established. We offer two sections of PYP – the Slovak section with Slovak as the language of instruction and the English section with English as the language of instruction.



As of October 2022, there were over 7,500 programmes being offered worldwide, across over 5,500 schools in 160 countries.

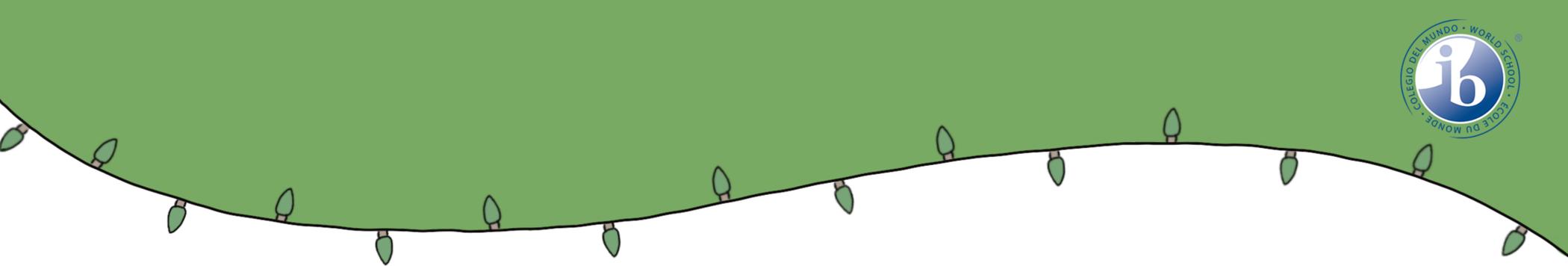
# IB LEARNER PROFILE

In all IB programmes, our school promotes and integrates **international mindedness**, the **IB learner profile**, a broad, balanced, conceptual and connected **curriculum** and **approaches to teaching and learning**.

1. **Inquirers**
2. **Thinkers**
3. **Communicators**
4. **Risk-Takers**
5. **Knowledgeable**
6. **Principled**
7. **Caring**
8. **Open-minded**
9. **Well-balanced**
10. **Reflective**

When learning about and **through the subjects**, **students acquire skills that best help them to learn those subjects**. For example, in language in PYP, the students become literate, and in mathematics they become numerate. The acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills, in their broadest sense, is essential, as these skills provide students with the tools to inquire.

**Beyond the skills** of literacy and numeracy, **there is a range of interrelated approaches** to teaching and learning that are transferable across contexts - **communication skills, organisation skills, thinking skills, social skills and self-management skills**. These skills **support purposeful inquiry** of our students throughout all three IB programmes and set the foundations for lifelong learning.



# SCHOOL'S MISSION

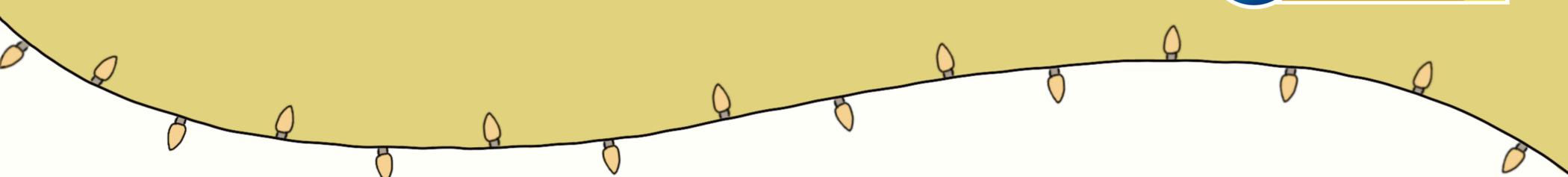
We aim to **guide and inspire all our students** through their formative years so that they discover themselves, **grow in wisdom and health, value freedom and differences** and **honour these values** all their lives long.

# SCHOOL'S VISION

Our vision is to **make our school a modern, inspiring and welcoming place** for all students and teachers that pride on the uniqueness of our school and the provision of excellent education. Our vision is to create an environment where **honesty, initiative, sense of community** and **courage** are inevitable traits of each and every individual.



Our school aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

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# PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

**The Primary Years Programme** (PYP) is an international programme for children aged 6 to 11. The goal of the PYP is to raise children who are conscious learners, who have a lust for new knowledge and know how to think out of the box.

The curriculum creates conditions for children who strive to become open-minded and respectful people with an international education. **This programme introduces six units during the school year, with one unit lasting around six weeks.** Each unit has a specific theme, which helps the pupils be diverse and knowledgeable in many different fields.

When creating and planning these units, the teachers are guided by **six transdisciplinary themes:**

- **Who we are.**
- **Where we are in place and time.**
- **How we express ourselves.**
- **How the world works.**
- **How we organise ourselves.**
- **Sharing the planet.**

The **curriculum** of this programme is very engaging as it deals with the **five elements:**

- knowledge
- concepts
- skills
- attitudes
- actions

The programme can be illustrated by a circle with the six aforementioned transdisciplinary themes surrounding six subject areas:

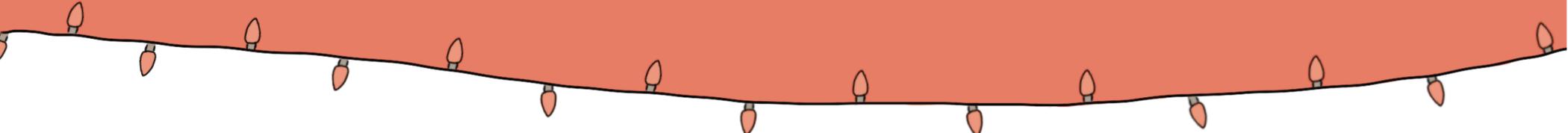
**Language, Social Studies, Mathematics, Arts, Science, Physical and Health Education.**



The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) was introduced in 1997.

At the heart of the PYP philosophy there is a commitment to a structured, purposeful **inquiry** as the leading vehicle for learning. Successful inquiry may lead to **action**, initiated by the student as a result of the learning process. The PYP action model allows students the **opportunity to choose** to act, decide on their actions, and then reflect, in order to make a difference. The learner is always in the centre, celebrating the voice, the choice and the ownership - so called **ACTION CYCLE**.



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# MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

**Middle Years Programme** (MYP) is an international programme for students aged 11 to 16. It is designed to build on and develop students’:

- knowledge
- understanding
- skills
- attitudes
- actions

It focuses on teamwork, self-reflection and the ability to present oneself through projects and presentations. Our teaching and curriculum reflect three main principles: **communication, holistic learning and intercultural awareness.**

## **Middle Year Programme**

- has a strong international emphasis
- develops understanding of student’s own culture and traditions
- requires a study across a broad range of subjects
- gives special emphasis on learning languages
- focuses on developing the skills of learning
- encourages students to become responsible members of the community

Subject groups and subjects:

**Language and Literature:** Slovak and English

**Language Acquisition:** German and Spanish

**Individuals and Societies:** History and Geography

**Sciences:** Physics, Biology and Chemistry

**Mathematics**

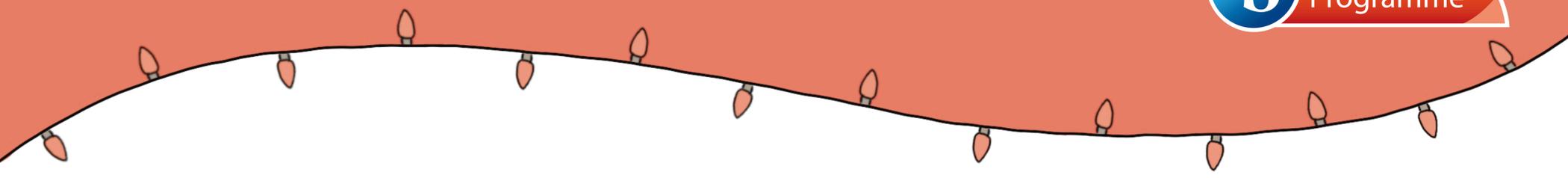
**Arts:** Music and Visual Arts

**Design:** Digital Design and Product Design

**Physical and Health Education**



The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world.



Activities our MYP offers to develop students in different ways:

**The Personal Project** holds a very important place in the MYP. It is a product of a student's own initiative and should reflect their own experience of MYP. It provides an excellent opportunity for students to show their talent, enthusiasm and creativity in the areas of their choice and demonstrate the skills they have developed. It is mandatory for all MYP students. The Personal Project is completed during the final MYP 5 year, and the process of completion is presented by students at two school occasions organised during the year- Mini Fair and Final Fair. Final grades are issued through external moderation by IB.

**The Community Project** encourages students to explore their rights and responsibilities to implement service and action in the community. This project is completed in MYP 3 grade.

**Service as action** supports students 'shaping personality through extra-curricular activities where they contribute to changes in their surroundings. In each grade they are part of different volunteering activities or lectures. Every student creates their own portfolio with documentation of each fulfilled activity.



All students also participate in school activities such as **Bake Sale, World Inside Us, Trade Without the Borders, Sports Day** and many more.

# DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

**The Diploma Programme** (DP) is a 2-year international programme for students aged 16 to 20. The programme has proved **a successful preparation for studying at prestigious universities**. The programme studies are **challenging**, suitable for responsible, versatile students who did not struggle in their previous studies and who engage in extracurricular activities.

Spojená škola Novohradská can proudly say that our graduates' results far surpass the world IB average. Many of them have found their way to top universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, London, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, MIT, Caltech, Emory, Bremen, Sorbonne and many more in the Netherlands or the Czech Republic.

The final exams in the IB Diploma programme have been declared equivalent to the Slovak maturita exams by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. This enables our DP graduates to apply to Slovak and Czech universities as well.



**Each student chooses at least one subject from each group listed below.** The student is obliged to choose three HL and three SL subjects, or alternatively four HL and two SL subjects. The final exams are taken from six subjects. The sixth subject is freely chosen by each student either as Visual Arts or from groups 1 to 4.

Group 1 – **First language:** A study of literature, usually in the mother tongue. A majority of students choose Slovak A. English A is for those that do not speak Slovak or whose knowledge of English is at a very high level.

Group 2 – **Second language:** These subjects require some previously attained knowledge of the language. Even SL is not suitable for beginners. For students that chose Slovak from group 1, English B at HL is a compulsory subject from Group 2, because the rest of the subjects are taught in English and its knowledge is necessary.

Group 3 – **Social sciences:**

Psychology  
History  
Economics  
Geography

Group 4 – **Experimental sciences:**

Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Computer science

Group 5 – **Mathematics**

Group 6 – **Visual Arts**

**In addition** to the subjects our DP students choose from, **these subjects and activities are mandatory** for each DP student:

**Extended Essay (EE):** It is a major written work (4 000 words) from a single, clearly identified IB subjects from groups 1- 6. The choice of topic and subjects is up to the student. Each essay has the form of an academic publication, in which the student presents their own research on the topic.

**Theory of Knowledge (ToK):** This unique subject introduces students to the nature and limits of our knowledge. It combines key concepts not only from psychology and philosophy but also from natural sciences and history. Employing and developing critical thinking, it focuses on questions such as: Where do we get our knowledge from? How much can we rely on our knowledge? How can we categorise and analyse it?

**Creativity, Action, Service (CAS):** This part of DP breaks down the border between home and school. It encourages students in their personal growth, self-reflection and in taking up intellectual, physical and creative challenges. Service aims at contributing to and helping society and the community by, for instance, tutoring, leading school clubs or volunteering for NGOs. CAS increases the prudence and awareness of young people, and supports activities leading them towards being active and responsible members of the community.

**Writing:** Introduces the specifics of various forms of written communication in English. The acquired knowledge and skills are directly employable in Group 3 subjects (Social Sciences), but they are a good help in all written assignments in English, including applications to universities, where a personal statement is a standard requirement (in the case of UK and U.S. universities).