



Williams Middle Magnet School

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

Assessment Policy

Philosophy

The faculty at Williams believes that assessment provides a meaningful guide for thought-provoking instruction and rigorous learning. Through a variety of methods, students have the opportunity to demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills. Authentic assessment allows all stakeholders to recognize and reflect on the intellectual growth of our lifelong learners.

Terminology

Formative assessment – formal and informal assessments used during the learning process that monitor student understanding and guide future instruction

IB Achievement level – The level given when the student work reflects the corresponding descriptor. (IB MYP: From principles into practice, Appendix 4: Glossary of MYP terms, p. 111)

IB Assessment Criteria – Criteria against which a student’s performance is measured as evidenced by work produced. (IB MYP: From principles into practice, Appendix 4: Glossary of MYP terms, p. 111)

IB Descriptors – Achievement level descriptors describe the difference in student accomplishment for each assignment criterion and correspond to the achievement level that should be awarded. (IB MYP: From principles into practice, Appendix 4: Glossary of MYP terms, p. 112)

IB Grade – The number assigned to standards of student achievement. A grade is reached by applying the grade boundaries table to the student’s criterion levels total. A grade can only be arrived at when all subject-specific criteria have been used for assessment. Final grades for student work in the MYP range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest).

Summative assessment – assessment used to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of a **defined** instructional period—typically at the end of a project, unit, course, semester, program, or school year (edglossary.org).

Principles of Assessment

- Assessment measures and enhances student learning
- A balance of formative and summative assessments serve to monitor individual student learning and progress
- Assessment determines effectiveness of teaching and informs future instruction
- Assessment is on-going and affords opportunities for self-reflection for both students and teachers
- A variety of assessment tools and strategies provides for students' varied learning styles and diverse backgrounds
- Feedback is meaningful, positive, and constructive; encouraging continued achievement and growth
- Assessment allows students to apply knowledge and skills to new situations

Assessment Procedures

- Teachers will use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to assess student learning and achievement
- Teachers will provide reasonable timelines for completion of assignments and assessments
- Teachers will utilize both formative and summative assessment practices to monitor student learning
- Teachers will provide timely feedback that encourages increased student learning and achievement
- Teachers will maintain appropriate records of assessment
- Teachers will analyze assessment data to be used to plan and guide instruction that maximizes student growth and learning
- Teachers will report assessment to students and parents via individual task feedback, midterm progress reports, report cards, parent and/or student conferences and electronically through the District's secure Internet gradebook and social learning platform
- Teachers will utilize appropriate IB objectives and assessment criteria in planning and delivering instruction of IB units
- Teachers will utilize IB assessment criteria to evaluate student achievement of IB objectives
- Teachers will provide task clarifications to students when assessing IB objectives
- Teachers will determine and report IB grades, using at least two assessments per IB subject-area criterion, twice per school year
- Teachers will follow local and state guidelines for the administration of end-of-course and standardized assessments
- Williams' faculty provides parents and students access to information regarding the Williams Assessment Policy and the IB grade descriptors/final grades at the beginning of each school year and on the school's website