

Areas of Interaction

Lawton Chiles Middle Academy

Implementation

All of the MYP units that our teachers are developing are built around the areas of interaction. Through faculty meetings, off-site trainings and work with hired consultants teachers have been introduced to the areas of interaction and increase their knowledge about them and their integral role in the Middle Years Programme. Students begin the school year by learning about the integral components of MYP such as the learner profile, the concept of international-mindedness and the areas of interaction. Teachers refer to these throughout their teaching, so students have an understanding of them and how they impact the curriculum.

Area of Interaction Leaders

We have two teachers from the MYP Educational Team serving as our school's Areas of Interaction Leaders. They are receiving IBO-approved level 3 training for the Areas of Interaction in Los Angeles in October 2011. Both are teachers of gifted serving in a resource position: one in the areas of math and technology who has received math level two training and the other in the areas of science and technology who has received IBO-approved training in both science and technology. (We are a magnet school with a focus on math, science and technology.) In addition to the responsibilities associated with being teachers of gifted both these teachers have accepted the responsibilities related to managing the Areas of Interaction. These including the following:

- Ensuring that the areas of interaction are well understood by teachers
- Assisting in the development of a plan to identifies how the areas of interaction will be addressed by subject-specific content and special activities at each grade level
- Contributing to an overall plan for the integration of each area of interaction in a gradual way
- Maintaining contact with subject area leaders and teachers, helping to sustain momentum and enthusiasm
- Assisting in the monitoring of the implementation of the areas of interaction

In order to accomplish these tasks the areas of interaction leaders train teachers at faculty meetings; they create activities for teacher instruction and activities for teachers to use with their students; they meet with small groups of teachers to answer questions and review key ideas; they work with teachers during their unit development; and they review completed unit plans and offer suggestions for revision.

Documentation

The incorporation of the areas of interaction into the curriculum is documented primarily through the *Aoi Vertical and Horizontal Planning Document*. This document identifies the area of interaction being addressed, the unit title, the unit question, the significant concept, and the subject area and grade level. Through this document the MYP Educational Leadership Team can quickly identify what areas of interaction need to be addressed in particular grades and subject areas. While this document is not yet complete, it does indicate our progress so far and it serves as a guide for the development of future unit plans.