

# NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## UPPER DIVISION MYP NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

### IB FOCUS: PERSONAL PROJECT

The Personal Project encourages students to practice and strengthen their approaches to learning (ATL) skills, to consolidate prior and subject-specific learning, and to develop an area of personal interest. The Personal Project provides an excellent opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and often creative product/outcome and to demonstrate a consolidation of their learning in the MYP. The project offers many opportunities for differentiation of learning and expression according to students' individual needs. The personal nature of the project is important; the project should revolve around a challenge that motivates and interests the individual student. Each student develops a personal project independently.

MYP projects are student-centered and age-appropriate, and they enable students to engage in practical explorations through a cycle of inquiry, action and reflection. MYP projects help students to develop the attributes of the IB learner profile; provide students with an essential opportunity to demonstrate ATL skills developed through the MYP; and foster the development of independent, lifelong learners.

*From the "MYP Projects Guide"*

**Current Sophomores:** We are in the midst of the final stages of the Personal Project! As students complete the sophomore personal project, its inevitable stress and hard work will quickly turn to pride as we celebrate what each student has accomplished. We hope you will be able to join us in celebrating all the projects at this event on Thursday, March 7, 2019, 12:30-1:30pm. You may also visit all displays in the main triangle during the parent-teacher conferences that night and the next morning. The project (the report, the journals, photo/video evidence of the goal, and the signed Academic Honesty Form) is due March 10, 2019 to PSL. Review emails from Ms. Archer, and get in touch with project supervisors if you need to!

**Current Freshmen:** We are offering a hybrid projects-based learning course next year to support next year's sophomores in their project efforts. The **Personal Project Course**, an independent assignment completed during one semester, offers a student the chance to demonstrate and further develop various skills through the process of inquiry. For this project-based learning course, the student will show principled action as a result of sustained inquiry and critical reflection over an extended period of time. As a student navigates the four stages of the design cycle (investigate, plan, act, and reflect), he documents actions and reflects on his skills before creating the culminating report and participating in a celebratory presentation. This is a blended learning course that requires students to work independently on assignments by following online content and to meet twice a month during SRT for instruction. (Students taking this during the summer semester will meet in an online forum.)

### ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Throughout this school year, you can expect to receive newsletters about what is happening in the MYP in the Upper Division. It will include information on the curriculum, events, projects, and components of the IB MYP. If you ever have any questions about the IB programme, please do not hesitate to contact Katrina Sagert, MYP Coordinator for grades 9 and 10, at [ksagert@ndpma.org](mailto:ksagert@ndpma.org) or (248) 373-5300.