

COMMON TERMINOLOGY RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:

- **AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY:** Virtual reality immerses users in a completely different world, while augmented reality layers virtual elements over a real-world view.
- **BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD):** Refers to a program in which students are each responsible for bringing their own device to school (i.e., laptops, ChromeBook, iPads).
- **DESIGN THINKING:** The design thinking process, from Stanford University, involves five steps: empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test.
- **FLEXIBLE SEATING:** The idea behind the trend is to create a space which allows for choice, where all students can find a place where they feel comfortable. Some examples of alternative seating include bean bag chairs, exercise balls, bar stools and high top tables, sofas, armchairs, floor cushions, plus traditional tables and chairs.
- **FLIPPED LEARNING:** A pedagogical approach in which direct instruction moves from the group learning space to the individual learning space, and the resulting group space is transformed into a dynamic, interactive learning environment where the educator guides students as they apply concepts and engage creatively in the subject matter.
- **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS):** Software that is used by schools to track grades, deliver curriculum, offer or evaluate courses, etc.
- **MAKERSPACE:** A collaborative workspace that is sometimes high tech and sometimes not—coding, 3D modeling, robotics, woodworking, etc.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

- **CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE (CAS):** Hours that are a mandatory component of the IB Diploma Programme.
- **CO-TEACHING:** When two or more teachers work together with groups of students; sharing the planning, organization, delivery, and assessment of instruction, as well as the physical space.
- **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL):** A common term used for English as a Second Language (ESL) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA):** A common term for literacy subjects.
- **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:** Formative assessment is used to evaluate student learning at the beginning or during a unit. This information is used to inform instruction and provides information for the teacher and learner about what needs to be covered/adjusted.
- **HABITS OF MIND (HOM):** An identified set of 16 problem solving, life related skills, necessary to effectively operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship.
- **HUMANITIES:** The combination of English language arts and social studies into one subject/content area. This is a common practice found in several international secondary schools.
- **POSITIVE EDUCATION:** Positive education brings positive psychology to the classroom. It emphasizes our strengths and examines what makes us successful and happy. Teaching character and well-being, positive education revives education, as the brain flourishes on happiness and positivity.
- **STANDARDS-BASED GRADING (SBG) OR STANDARDS-BASED GRADING & REPORTING (SBGR):** A grading system where a subject is broken down into smaller goals and learning is assessed through each smaller target.
- **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL):** Social and emotional learning (SEL) includes the knowledge and skills needed to manage emotions and have positive relationships with others.
- **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH (STEAM):** A common term that captures arts along with STEM subjects.
- **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:** An approach where student learning is evaluated at the end of a unit.
- **UNDERSTANDING BY DESIGN (UBD):** A framework that offers a three-stage backward design process for curriculum planning and includes a template and set of design tools that embody the process.
- **UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL):** A method for learning and teaching that incorporates brain science to provide flexibility and the removal of obstacles so that all learners can succeed.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & JUSTICE:

- **ANTI-BIAS/ANTI-RACISM:** An approach that focuses on dismantling systemic racism.
- **BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC):** Term used to describe racial minorities.
- **CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING:** Teaching competencies and reflections that help educators self-appraise, set goals, have critical conversations around DEIJ topics.
- **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE (DEIJ):** Most formally used nomenclature to describe efforts and initiatives around diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.
- **GENDER NONCONFORMING OR GENDER NON-BINARY:** A way of identifying and/or expressing oneself outside the binary gender categories of male/masculine and female/feminine.
- **IDENTITY-CENTERED LEARNING (ICL):** A pedagogical and institutional framework that reflects the reality of schooling that a child's educational experience has a powerful and indelible impact on their identity and seeks to center educators and schools on actively and effectively supporting student identity development.
- **INTERSECTIONALITY:** The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect, and their multiple effects on the same individuals or groups.
- **LATINX:** Used as a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to Latino or Latina to describe a person of Latin American origin or descent.
- **MICROAGGRESSION:** A comment or action that unconsciously or unintentionally expresses or reveals a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group, such as a racial minority.
- **NEURODIVERSITY:** When neurological differences are recognized and respected as are any other kind of human differences or variations.
- **PRONOUNS:** Words to refer to a person after initially using their name. Gendered pronouns include she and he, her and him, hers and his, and herself and himself.

PEDAGOGY & INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN:

- **BACKWARD DESIGN:** Designing curriculum backward by starting with the outcomes, assessments, and goals first.
- **DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION:** Differentiation means tailoring instruction to meet individual needs. This may include teachers differentiating content, process, products, or the learning environment with the use of ongoing assessment and flexible grouping.
- **DISTANT LEARNING:** Also called distance education, virtual school, remote learning, e-learning, hybrid, and online learning, are forms of education in which the main elements include physical separation of teachers and students during instruction and the use of various technologies to facilitate student-teacher and student-student communication.
- **GUIDED READING:** Guided reading is a strategy that teachers use to help students become great readers. The teacher's role is to provide support to a small group of students by using a variety of reading strategies to guide them to become successful in reading. This strategy is primarily associated with primary grades but can be adapted in all grade levels.
- **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:** An approach to educating children with learning difficulties and disabilities with all students under one roof regardless of their abilities.
- **PROJECT-BASED LEARNING (PBL):** A collaborative learning method that addresses real-world problems, emphasizing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Starting with a challenging question or issue facing the community, students are given voice and choice in how they will solve the problem and evaluate their solution.
- **PEER ASSESSMENT:** Peer assessment refers to when students of equal status assess each other's work.
- **WORKSHOP MODEL:** Starts with a warm-up, a mini lesson, work time, and debrief session.

RECRUITING:

- **DEPENDENTS:** Refers to the amount of dependents the school will need to provide visas, tuition, and housing for within the host country of the school.
- **HEAD OF SCHOOL (HOS):** Serves as the director or superintendent of the school.
- **HOST COUNTRY:** The country where a person or school is based.
- **LOCAL HIRE:** Educators and staff who have been hired within the host country and/or permanently reside within the host country of the school.
- **Overseas hire:** Educators and staff who have been hired outside the host country and/or do not permanently reside within the host country of the school.
- **PERSONAL LEARNING NETWORK (PLN) OR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PLC):** Refers to work colleagues or education connections made on social media or through organizations.
- **THIRD CULTURE KIDS (TCKs):** A term used to describe the student population often prevalent within international schools. These students live in cultures outside of their home country and have many places in the world they may call home.
- **TIERS OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL:** A phrase often used to describe the quality of an international school. Educators may refer to a school as a "Tier One" school. While there is no formal labeling of the international schools, some common indicators of "Tier One" schools may include accreditation, recognition by the US Office of Overseas Schools, size of faculty, type of curriculum.
- **TRAILING SPOUSE:** Used to describe a person who follows their partner to another country without having a position within the school.