



Parent Handbook 2022 - 2023

<u>About Us</u>

MYIS International School is an accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. It offers the IB Primary Years Program (IB PYP), which emphasizes international understanding, responsible citizenship and academic excellence. With the success of the IB authorization visit in September 2012, and the following IB evaluation visit in 2021, MYIS achieved "IB World School" status and recognition from one of the world's most respected educational organizations.

MYIS has been implementing the IB PYP program for the past 16 years - the first three years as a candidate school. This experience has provided MYIS with a solid foundation and developmental understanding of current and appropriate "teaching and learning" practices. We now are a fully certified IB school offering the complete Primary Years Program to all classes.





<u>History</u>

MYIS, a private, independent educational institution, started in 1990 at the founder's house in Sukhumvit Soi 42. In 1994, the second branch of MYIS opened in Chaengwattana Soi 28 at the request of parents who had heard about the school and its growing reputation for its quality education. MYIS moved to Muang Thong Thani (Chaengwattana Soi 29) in April 2006 with a vast open space, a swimming pool, an indoor gym, and landscaped gardens.

2017-18 was the first full year at our current campus conveniently located near Nichada Thani on Soi Prasoet Islam. The newly built campus is a contemporary design that has been carefully crafted to enhance our students' learning. The campus includes large classrooms that are naturally lit, comfortable, and peacefully decorated in an earth based color palette. The outdoor spaces include a swimming pool, garden and farming area, large soccer field and two age appropriate playgrounds. The in and outdoor spaces were designed to provide collaborative environments that support our belief in the importance of a play-based education for our students.



Philosophy

The school is guided by the philosophy that "each child is like a "mine rich in gems of estimable value' and that 'education can alone cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit from it" (Baha'i writings).

Education must be able to develop the student's intellectual, emotional, social, physical, moral and spiritual capacities. This may be achieved by providing knowledge and skills to meet the needs and requirements of the modern age and by teaching and enriching students with high ideals and moral standards.

MYIS follows the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP) curriculum – a transdisciplinary program of international education focusing on the total growth of the developing child. The curriculum touches hearts and minds and, in addition to academic excellence, encompasses all human faculties. Furthermore, the PYP draws on research and best practices from a range of top-notch national systems.



Mission Statement

MYIS aims to develop a caring community that moves together to celebrate and respect people from all cultures. We provide a challenging program that balances the body, mind, and soul, understanding that they are equally important to nurture each individual as a lifelong learner.



<u>Core Values</u>

MYIS believes in the following principles that guide our learning philosophy:

- In establishing close <u>family school partnerships</u>.
- In providing students a <u>learning environment</u> that is challenging, relevant, differentiated and collaborative.
- In giving students the time, space and opportunity to learn through <u>play and inquiry</u>.
- In reinforcing the intellectual, emotional, social, physical, moral and spiritual <u>capacities</u> <u>of each child</u>, enabling them to make appropriate choices and take purposeful action to benefit themselves and their society.
- In promoting <u>transformational teaching and learning</u> practices through constant research, consultation, collaboration, reflection, action and commitment to growth.



Admissions Policy

At MYIS, we believe that all children have the right to access a broad and balanced curriculum irrespective of their gender, race, disability or special education needs, provided that there are good prospects of meeting their needs so that children can reach their full potential. Students enrolling in our programs should be of the following ages before September 1st of the school year.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Days a week</u>	<u>Time</u>	
Early Years	1-2 years	3 or 5 days a week		
	2-3 years	5 OF 5 days a week	8:30am - 12:30pm	
Peace & Unity	3-4 years			
Creativity & Service	4-5 years		8:15am - 2:00pm	
Excellence	5-6 years			
Grade 1	6-7 Years	5 days a week	8:00am - 3:00pm	
Grade 2	7-8 years			
Grade 3	8-9 years			
Grade 4	9-10 years			
Grade 5	10-11 years			
Grade 6	11-12 years			



Enrollment Procedure

<u>FORMS</u>	DOCUMENTS	OTHER
 Enrollment Application form provided General Health and Immunization forms Bus Service and After School Clubs forms (if necessary) 	 One passport-size photo of your child One passport-size photo of each parent/guardian One passport-size photos of a nanny, driver or person authorized to collect your child from school Copy of child's passport/ID card (ID page and page with a non-immigrant visa, if applicable) Copy of each parent/guardian's passport /ID card (ID page and page with a non-immigrant visa, if applicable) Copy of nanny's ID Card with parent/guardian signature Copy of the house registration (for Thai nationals only) Copy of report card/recommendation letter from the previous school (if any) 	 Await acceptance decision from the school. Have an introductory meeting with our Pedagogical Leadership Team. Pay the registration fee, tuition fee and other applicable fees.

Fee Policy

New students entering the school should pay the registration fee at the time of enrollment to confirm a place in the school. The registration fee is a one-time payment, and it is non-refundable. The registration must be paid in full and cannot be prorated.

Tuition fees must be paid before the child's first day of school. Tuition fees will be prorated according to the registration date of the child. The tuition fee is not refundable. If your child will not be attending MYIS for one term or any part of a term and if you would like a seat to be available upon their return to school, the tuition fee must be paid in full for that term.

Early Years Class Part-Time Program

<u>Available Classes</u>: Trust & Caring (1 - 2 year olds) Joy & Confidence (2 - 3 year olds)

<u>Purpose</u>: The part-time program with the option to attend school 3 days a week provides an alternative arrangement for families who cannot bring their child to school every day or who would prefer to start with a 3-day option. For our part-time program to run effectively in conjunction with the full-time program, there are specific guidelines in place that must be



followed. These measures are designed to ensure a balance and flow in our program for all children enrolled.

<u>Guidelines</u>:

- For the Early Years Classes (Trust & Caring and Joy & Confidence), families may choose to enroll 3 or 5 days a week.
- 3 days a week is not available for the Peace & Unity Class (ages 3 4) or any classes above this level.
- The school will assign the days of the week for your child while considering your preferred selection (please note that due to our 6-day rotation, families who select the 3-day program will experience all specials classes)
- Days of the week, once assigned, may not be changed during the term unless the administration has given approval. All requests must go through the administration and not the classroom teacher.
- The option to select three consecutive days is not available. This combination results in an extended absence from school each week, which may adversely affect your child's adjustment and separation process.
- Make-up dates for sickness or holidays are not permitted.



Attendance and Punctuality

All families should inform the school before 8:30 am by either call/email if their child will not be attending school. The headteacher will call the family after 2 consecutive days of absence. However, we encourage parents to be responsible in communicating with us about their child.

It is expected that all children will arrive at school on time each day. The number of days of absences and tardies is included in your child's report cards.

Grade Level	Start Time	Dismissal Time
Early Years - Peace & Unity	8:30	12:30
Creativity & Service - Excellence	8:15	2:00
Grade 1 - Grade 6	8:00	2:00

Students are encouraged to have an early bedtime to wake up comfortably in the morning while experiencing a full night's sleep. Families need to plan and organize their child's night and morning routines so that their child may begin the school day on time.

<u>Withdrawal</u>

A student withdrawing from school should give the office a <u>minimum of 1 months notice</u>. The "Student Withdrawal Form" should be completed before clearance can be given. The school will issue the necessary school documents to the student for their new school. Families must settle all financial business before the last day of school. The progress report and other pertinent school records will not be released if the student owes money for lost library books, textbooks, school fees, etc.

Communication

The majority of written communication with parents is sent via email. Please provide the office with up-to-date, functional email addresses and mobile numbers which you access regularly. If your email account is not receiving MYIS communication, please contact the office.

Parents can communicate with teachers at their MYIS email addresses and via Seesaw Direct Message. Email is the preferred method of communication for any important information. Parents will also be informed of urgent announcements and reminders via SMS and Line notification service. We encourage you to be active in our digital communication and follow our school news bulletins and interact with 'Seesaw', giving you an insight into your child's day and their learning journey.



<u>Security</u>

School	Bus Duty	A member of the administrative team is present at the carport during arrival and		
Bus	Dus Duty	departure periods while checking the children's attendance exiting and entering the bus.		
Bus Attendanc		A teaching staff member on morning playground duty is present at the carport to cross-check school bus attendance as children depart from the bus and enter the playground.		
	Bus Inspection	After the children are dropped off in the morning, and administrative team member inspects the school buses for safety hazards and cleanliness.		
	GPS Tracking	All school buses have been equipped with GPS tracking devices to allow real-time monitoring of each vehicle's route, location, and condition.		
CCTV Surv	<i>V Surveillance</i> CCTV surveillance cameras have been installed to monitor the arrival/departure children and adults.			
Safety Audit		At the start of the school year, an external professional engineering company inspects and certifies our equipment and electrical systems to ensure that it meets the highest safety standards.		
Staff Training		Specific training programs are designed and carried out for staff and teachers on the following topics: child safeguarding, safety and security, health and sanitation, first aid.		
Parent/Caregiver ID Cards		Parents/caregivers must present a MYIS ID card to be permitted through the front gate of the campus. There is only one entrance and exit on and off-campus. Please continue to wear the ID cards while on campus. Nannies/drivers will also be given ID cards and must wear them at all times on campus. If a nanny or driver is no longer employed, please inform the office and make sure to return their ID card. Visitors are required to sign in and exchange an official ID card for a "Visitor's Pass".		

Social Media Disclaimer

The purpose of MYIS' Social Media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.) is to promote the school's vision and mission, strengthen our community ties, and communicate the latest MYIS news and information. Furthermore, it offers a unique opportunity to view the well-documented progress of your child throughout the year.

MYIS produces and maintains its own Social Media pages. We reserve the right, at our discretion, to change, modify, add, or delete comments or posts, photos, and videos at any time. We ask that families exercise respectful online manners and etiquette in using our social media sites. Information or material that may be considered inappropriate, offensive, or in bad taste will be



subject to removal. If you find inappropriate content or would like any content removed, please notify the school.

MYIS will on occasion engage with local media (television and news magazines) to reach out and establish a presence in the wider community. Care will be taken not to give excessive exposure to individual children unless prior permission is sought from the parents.

We understand how you use Social Media is up to you. Still, it is requested that you only share images of your own children, images that include other parents' children should not be shared on Social Media.

MYIS is committed to comply with Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act BE 2562 ("PDPA") in protecting our students' and parents' personal information processed by the school (including photos and videos). Normally, we will collect your personal data directly from you, but sometimes we may get it from other sources, in such cases we will ensure the compliance with the PDPA.

Conflict Resolution

Conflict Resolution is centered on the concept that "children have important rights." Our teaching teams offer students choices, explain reasons for rules and expectations and instill self-respect and confidence. We use positive techniques of guidance. This includes logical or natural consequences applied to problem situations, redirection, anticipation and elimination of potential problems and encouragement of appropriate behavior rather than competition, comparison or criticism. Consistent clear and fair rules are developed with the children and are discussed with them to make sure they understand.

Sickness Policy

The Sickness Policy at MYIS requests that families not send unwell children to school. The

student will not feel well enough to participate in regular school activities and it would be in their best interest to rest and recover at home. Moreover, other children and staff will be exposed to the illness, which will ultimately lead to a cycle of sickness in the school and carry over to siblings at home.

MYIS has a list of guidelines concerning when a child should be sent home. A child shall be sent home when they have:

- A fever over 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit (37.5 degrees Celsius).
- Difficulty breathing or severe pain.
- Redness, sores and crusting of the skin around the nose and mouth.
- An earache and/or is pulling at their ears, which might be accompanied by fever and fussiness.
- Recurring episodes of diarrhea or vomiting.
- Visible signs of an eye infection.





• Head lice.

If a child arrives at school with any of these symptoms or falls ill during school hours, the office will contact the parents, who will be expected to make arrangements to pick up the child immediately. The child will be removed from class until a parent or caregiver arrives to minimize exposure during this process. The child should return to school when they are completely free of symptoms and cleared by the doctor to attend school. A medical certificate from the doctor stating that the child is wholly recovered needs to be provided on the child's return.

We do not provide medication to a child without consent from the parents. If a child has to take medication, it should be given at home.

If the medication has to be given at school, the parent must fill out the "Medication Authorization Form" indicating the child's full name, class name, name of the medication, expiration date, prescribing date, dosage, along with calibrated measuring equipment. Without this information, medication cannot be administered.

The School Nurse has the right to remove the child from the class if she notices any symptoms of a sickness.

COVID-19 Measures to Protect the Community

- **ATK Testing:** All community members who enter campus will be tested weekly and asked to upload their results via our school Google Form system.
- **Symptoms:** Anyone experiencing COVID-like symptoms -or anyone considered to be in a high-risk group is to remain at home.
- **Social Distancing:** Maintain a distance of at least one meter space between everyone present at school (*WHO: Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19*, p4)
- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Masks must be worn at all times on campus.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Scheduled hand washing/sanitizing will happen throughout the day for everyone on campus.
- **Regular Disinfection:** All high touch surfaces will be sanitized throughout the school day, and classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals.
- Air Flow & Ventilation: Windows and doors are opened at regular intervals to allow for fresh air to circulate, and all classrooms are equipped with air purifiers to allow for multiple air changes per hour.

Emergencies

In case of an emergency or if your child suffers a serious accident at school, parents will be notified immediately. If we cannot contact a parent or the emergency contact and if the situation requires immediate medical attention, the child will be accompanied to World Medical Center on Chaengwattana road by a teacher and an administrator.



In the situation of a school-wide emergency, parents will be notified via our SMS notification service and by phone calls, if necessary. Please make sure your phone numbers are current and up to date.

Assessment Policy

At MYIS, we recognize assessment as an integral practice to all teaching and learning. Ongoing authentic assessment is valued and naturally integrated into and throughout our daily



engagements, allowing learners to take ownership of their learning. We believe it is a collaborative process involving all stakeholders: students, teachers, families, and the community. Please see the MYIS "Assessment Policys" document for more details.

<u>Events</u>

Several opportunities are afforded for parents and teachers to create personal connections, share experiences and learn together:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION	WHEN
Meet the Teacher Day	Parents and children meet their child's teaching team and visit their homeroom. Parents will be able to obtain important information about the class.	Before the first day of school
Hopes & Dreams Conferences	A one-on-one meeting with the teaching team for the teacher to learn more about the student. This conference provides an opportunity for families to share their best hopes for the year ahead.	The first two weeks of school
Back to School Night	This is an occasion for parents and teachers to build relationships, become familiar with the class learning environment, and understand the schedule and family handbook.	At the beginning of the academic year
Celebration of Learning		

Language Policy

At MYIS, we believe language learning reflects the transdisciplinary nature of our program, as learners engage in a range of Units of Inquiry across the years, allowing them to think and learn, develop social skills and values, and acquire knowledge to understand and be understood. This provides authentic contexts for students to build connections between language learning at



school, as well as, within their wider community. Language learning and teaching at MYIS immerses students in the interplay between learning language, learning through language and learning about language, and this is reflected throughout our language policy.



Home Language and Additional Language Acquisition

The "home language" refers to the first language a child learns at home. Research tells us that the development of a child's first language is connected to acquiring the additional language. The skills acquired in the first language are transferred to the second language. If children fail to reach competency in their first language, they will struggle to learn a second language. Our policy is to respect and value each student's home language. The use of the home language is extremely important for gaining a deeper understanding of concepts. Although English is the language of inclusion at MYIS, the home language is utilized when necessary.

Learning English is a process. Children can achieve superficial fluency in English reasonably quickly. However, our motive is not speed but rather meaning and understanding. The process of learning a second language takes time. Each child has their own pace of learning and development.

Our goal at MYIS is for students to be multilingual learners who acquire an excellent foundation in the English language by advocating time and space as key elements to becoming proficient speakers, readers and writers of English. Our environment for learning language focuses not only on knowledge but also on experiences that bring about a conceptual understanding of what is being learned.

Conferences

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School who believes strongly in parent partnerships, we value





opportunities for you to learn more about your child's progress and for your child to have a chance to share their learning with you in an authentic and significant way. Conferences are another way for this to be highlighted and celebrated whilst nurturing the "Partnership in learning" relationship you have with your child.

We have 3 informative conferences throughout the school year:

- 1. Hopes & Dreams Conferences
- 2. Three-Way Conferences/Parent-Teacher
- 3. Student-Led Conferences

Teachers are also able to learn more about the child through these conferences. Although you will be meeting your child's teacher regularly throughout the year, conferences are an excellent time to get the teacher's undivided attention and focus on helping your child reach their highest potential. We believe that participation in these conference experiences will provide you with meaningful insights into your child's learning, growth, development and the innate desire to take ownership of our learning.

Separation Process

MYIS plans carefully for a gradual separation/adjustment process for both the children and parents from the first day of school. A parent can help their child feel competent in this new environment. In essence, dealing with separation will be the curriculum for the first few days or even weeks of your child's school life.

To facilitate separation in the Early Years classes, parents/caregivers are invited to stay with their children on the first day of school. This is an opportunity for you to be with your child and introduce them to the day's activities and the routine followed in school. Separation is an empathetic process both for the family and the child, and if handled well, it fosters the quality of trust and risk-taking, which will stay with the child for the rest of their lives. In this process, we allow caregivers to stay back and help their child transition into the new



environment. This makes the child feel safe and gives them the confidence and trust to take risks in new environments. They learn to accept change in a healthy and normal way. Please see your child's teaching team for more information on the MYIS Separation Policy.

First Day of School

Staggered Starting Dates

Children enrolling at the beginning of a semester will join the school on staggered starting dates. The purpose is to allow the teacher to provide additional individual attention to your child during their first day of school.



What to Bring to School

Each student should carry a backpack with a water bottle, extra sets of clothing and a reusable "wet" bag. Please see the "Class Handbook" document for specific details about what to bring to school in your child's class.

Transportation

MYIS provides transportation to and from surrounding areas of the school. Parents are welcome to ride the school bus with their child (if there is enough room) until they are comfortable riding on their own. Although every precaution is taken to ensure a safe and injury-free ride, the school will not be held accountable in case of an accident.

School Bus Guidelines:

- Please have your child ready and waiting for the bus 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Children must use a car seat (under 18 kg) or a booster seat (over 18kg and under 145cm) and fasten seat belts throughout the entire ride.
- Drinking and eating are not permitted on the bus.
- The school office should be informed by 7 am if the child will not use the transportation service on that day due to any reasons for their absence.
- The school office should be informed about special requests regarding the pickup/drop off locations a day in advance. If the requested temporary change would affect any other child's pick up/drop off time, the child with the requested change will be dropped home last.

Birthdays

Teachers will contact the birthday child's parents before the birthday to inform parents how birthdays are celebrated at MYIS. All birthdays that occur in a single month will be celebrated on one single day. For example, if three students have a birthday in October, there will be a single celebration for all three children on a day chosen by the teacher and the parents. Parents are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks, and the children celebrate their birthday at snack or lunchtime. We suggest that goody bags do not contain any food. For private birthday parties outside of school, parents are encouraged to invite all children from the class to foster unity and avoid exclusion practices.

School Library

The MYIS library houses a wide range of literature, from a vast Nonfiction section to Picture Book Award Winners, Junior Fiction readers, Graphic Novels and more. We are proud to have a diverse library that represents authors and characters from all backgrounds, and believe strongly that books should act like mirrors, windows and sliding doors so that our students can see their own lives and experiences as part of a larger human experience.





The school library is available for families to use from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. Our Destiny Discover online catalogue allows students and parents to place holds on books from home and easily navigate the process of checking out and returning books. Please note a penalty fee will be imposed for lost or misplaced library books.

<u>Field Trips</u>

Field trips will be planned and undertaken throughout the year according to the Unit of Inquiry focus in the classroom. Parents will be informed of the time of departure and arrival, the mode of transportation and the site to be visited. Appropriate adult supervision will be maintained at all times. Parent/guardian permission must be obtained in writing for a student to participate in the trip. Permission by telephone will not be acceptable. Failure to have a signed permission slip will mean that the child will not participate in the trip but should be in attendance at school.

Costs for Events

The school may occasionally ask parents to contribute financially towards special events that benefit the children (e.g. Earth Day tree planting, field trips, etc.) This helps achieve a sense of unity among our community and allows the students to partake in activities that would not otherwise be feasible.

Swimming

Swimming at MYIS takes place through the PSPE program throughout the school year in the Early Years classes. Swimming helps young children develop physically, mentally, and emotionally and is an excellent opportunity to take risks and acquire an important life skill. With the supervision of an experienced instructor and teaching teams, the children learn to swim in a safe, fun and challenging environment. Please note that swimming is a part of the curriculum, and hence we ask that you adopt our policy that states 'if your child is



healthy enough to be in school, they are healthy enough to swim'. A doctor's note must be provided if your child can not participate in the class on a particular day due to a medical reason.

School Closure

Invariably, there are times during the school year when the school will be forced to close due to state emergencies, security situations, or the uncontrolled spread of infectious disease on campus. Such measures are taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the children, families and staff. All families will be duly informed if such an instance occurs. Please refer to the sections on Distance Learning for more information.

Snack and Lunch

A light snack is provided for all children during the morning. Snack time is a good opportunity to encourage the children to try out new foods they would not normally eat at home.

A nutritious lunch is served daily at school. A menu is uploaded to the school website every week. The school has developed a menu of popular





and nutritious children's foods to help establish healthy eating. The children are encouraged but not forced to eat whatever is provided on the menu to help them develop various tastes and appreciation for diversity.

If your child prefers not to eat what is offered, parents may send a meal from home. However, we ask that food is not shared directly with another child without parental permission. In the case of food allergies, please inform the school office. Our policy is to provide an alternative for those who are allergic to what is offered. Please ensure that you do not send sweets, candy, chocolate, or other unhealthy snacks to school to promote healthy eating.

Nut-Free Campus

As part of the ongoing safety awareness at MYIS, we ask that you acknowledge we are a "nut-free campus". Our policy is effective across the school and throughout the entire day. We kindly ask parents and children to be mindful of any food containing nuts when preparing lunch or snacks and ask parents of children who, historically, have suffered any reactions to any foods or insect bites to inform the school.

Parental Involvement

Parents are the primary educators of their children, and we value their input in all matters. We encourage parents to keep in touch with their child's daily activities. Parents are always welcome to share their unique talents with us at school. Research highlights that students learn from concrete experiences, and we encourage parents to help enrich the school for our learners'. Parents may choose to become a "Room Parent" for their child's class. The role of the Room Parent includes arranging a Coffee Morning at the beginning of the year for all the class parents to plan for the entire year. A Room Parent is an excellent resource for enriching the classroom

and parents are encouraged to be as involved as they would like to be.

Parents may also wish to join the "Parent Working Group" (PWG) of MYIS. The PWG consists of parents who aim to better the school by providing support and looking out for the best interests of the students in consultation with the school administration. Whatever way you become involved, you can be sure the teacher and the class will appreciate your help. The



PWG can be contacted through your child's teaching team or at office@magicyears.ac.th.

