

## **ATL across the Continuum**

The first step in designing the curriculum in all four IB programs is determining teaching strategies that make learning meaningful and helps students learn. At this coordinators meeting, we will focus on Approaches to Learning Skills across the continuum. In our break-out sessions, the VPs will address how to explicitly teach ATL skills that help students in the learning process in all settings.

### **What are the Approaches to Learning (ATL)?**

ATL are deliberate strategies, skills and attitudes that permeate the IB teaching and learning environment.

- ATL supports the IB belief that a large influence on a student's education is not only what you learn but also how you learn.
- Teaching students how to learn has always been a part of IB teaching, but now the IB has provided more explicit support for teaching these skills, aligning the Diploma Programme (DP) with the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the IB Career-related Programme (CP).
- Focus on ATL will improve the quality of teaching and learning across the programmes and may result in more engaged teachers and students.

### **DP/CP Approaches to Learning**

Approaches to teaching and learning are deliberate strategies, skills and attitudes that permeate the teaching and learning environment. These approaches and tools, intrinsically linked with the IB learner profile attributes, enhance student learning and assist student preparation for DP assessment and beyond. For schools initiating the five-year review process starting in January, 2017, ATTL skills are included in the self-study and will be assessed as part of the site visit.

### **MYP Approaches to Learning**

Through the MYP approaches to learning (ATL) skills framework of categories and clusters, participants will inquire into how students develop skills that have relevance across and beyond the curriculum, helping them "learn how to learn". ATL skills in cognitive, affective and metacognitive domains can be learned and taught (explicitly and implicitly), improved with practice and developed with increasing complexity incrementally. They provide a solid foundation for learning independently and with others. ATL skills help students prepare for, and demonstrate learning through, meaningful assessment. They provide a common language that students and teachers can use to reflect on, and communicate on, the process of learning. Schools are expected to submit an approaches to learning chart documenting students vertical and horizontal skills development as part of the documents required for the evaluation visit.

### **PYP Approaches to Learning.**

In order to be prepared for lifelong learning and conduct purposeful inquiry, students need to master a whole range of skills which are relevant to all subject areas as well as life outside school. Students are assessed on the following approaches to learning; Thinking Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills, Self- Management Skills and Research Skills. These approaches to learning are developed through authentic student learning activities which are embedded in the units of inquiry.