



Reimagining Creative Learning at Canadian International School of Hong Kong

For 35 years, Canadian International School of Hong Kong (CDNIS) has been a leader in educational innovation. By integrating digital media, fostering interdisciplinary projects, and nurturing emotional intelligence alongside cultural literacy, CDNIS equips students to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

CDNIS Early Years Centre and teamLab Collaboration

A cornerstone of CDNIS's creative learning is its unique partnership with teamLab, featuring a dedicated installation at the Early Years Centre. Based in Japan, teamLab merges art, science, and technology to create large-scale interactive environments. For 2-3-year-old learners, this collaboration allows exploration of moving projections and interactive elements that respond to their actions.

Children create art that is digitized and projected in vibrant displays, enhancing digital literacy while fostering imaginative play and problem-solving skills. As they articulate their artistic choices in both English and Chinese, they support language acquisition and cognitive development, laying a strong foundation for future learning.

Bilingual Learning and Cultural Literacy

Since its founding in 1991, CDNIS has prioritized language education to nurture global citizens. The Lower School's bilingual programme currently extends through Grade 2, with plans for gradual expansion to Grade 5 by the 2028/2029 academic year.

From Nursery to Grade 5, students immerse themselves in Chinese using an innovative dyad system that pairs instruction in English and Chinese, enhancing bilingual proficiency and cognitive skills. In the Upper School, language learning continues through engaging activities and cultural events, strengthening fluency in both languages.

This comprehensive programme promotes cultural literacy, encouraging exploration of diverse stories and experiences, ultimately preparing students to engage fluently and confidently with an interconnected world.

CDNIS is proud to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum school, offering the three most popular IB Programmes – PYP, MYP, and DP.

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IB Continuum School

CDNIS is proud to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum school, offering the three most popular IB Programmes – the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP). This continuity supports academic growth and encourages interdisciplinary learning.

From the PYP Exhibition to the MYP Personal Project and DP Extended Essay, students engage in inquiries that transcend traditional subject boundaries, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and real-world application of knowledge.

Interdisciplinary Thinking

Interdisciplinary learning is fundamental to the IB framework at CDNIS. The PYP emphasizes transdisciplinary connections, enabling students to understand the interconnectedness of their learning. When designing a structure in a How the World Works unit for instance, students apply principles from physics, mathematics, and art, demonstrating how different fields can work together.

In the MYP, teachers start projects with a Statement of Inquiry, viewing separate disciplines as lenses for exploration. Students actively synthesize and apply their knowledge, leading to unique creations. As students move into the DP, they collaborate to identify topics of interest, plan inquiries, and present findings, cultivating essential research, communication, and self-management skills.

The Role of Arts in Creative Learning

Arts education plays a crucial role in fostering creativity and cultural understanding at CDNIS. The arts curriculum draws from the power of artistic expression, encouraging students to seek multiple perspectives. By imagining what it's like to be in someone else's shoes, students develop empathy and compassion.

Cultural context significantly shapes students' creative work. Each student's background influences how they perceive and interpret their surroundings.

The arts curriculum promotes inquiry beyond familiar concepts, helping students expand their horizons.

Technology and Creativity

At CDNIS, technology integration is purposeful, enhancing hands-on learning experiences. Educators use tablets and projectors in math classes to visually present complex concepts and enable interactive demonstrations.

Creative projects, such as using AI to help write songs about mathematical concepts, provide opportunities to reinforce students' understanding in innovative ways. This engagement encourages deeper comprehension of mathematical principles through creativity.

Through thoughtful integration of digital media, bilingual education, and interdisciplinary projects, CDNIS actively redefines creative learning. By cultivating an environment that values exploration, curiosity, and collaboration, the school empowers students with the skills and confidence needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world and become lifelong learners.

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