



Robbinsdale Cooper High School IB Middle Years Program

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Vision Statement: To have compassionate, engaged students exceeding our expectations with a 21st century, internationally minded, rigorous curriculum.

Mission Statement: To provide a caring and vibrant community where all members are respected, we will educate students to become active, compassionate, principled, critical thinkers who understand that other people, with their differences can also be right.

Values: Accountability, Achievement, Commitment, Community, Equity, Integrity, Passion, Respect, Responsibility, Teaching and Learning

History

Robbinsdale Cooper High School (RCHS) was built in 1964 and named for district superintendent Edwin J. Cooper. It is located in New Hope - a first tier northwestern suburb of Minneapolis. It is a four-year comprehensive public high school that serves more than 2000 students in grades 9 through 12. Robbinsdale Cooper offers the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (authorized in 2004, along with its sister school, Robbinsdale Middle School, grades 6 - 8), the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (authorized in 1998), and a comprehensive curriculum to suit the academic needs of all students. In addition, RCHS offers a broad fine arts and music program, as well as many extra-curricular activities including a wide selection of athletics, clubs, and organizations.

In June 2009, our ninth class of Diploma Candidates graduated, and our sixth year of MYP certificates were awarded to the 10th graders completing their five-year program. Changes for the near future include moving to a full-school MYP model, to be implemented at Cooper by the 2010-2011 school year.

What is MYP?:

For students aged 11 – 16, the MYP provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and to become critical and reflective thinkers. There are three fundamental concepts in the MYP: Intercultural Awareness (knowledge and appreciation of one's place and responsibility in the world); Holistic Education (horizontal and vertical teams, common planning time, five Areas of Interaction, cross-curricular links, and interdisciplinary projects); and Communication (second language acquisition, technology, and intercultural sharing). The areas of interaction (Approaches to Learning, Health and Social

Education, Community and Awareness, Human Ingenuity, and Environments) are the contexts through which the curriculum content interacts with the real world. In the programme model, the distinctive core of the five areas of interaction surrounds the learner. They are common interactive themes embedded in the subject groups, but they are not subject disciplines in their own right. They are common to all disciplines and require all teachers to teach their subject content in a way that encourages students to become increasingly aware of the connections between their learning and the real world. At the end of the five-year program, the MYP students complete a personal project, a year-long, researched project focused on one area of interaction.

Cooper's MYP Course Offerings:



9th grade:

Band
 Choir
 IBMYP Art 9
 IBMYP English 9
 IBMYP French 3
 IBMYP Geography 9
 IBMYP Physical Education 9
 IBMYP Physical Science 9
 IBMYP Spanish 3
 Integrated Math 2
 Integrated Math 3
 Orchestra

10th grade:

Band
 Choir
 Orchestra
 IBMYP Art 10
 IBMYP Biology 10
 IBMYP English 10
 IBMYP French 4
 IBMYP Spanish 4
 IBMYP Technology
 IBMYP World History 10
 Integrated Math 3
 Pre-Calculus

Change in reputation because of MYP: Robbinsdale Middle School and Cooper and High School were looking for a challenging and balanced academic program that would attract and maintain capable students. Both schools have been perceived by the community as the “disadvantaged” schools in the district, largely because of their higher levels of racial and socio-economic diversity, and a rising number of itinerant families. With the introduction of the MYP (and IB Diploma program at RCHS), the schools have leveled the playing field in many ways; MYP has contributed to stabilizing the population and offering new opportunities for student development.

Quick Facts:

Number of students in IBMYP: 203 students in grades 9 and in grade 10 (2000 at RCHS)
 Number of students of color in IBMYP: 28% in IBMYP grades 9 and 10 (52% at RCHS)
 Number of students on free or reduced lunch: 17% in IBMYP grades 9 and 10 (72% at RCHS)
 How engaged are MYP students in the life of the school?: MYP students are extremely involved students in a plethora of clubs, sports, and organizations., They also participate in numerous activities outside of school, from private music lessons to dance classes to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The presence of the IBMYP program has had several other effects on the entire school. IBMYP teachers often employ IBMYP teaching methods in their other classes as well, which has the effect of raising standards across the school. Traditions have sprung up to promote a sense of collegiality, such as an all-IB picnic in the fall and the IB MYP Personal Project Night in the spring. The IB Student Board raised funds to purchase flags from all 46 countries where Cooper students were born, and these hang proudly in the foyer.

Change in school culture because of IB: MYP is an international program; consequently, it promotes cultural awareness and appreciation, tolerance of differences, strong communication skills, content knowledge and multiple perspectives of world issues and events, and setting and achieving high personal and academic standards. The program contributes significantly to the entire school through curriculum development and integration, teaching practices, community service, and assessment practices.

From where do students come to attend the program? Students come from all 11 elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools (for the 9-10 classes) in the Robbinsdale district, and from private and public schools in other metro districts on an open enrollment basis, as space allows. Currently, we have 42 students in grades 6-8 who were not attending Robbinsdale District 281 schools, and 26 in grades 9/10. Once they come, they tend to stay for the duration of the program.