



OSAKA YMCA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Guidebook 2025 - 2026



Located in the heart of Osaka City



Welcome to the OYIS community

Our school is built around the concept of community. We are committed to empowering students so they can make a meaningful difference in society, in accordance with the YMCA mission of nurturing a well-rounded character in the youth community.

We achieve this by following the International Baccalaureate's (IB) programmes, using real-life global issues to equip students with essential skills and knowledge.

Through our teaching and learning, we help students discover who they are and connect them to an inquiry-based learning environment. By encouraging student curiosity about the real world, we are then able to make connections with our community through service learning.

OYIS is proud to be the only IB continuum school in Osaka City, teaching 330 students hailing from 35 countries. We offer the IB's Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP). This means we can provide students with the perfect pathway from Preschool through to Grade 12.

OYIS is a fun, aspirational, and caring community. We help students develop their full potential, both in terms of personal development and academic achievement. We would be honored to share this experience with you.

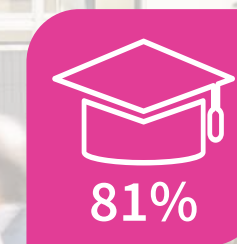
OYIS At A Glance



330 student population



35 countries represented



81% Diploma Programme pass rate

Annual Schedule

Late-August

First day of school

Late-January

End of Semester 1

Early-February

Start of Semester 2

Mid-June

Last day of school

Major School Events

Fall Events

PVG Walkathon
Sports Day
College Fair

Winter Events

Celebration of the Arts
New Year Celebration
Literacy Week

Spring Events

International Festival
Programme Exhibitions
Graduation

For more full details about our school events, visit our calendar page at <https://oyis.org/calendar/>



Campus Facilities

OYIS has two campuses in the city: the Nakatsu Campus which houses Preschool to Grade 8, and the Tosabori Campus which is home to Grades 9 to 12.



Nakatsu Campus

Our students from ages 3-14 spend some or all of their time at our original home in Nakatsu, a 10-minute walk from Osaka's largest transportation hub, Umeda. Repurposed from a traditional Japanese elementary school, the Nakatsu Campus is home to students from Early-Childhood to Grade 8.

Facilities include:

- Comfortable classrooms for every grade
- A stand-alone Early Childhood Center
- Specialist areas for Science, Music, and Art
- A large outdoor playground space
- Gymnasium & rooftop swimming pool
- Fully equipped music, science, and art classrooms

Campus location info:

- 19-minute walk from Osaka Station (various lines)
- 7-minute walk from Nakatsu Station (Hankyu)
- 13-minute walk from Nakatsu Station (Osaka Metro)
- School bus service available for Nakatsu students

Tosabori Campus

Located in the Osaka YMCA Headquarters building just south of Nakanoshima, the Tosabori Campus is home to the upper MYP & DP cohorts. This modern and purpose-built campus opened its doors in August 2020 and dedicates its space to supporting and fostering our secondary students as they pursue their studies.

Facilities include:

- State-of-the-art science & design labs
- Spacious learning areas
- Library with a range of books from around the world
- Fully-equipped music studio
- Robotics workspace
- Auditorium

Campus location info:

- 22-minute walk from Osaka Station (various lines)
- 6-minute walk from Higobashi Station (Osaka Metro)
- 13-minute walk from Yodoyabashi Station (Osaka Metro)



Ages 3 to 6 / Preschool, Kindergarten A, Kindergarten B

Early Years Programme

Where Play Inspires Lifelong Learning

At OYIS, we believe all children are competent, capable, and full of potential. Our Early Childhood Program nurtures the whole child, celebrating each child's unique potential through a play-responsive, inquiry-based curriculum. We place children at the center of learning, fostering curiosity, creativity, a strong sense of belonging, and a lifelong love of discovery.

Our Approach

- Play-Responsive Learning: Children explore, wonder, create, and express through free, guided, and structured play.
- Emergent Curriculum: Learning unfolds naturally, following children's interests and developmental needs.
- Global Perspective: As an authorised IB World School, we use the Primary Years Programme as a framework for our teaching and learning

These years are an exciting time for growth and exploration for both our students and families, and we look forward to embarking on this learning journey with you.



PYP Units of Inquiry

Each Unit of Inquiry runs for approximately 8 weeks and follows four stages:

Wonder → Discover → Create → Express

Students engage with an exciting range of inquiries:

- Who We Are (Self; Beliefs; Values; Relationships)
- Where We are in Place and Time (Change)
- How We Express Ourselves (Play; Imagination; Creativity)
- How the World Works (Materials; Energy; Patterns; Living Things)
- How We Organize Ourselves (Communities; Spaces)

Play Phonics

Our unique Play Phonics approach introduces children to the world of letters and sounds in a joyful, active way. Through songs, games, storytelling, and hands-on activities, children naturally develop early literacy skills while building a lifelong love for language.

Play Maths

In Play Maths, children engage with numbers, patterns, and problem-solving through playful exploration. Using loose parts, games, and real-world experiences, children develop mathematical thinking in ways that are meaningful, creative, and fun.

Making Learning Visible

Through learning stories, portfolios, and child-led conferences, families are invited to engage in the learning journey, seeing growth, inquiry, and creativity unfold firsthand.

Together, these approaches create a joyful and meaningful foundation for learning—where curiosity is celebrated, confidence grows, and every child's journey is made visible.

Key Learning Areas

- Social & Emotional Development
- Communication & Literacy (including Play Phonics)
- Numeracy & Logical Reasoning (including Play Maths)
- Exploring the World
- Movement & Expression



Ages 6 to 12 / Grades 1 to 6

Primary Years Programme

Where Inquiry Leads to Empowered Learning

At OYIS, we believe that every child is capable of remarkable growth when given the right nurturing conditions. Our Primary Years Program (PYP) builds on children's natural curiosity, fostering a love of learning, critical thinking, and international-mindedness. Grounded in the IB philosophy, our program develops knowledgeable, caring, and principled learners ready to thrive in a dynamic world.

Our Approach

- Inquiry-Driven Learning: Students engage in authentic, meaningful inquiries across subjects, building deep understanding and transferable skills.
- Transdisciplinary Curriculum: Through the IB Primary Years Programme framework, learning connects across languages, mathematics, the arts, sciences, and social studies.
- Agency: Students are empowered to take ownership of their learning, developing independence, resilience, and a growth mindset.
- Global Citizenship: With a strong emphasis on international-mindedness, students explore diverse cultures, perspectives, and issues, preparing them to be caring contributors to an international community.

PYP Units of Inquiry

Each Unit of Inquiry runs for approximately 6 weeks and follows six stages:

Engage → Focus → Investigate → Organise → Generalise → Transfer

Students engage with an exciting range of inquiries through transdisciplinary themes:

- Who We Are
- Where We are in Place and Time
- How We Express Ourselves
- How the World Works
- How We Organize Ourselves
- Sharing the Planet

English

Our English program is structured through the internationally respected Readers and Writers Workshop model, supporting students to develop their voice through authentic reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Mathematics

Our Mathematics program has been developed through the innovative Concept-Based Inquiry Maths Project, supporting students to explore and identify relationships and patterns to foster deep understandings of mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills.

Making Learning Visible

Learning is celebrated through portfolios, exhibitions, student-led conferences, and authentic assessments. Families are invited to be active partners, engaging with children's learning journeys at every stage.



Key Learning Areas

- English
- Japanese
- Mathematics
- Science and Social Studies
- Visual Arts and Music
- Physical Health and Well-being

Together, these areas provide a balanced and engaging foundation for inquiry, creativity, and growth—nurturing students to become confident, well-rounded learners in the Primary Years Programme at OYIS.



Ages 12 to 16 / Grades 7 to 10

Middle Years Programme

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) at OYIS is a transformative educational framework that caters to the unique needs of students aged 11 to 16. As part of the International Baccalaureate (IB), the MYP offers a holistic and inquiry-based learning experience, empowering students to become knowledgeable, open-minded, and principled individuals.

The MYP follows a challenging and well-rounded curriculum, encouraging students to explore various disciplines and develop an understanding of global issues. The programme is structured around eight subject groups: **Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design.** This approach fosters critical thinking and enables students to make meaningful connections between subjects.

The MYP places great emphasis on developing essential life skills, such as collaboration, and intercultural awareness, preparing students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. MYP students complete a Personal Project, which helps them develop research, communication and time-management skills. They also go on overnight trips that help them experience real-world applications of their studies. Through service-learning projects and community engagement, students are encouraged to become caring and responsible global citizens.



Approaches to Learning (ATLs)

Approaches to learning (ATL) are skills designed to enable students in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) to “learn how to learn.” They are intended to apply across curriculum requirements and provide a common language for teachers and students to use when reflecting and building on the process of learning. IB World Schools are required to ensure there is an ATL planning chart for all years of the MYP. However, broader implementation would see ATLs implicitly and explicitly embedded into day-to-day learning experiences, so that students have opportunities to practice and incrementally develop a range of ATL skills.

Service-As-Action

Service as action is a foundational element of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP). It seeks to develop caring members of the community who act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and their environment. Service as action requires students to engage with their local community through community or personal projects and provides opportunities for students to explore, design, implement, and reflect on their efforts to positively impact their local environment. Through service as action experiences, students learn the value of community participation and gain a deeper understanding of the issues facing their immediate surroundings.

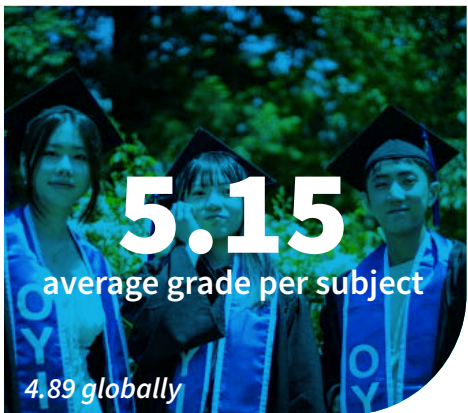
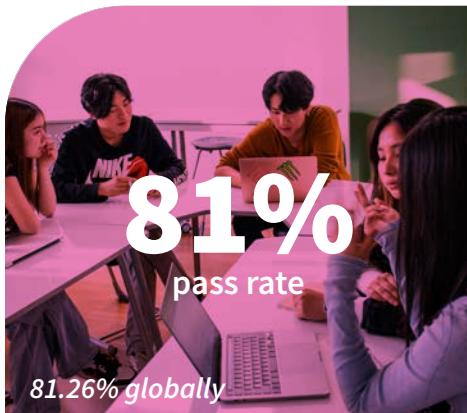
Interdisciplinary Units (IDU)

In the MYP, interdisciplinary learning is the process by which students come to understand bodies of knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more disciplines and then integrate them to create a new understanding. Students demonstrate this by bringing together concepts, methods or forms of communication to explain a phenomenon, solve a problem, create a product or raise a new question in ways that would have been unlikely through a single discipline. Students must be engaged in at least one collaboratively planned interdisciplinary unit in each year of the MYP in order to integrate knowledge and skills from two or more subject groups in an interdisciplinary manner.

Ages 16 to 18 / Grades 11 & 12

Diploma Programme

How our students score in the IBDP



Curriculum and Grading in the DP

The DP is structured to provide students with a rigorous and balanced education, to facilitate geographic and cultural mobility, and to promote international understanding and awareness. Courses are examined externally in May of Grade 12, but all have an internally assessed component that is also moderated.

Graduation Requirements

To graduate with an IB Diploma, students must meet all external requirements set by the International Baccalaureate. These include a minimum score of 24 in six subjects, as well as successful completion of **Theory of Knowledge (ToK)**, **Extended Essay (EE)**, and **Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)** components.

Graduation Pathways

- Osaka YMCA International School WASC Diploma & the IB Diploma
- Osaka YMCA International School WASC Diploma and IB Course
- Osaka YMCA International School WASC Diploma

Class of 2025 University Acceptances:

- Japan**
 - International Christian University
 - Osaka University
 - Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- Hong Kong**
 - The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
 - The University of Hong Kong
- United States**
 - Agnes Scott College
 - Beloit College
 - Centre College
 - Juniata College
 - Knox College
 - Lawrence University
 - Mount Holyoke College
 - St. Olaf College
- Canada**
 - University of Manitoba
 - University of Toronto
 - University of Victoria
- Australia**
 - The University of Sydney
- Netherlands**
 - University of Amsterdam
- United Kingdom**
 - Durham University
 - Newcastle University
 - Queen's University Belfast
 - Royal Holloway, University of London
 - The University of Manchester
 - The University of Sheffield
 - The University of Warwick
 - University of Bath
- University of Birmingham
 - University of Bristol
 - University of Leeds
 - University of Nottingham
- Wales**
 - Aberystwyth University
 - Cardiff University
- Austria**
 - Central European University

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) at OYIS offers an exceptional and intellectually stimulating educational journey for students aged 16 to 19. It is the world’s largest and most-respected pre-university course. The DP provides a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum, preparing students for higher education and empowering them to become principled, knowledgeable, and globally-minded individuals.

The DP curriculum is designed to encourage academic excellence and personal development. Students engage in six subject groups: **Language and Literature**, **Language Acquisition**, **Individuals and Societies**, **Sciences**, **Mathematics**, and **The Arts**. Additionally, the DP Core enriches the programme with three components: **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**, **Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)**, and the **Extended Essay (EE)**, allowing students to delve deeper into critical thinking, research, and experiential learning.

The DP emphasises critical inquiry, research, and self-directed learning, fostering an environment where students are encouraged to think independently and reflect on their own perspectives and assumptions. Through collaborative projects and service activities, students develop a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to making a positive impact on their communities and the world.

OYIS Diploma Pathways

	OYIS DP Full Diploma	Diploma Courses	OYIS High School Diploma
Who the pathway is designed for	High-achieving students who excel in balancing demanding workloads, are independent learners, and thrive on academic challenges. They require the full IBDP for their desired university or post-secondary institution. The diploma is awarded by the IB. The High School Diploma is awarded by OYIS.	Students who pursue external challenges in select areas, are self-directed learners, and may enhance their OYIS Pathway with targeted IBDP courses to align with their goals and interests. Individual course certificates are awarded by the IB, with no pass or fail for IBDP courses, and the Core is not externally assessed, so no diploma is granted. The High School Diploma is awarded by OYIS.	Students who excel in OYIS Pathway courses, with options for those not requiring IBDP for post-secondary education. They value a balanced, less academically-oriented pathway that aligns with their future goals. The High School Diploma is awarded by OYIS.

OYIS DP Course Offerings

Group	Subjects Offered
1: Studies in Language & Literature	• English Language & Literature [HL/SL/OYIS] • Japanese Language & Literature [HL/SL/OYIS] • Korean Language & Literature [HL/SL/OYIS] • School Supported Self-Taught Literature A [SL]
2: Language Acquisition	• English B [HL/SL/OYIS] • Japanese B [HL/SL/OYIS] • Japanese ab initio • Pamoja Online Courses [All SL]
3: Individuals & Societies	• Business Management [HL/SL/OYIS] • Global Politics [HL/SL/OYIS] • Psychology [HL/SL/OYIS]
4: Sciences	• Biology [HL/SL/OYIS] • Chemistry [HL/SL/OYIS] • Physics [HL/SL/OYIS]
5: Mathematics	• Applications & Interpretation[SL/OYIS] • Analysis & Approaches [HL/SL]
6: The Arts & Electives	• Music [HL/SL/OYIS] • Visual Arts [HL/SL/OYIS]



Extracurriculars at OYIS

OYIS is home to a wide variety of student clubs, teams, and organizations. Students of all ages are invited to enjoy extracurricular activities ranging from art to dance, from basketball to soccer, and from the Model United Nations to Robotics. A study support programme is also available to students for those who would like support for their coursework outside of regular school hours.

In our international community, after-school activities provide children with additional opportunities to interact with their friends, peers, and educators, fostering teamwork and cooperation, which in turn strengthens our school community.



Family Involvement



We believe that strong family engagement is essential to every child's success. Each year, we host a range of workshops designed to help families better understand their child's learning journey and discover ways to support education both at home and on campus. From casual coffee mornings to live online sessions, parents and caregivers are invited to connect, learn, and share. Topics range from curriculum implementation and technology use, to transitions between programs and college preparation. Every session is recorded and made available for future reference, ensuring families never miss an opportunity to be involved.

The Parent/Caregiver Volunteer Group (PVG) is another vibrant way families can engage with our school community. The PVG fosters goodwill and cooperation by supporting educational and extracurricular activities, helping raise funds for student-led initiatives, and creating opportunities for meaningful connections between families, students, and staff. Together with workshops, the PVG reflects our school's open invitation for families and the wider community to actively participate in and enrich the life of OYIS.

Admissions Information

Once you submit your application to Osaka YMCA International School, the Admissions' Officer will review your information and contact you to set up entrance exams and Principal interviews.

If your child passes the exam and interview stages, a second review is conducted by the Principal and programme coordinators. Should you apply in the middle of the school year, your child may be invited for an in-class observation period.

When all stages are successfully completed, your child will be admitted to OYIS. Registration and tuition fees will be invoiced to you and your child will be officially enrolled once payment is completed.



School Memberships

Osaka YMCA International School is authorised by the International Baccalaureate for the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and the Diploma Programme (DP). OYIS is also accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC (Western Association for Schools and Colleges).

ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing cycle of quality assurance whereby schools demonstrate the capacity, commitment, and competence to support high-quality student learning and ongoing school improvement.



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