

Buckland Mills Elementary

Admissions Policy

Our Mission

Every Minute Counts, Every Child Matters, Everyone Succeeds!

Our Vision

Buckland Mills is a community of life-long learners, critical and compassionate thinkers, and responsible citizens of the country and the world.

International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through inter-cultural understanding and respect. To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

IB Learner Profile

Inquirers: We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Knowledgeable: We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Thinkers: We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators: We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

Principled: We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Open-Minded: We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring: We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Risk-Takers: We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

Balanced: We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Reflective: We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

Admission Committee

Head of School- Kelle Stroud stroudka@pwcs.edu

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IBPYP Coordinator- Amy Hardt hardtae@pwcs.edu

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Prince William County Specialty Program

Supervisor- Karima Wesselhoft wesselka@pwcs.edu

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Purpose

The Primary Years Programme is a program for learners aged up to 12 years offered under the sponsorship of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). All International Baccalaureate (IB) learners strive to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. Learners work toward becoming the type of student described in the Learner Profile through developing the attitudes of tolerance, respect, integrity, independence, enthusiasm, empathy, curiosity, creativity, cooperation, confidence, commitment, and appreciation.

Buckland Mills receives and accepts admissions of students from a diverse range of economic, cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. We look for students who have the ability and motivation to excel academically and who demonstrate attributes from the IB Learner Profile.

IB-PYP PROGRAMME

At BMES, our primary years focuses on inquiry-based teaching-learning and concept driven curriculum rather than mere content driven curriculum. The transdisciplinary approach reiterates our belief that knowledge transcends beyond individual subject areas, thus aiding development of skills, concepts and attitudes, which form the core of any learning. The path for lifelong learners is clearly defined.

Five essential elements of the PYP

The five essential elements - concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes, action are incorporated into this framework, so that students are given the opportunity to:

- Gain knowledge that is relevant and of global significance
- Develop an understanding of concepts, which allows them to make connections throughout their learning
- Acquire transdisciplinary and disciplinary skills
- Develop attitudes that will lead to international mindedness
- Take action as a consequence of their learning

The PYP curriculum model is:

The written curriculum - The most significant and distinctive feature of the IB Primary Years Programme is the six transdisciplinary themes. These themes are about issues that have meaning for, and are important to, all of us. The programme offers a balance between learning about or through the subject areas and learning beyond them.

The six themes of global significance create a transdisciplinary framework that allows students to "step up" beyond the confines of learning within subject areas are:

- 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

Teachers are guided by these six trans-disciplinary themes as they design units of inquiry that both transcend and articulate conventional subject boundaries.

The programme can be illustrated by a hexagon with the six transdisciplinary themes surrounding six subject areas:

- Language
- Social Studies
- Mathematics

- Arts
- Science
- Personal, social and physical education

The trans-disciplinary themes and subject areas outlined above form the knowledge element of the programme.

The taught curriculum- The six trans-disciplinary themes help teachers to develop a programme of inquiries- in-depth investigations into important ideas, identified by the teachers, and requiring a high level of involvement on the part of the students. These inquiries are substantial, in-depth and usually last for several weeks.

The assessed curriculum- Assessment is an important part of each unit of inquiry as it both enhances learning and provides opportunities for students to reflect on what they know, understand and can do. The teacher's feedback to the students provides the guidance, the tools and the incentive for them to become more competent, more skillful and better at understanding how to learn.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete an application and submit all required paperwork for students residing outside an IBPYP school's boundary.
2. Submit all applications to the school by posted due dates.
3. Students residing in Prince William county before January 1, applications must be delivered to the Program Coordinator or be postmarked by February 1.
4. Students moving into the county after January 1, should call the coordinator of the program for additional information.

The IBPYP program only is open to and admits students that are rising 1st and 2nd graders.

This policy is shared with all interested families through the admission information during the application process and will be available on our website.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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