

Education cannot fit every student with a full set of lenses; indeed, we are doomed to fail if we aim to make each youngster into a historian, a biologist, or a composer of classical music. Our goal should not be to telescope graduate training but rather to give students access to the “intellectual heart” or “experiential soul” of a discipline. Education succeeds if it furnishes students with a sense of how the world appears to individuals sporting quite different kinds of glasses.

----Howard Gardner, from *The Discipline Mind* (1999),

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program© philosophizes that it is *important to foster in students positive attitudes towards people, the environment, and learning*. IB© calls this an “international attitude”. Our school counselor has designed specific lessons to promote the IB© attitudes. Our Principals' Pride Recognitions focus on the PYP Attitudes and our discipline management process includes a component of the PYP Attitudes. Our broadcasts often include segments about the attitudes and Spicewood students assess their progress on the PYP Attitudes and record their reflections in their PYP Portfolios.

WE WANT STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THESE INTERNATIONAL ATTITUDES:

Appreciation - appreciating the wonder and beauty of the world and its people

Commitment - being committed to their learning

Confidence - feeling confident in their ability as learners, having the courage to take risks, applying what they have learned and making appropriate decisions and choices

Cooperation - cooperating, collaborating and leading or following as the situation demands

Creativity - being creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problems and dilemmas

Curiosity - being curious about the nature of learning and of the world, its people and cultures

Empathy - imaginatively projecting themselves into another's situation, in order to understand his/her thoughts, reasoning and emotions

Enthusiasm - enjoying learning

Independence - thinking and acting independently, making their own judgments based on reasoned principles and being able to defend their judgments

Integrity - having integrity and a firm sense of fairness and honesty

Respect - respecting themselves, others and the world around them

Tolerance - feeling sensitivity towards differences and diversity in the world and being responsive to the needs of others

When we discuss the attitudes with our students, we use "kid friendly language." The list below shows the students' translation of the PYP Attitudes.

Attitudes at Spicewood

- I practice **COOPERATION** by working with others and leading or following as the need arises.
- I am **CURIOUS**; I ask lots of questions and "wonder why".
- I am an **ENTHUSIASTIC** person. I'm excited about learning and living.
- I practice **TOLERANCE**. I try really hard to understand others' differences.
- I have **EMPATHY**. I understand the feeling of others.
- I am **RESPECTFUL** about myself, others, and our beautiful world.

- I am **CREATIVE**. I use my imagination in all sorts of situations.
- I am **COMMITTED** I never give up.
- I show **APPRECIATION** by being thankful for the beautiful world and all of its people.
- I have **INTEGRITY**. I am fair and honest all of the time.
- I am **INDEPENDENT**; I make my own decisions and do my own work.
- I am **CONFIDENT**; I have the courage to take risks in learning and in life.