

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 7

Young Diplomats Magnet Academy
An International Baccalaureate World School
Educating Internationally Minded Scholars
134 West 122nd Street New York, NY 10027
www.ps242.com



Mission Statement

We all have greatness within us and every child has limitless potential that must be nurtured. Members of the Young Diplomats Magnet Academy will draw this potential out of every scholar and continuously strive for success. As a result, each scholar will be equipped with the tools to become responsible citizens in a changing world. Young Diplomats Magnet Academy is dedicated to providing all students with a caring, supportive, and rigorous inquiry-based learning environment. Young Diplomats Magnet Academy is a school in which all students are encouraged to be open-minded towards acquiring a global perspective. Together we will target student strengths and interests as a motivational tool to be reflective risk-takers. Students of different abilities, interests or learning needs will experience equally appropriate ways to absorb, use, develop and present concepts as effective communicators. The entire school community is committed to helping develop knowledgeable, balanced and principled thinkers, skills needed to become socially responsible members of a diverse society.

A message from Ms. Desjardin (Ms. D)

Once again, we had a productive first month with an informative and well-attended Open House last month. It was also great to have so many Dads, Grandfathers and other male family members come out for our "Dad Bring Your Child to School" event. Our students will surely reap the benefits of our strong parent-teacher relationships!

As we begin October, I'd like to remind everyone that we only allow "Book Character" costumes on Halloween day. Any scary costumes or masks are NOT allowed. We try to make this day as pleasant and enjoyable for our students in all grades.

Please mark your calendars for November 16th which is when our first official Parent-Teacher conferences will be held. Teachers will send out time slots in advance sign up for and discuss your child's progress. Note that there is a time limit for each conference. If you feel that 10 minutes is not enough time to meet with your child's teacher, you can schedule a meeting for Tuesdays from 2:30-3:10. You should contact our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Celeste Ortega for more information if you'd like to schedule a meeting during the school day.

Don't forget to come visit your child's classroom on Friday, October 6th for our first Celebration of Learning from 8:30-9:30.

Pre- Kindergarten- Ms. Epperson & Ms. Frenkiel

Pre-K is an exciting time for your young scholars, so always provide your child with opportunities to communicate with you about what's happening in school. Ask your child what he/she learned in school each day, and feel free to contact me if your child cannot provide you with evidence of learning something new every day. You are welcome to visit the class and speak with me every Tuesday between 2:30 and 3:00 about your child's progress. We are trying to create a balance between school and home by keeping the lines of communication open and frequent. Encourage your child to be a risk-taker and try new things like different vegetables. In the classroom we are actively becoming communicators, principled, balanced and risk-takers. These Learner Profile Attributes should be practiced every day at home as well. This will create a balance between school and home. Your child is learning to add and subtract numbers up to 10. Please practice adding and subtracting with your child at home.

I am so proud to see my students in the school uniforms, thank you for complying with the school's uniform policy. I hope you enjoyed working with your child on the passport project and the final project will be the "Who We Are" book. This project is a joint activity between you and your child and will be graded based on how well your child is able to explain it. We will have an end of unit celebration and request that you bring in a dish from your culture to share with the class. The celebration date will be announced. On Friday October 20th we will be having our annual Fall Festival. Students are allowed to wear costumes, no scary masks please!

Kindergarten- Ms. Akter & Ms. White

Welcome to Fall! We are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting school year with your child. In Mathematics we are sorting, graphing, counting, and learning about numbers all around us. Students will represent, count and write numbers 0-5. During reading, we are learning how to care for books and learning about parts of books. We are doing lots of Read-Alouds and Shared Reading on a daily basis. Students will make connections between illustrations and words, the main idea, characters, answer key details in a text, and asking and answering questions. Students will be focusing on Informative Writing and will write or draw to compose informative text. Students are also learning our names and classmate's names, about letter sounds, rhyming, and sight words. For our Inquiry unit we are learning all about essential agreements. Our Transdisciplinary Theme in this unit of study is, "Sharing the Planet." We will be learning about sharing resources with other people and other living things. We will investigate how animals survive and their habitats. The Learner Profile Attributes for this unit are Knowledgeable, Caring and Inquirer. We will delve deeper into what these attributes mean. The Attitudes that we will be focusing on in this unit are Commitment and Independence. We will be discussing each principle and learning how to apply each to our class community, school community and daily lives. Homework packets will be distributed on Monday and should be returned to school the following Monday, unless there is a holiday. In addition, we are asking that you read with your child each evening. Friendly reminder-PLEASE LABEL all clothing, lunch boxes etc., as many of the students have the same colored sweaters, lunch boxes and other items. PLEASE PRACTICE tying shoes, snapping, buttoning and zipping of jackets and coats. Thank you for support! Best Regards.

First Grade- Ms. Campbell, Ms. McKayle, Ms. Cody & Ms. Dudley

The first graders are excited to begin the new school year! It has been great getting to know the kids as they get back into the routine of school. Thank you for all your support so far and for attending curriculum night.

We have just started our first Inquiry unit, "Sharing the Planet." In this unit, students will become more knowledgeable about animal characteristics, adaptations and survival. They will be encouraged to display the attitudes of curiosity and creativity and the attributes of thinker, knowledgeable and inquirer. The students will be creating a futuristic animal so be on the lookout for an invitation to our futuristic zoo where each child will present information about their animal. Please assist your child with their first unit project due on October 13^h. Students will be reading both fiction and non-fiction books, and they will be learning about story elements and non-fiction text features. Please encourage your child to read a book at home daily.

Students will publish a non-fiction informational piece, which will show their understanding of how an animal survives.

In phonics, we have been working on short vowels, and students are expected to take a spelling test every Friday. On the homework sheet, there is a list of words given to the students with specific activities for them to practice. Please encourage your child to do additional activities to practice the spelling words at home.

In math, students will be learning addition concepts. In chapter 1, they are exploring how to model addition within 10. Continue using concrete objects to practice addition at home. There will be a math test at the end of each chapter.

Field trips are an integral part of our science and social studies units. It reinforces the content being studied and students are required to go. We will have trips scheduled in October, November and December. Please be on the lookout for the permission slips.

Check your child's folder nightly for important notices and reminders. Homework must be completed as outlined on the homework sheet. It must be handed in on time, organized neatly and written in the requested place or format. Homework and projects are an important part of grades.

Please make sure your child comes to school on time and prepared everyday with the tools they need for the day. If you have not yet turned in your classroom supplies, please do so as soon as possible.

It takes a village.

Second Grade- Ms. Hossain & Ms. Cain

The students in 2nd grade are working on the 1st IB unit, “Where We Are In Place and Time.” The IB learner profile attributes the students are using for this unit are open-minded, knowledgeable and reflective. The attitudes for this unit are curiosity, respect, and independence. The skills used are self-management skills, research skills, and communication skills. In this unit, students are going to learn about the different types of communities: urban, suburban and rural communities. Students are reading fiction and non-fiction books. Please encourage your child to read a book at home for 20 minutes daily. In addition to reading their book at home, you can also ask your child to read signs outside, menus, or grocery lists for extra practice.

In writing, it is expected that students will publish a narrative piece in which they will add a scene to the book *Charlotte’s Web*. In their writing, they will describe the characters and setting, write a short sequence of events with a beginning, middle, and end, include details to describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of the characters. Students have been working on short vowels and long vowels, and will be starting on consonant clusters. Students are expected to complete the phonics worksheets found in their homework to practice. Please encourage your child to do additional activities to practice the phonics words. In math, students have learned about place value of 2-digit numbers, and even and odd numbers. In unit 2, students will be learning about place value of numbers to 1,000 and comparing these numbers. Field trips are an integral part of our units. It reinforces the content being studied and students are required to go. Please be on lookout for the permission slips.

Homework must be completed as outlined on the homework sheet, handed in on time, organized neatly and written in the requested place or format. Homework and projects are an important part of grades.

Please make sure your child comes to school prepared everyday with the tools they need for the day. School starts at 8:10am. If you have not yet turned in your classroom supplies, please do so as soon as possible. Please remember to check your child’s homework folder on a nightly basis for important notices and also, clean out your child’s folder on a nightly basis.

Third Grade- Ms. Cutrone & Mr. Judkins

Welcome to 3rd Grade!! This is an exciting and challenging year. 3rd graders will be taking the Common Core New York State ELA and Math tests. Our overall theme is the Pale Blue Dot. We will be inquiring about the world and how every country has a unique location and geography. Our IB Attitudes are Creativity, Independence and Curiosity. The Learner Profiles we will demonstrate are Inquirer, Knowledgeable and Reflective. The Key Concepts are Form, Function and Connection. Inquiry: Students will create their own island. They will place their island the map. The island must include a map key, scale, a name and much more. Writing: To tie in with our geography unit students will create a narrative about how a particular location plays an important part of the story students will tell. Students will include a lead, characters, setting, dialogue, and follow a sequence of events. We will also work on punctuation and capitalization. In reading, we will begin to read the chapter book, *The Case of the Gaspin Garbage* by Michele Torrey. Students will be using text evidence to support their answers. They will look for the main idea and summarize a story. In math, students will learn a variety of math mental strategies to add and subtract within 1,000. Some of the strategies they will use are: using a number line, friendly numbers, and the break-apart strategy. Homework is given on a daily basis. It will be graded twice a week. Vocabulary/Spelling tests will be given every Friday. Book reports are due once a month. IB projects are due every 3 weeks. The first one is due on October 10th 2017. Please check your child’s folder for important notices. We will be going on field trips to enhance our learning. Gym is on Wednesday & Friday. Please wear sneakers.

Fourth Grade- Ms. Grullon & Ms. Frohnhoefer

The fourth grade class is working very hard on their first IB unit on animal adaptation and survival. Students are researching how animals in North America, specifically in New York State adapted to their environment and how they interact and depend on other living things for survival. In the writing unit they will use their research to complete an informational article on the animal they chose to work on.

Field trips to the museum will allow students to collect more information on their animal in its natural environment.

Our current math unit focuses on place value, addition and subtraction of numbers up to one million. Fact fluency to improve addition and subtraction computation will be a focus in this unit.

Throughout unit 1, there will be an emphasis on applying their skills to solve word problems.

Students will also create math problems to help with their problem solving abilities. To help support your child's math progress, study multiplication at home daily. Please check your child's weekly homework sheet for assignments and parent information.

Fifth Grade- Mr. Dennis & Ms. Brown

Welcome back 5th grade students and families to YDMA! We are glad to see each of you back for your senior year and excited to get to know our new students and families! As we prepare for a successful year, we want to outline our first units. Our first inquiry unit will be "Sharing the Planet." We will look at different biomes such as, aquatic, desert, and rainforests. We will pay close attention to how these biomes are connected and the impact humans have on the environment. Students will research ways we can solve some of the problems we face and develop possible solutions to affect change around our community. In reading and writing, we will be working on realistic fiction. Students will write a realistic fiction story where characters attempt to solve a problem through working together. In math, chapter 1 deals with place value, multiplication, and expressions. Chapter 2 is dividing whole numbers. The *Learner Profile Attributes* for the unit are: Balanced- students will investigate how being balanced can lead to good choices when trying to solve problems; Caring- students will develop a caring attitude towards all living things within a biome; Reflective- students will take the time to reflect on how the choices we make as consumers can have an impact on biomes. The *Attitudes* are: Independence- students will be able to work independently while conducting short research projects; Empathy- students will develop empathy towards others; Cooperation- students will cooperate while working in small groups and sharing technology. In other news regarding homework projects, students will complete two projects during our 6-week units. Students will have 3 weeks to complete each project with students having to complete two projects per unit. In addition, your child will also have DAILY reading and math homework. Please watch your student's book bag for a permission slip, reminders and homework sheets. Possible topics for research at home or the library are coral reefs, rain forests, ecosystems, and biomes.

Here is how a heading should look for homework or any turned in assignment:

YDMA
5-206

FULL NAME
DATE

Art- Ms. Barksdale

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to the new and exciting art projects that your children will be creating in the Art Studio. The Visual Arts Program at P.S. 242 is driven and inspired by the 6 Transdisciplinary Units of Study in each grade along with the Common Core Learning Standards. The following is a list of themes that each grade is creating projects based upon during the month of October:

Pre-Kindergarten- The Art of Me

Kindergarten- Creature Features

1st Grade- Sharing the Planet- The Art of Nature

2nd Grade- Urban, Rural and Suburban Landscapes

3rd Grade- New York City Landscape Collages inspired by the art of Romare Bearden

4th Grade-Urban Safari- The Art of New York City's Natural World

5th Grade- Sharing the Planet- The Art of Nature

Get in the Halloween spirit at the Governors Island Jack O Lantern Bonanza featuring more than a thousand hand- carved pumpkins. The orange works of art are transformed by hundreds of carvers into movie characters and pop culture icons, plus impressive multi-pumpkin sculptures of dinosaurs, dragons, safari animals and more. The whole family will love exploring these intricately carved pumpkins (some of which weigh over 100 pounds!) while listening to festive Halloween tunes. Be sure to check out the live-carving stations where kids can watch the artists in action. The event takes place at Governors Island from Thursday October 26th- Sunday October 29th, starting at 6PM.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 Celebration of Learning	7
8	No School	*Middle School Fair	11	*IB Parent Development	13	14
15 **Breast Cancer Walk 	16	PTA Meeting @ 5:15pm	18	19	Spirit Day MISMATCH DAY & Fall Festival	21
22	23	**United Nations Day	25	*Family Yoga	27	28
29	30	BOOK-O-WEEN 	31			

REMINDERS:

October 6, 2017 @ 8:30am – Come in and see your child’s projects

October 10, 2017 Middle School Fair Begins at 5:30pm

October 12, 2017 @8:30 am—Topic IB Parent Development

October 15, 2017 @ 8am—we will be supporting the Breast Cancer Walk.

October 24, 2017 kids are to come in dressed with their own cultural dress attire.

October 26, 2017 @ 8:30am—Parents come on in for early morning yoga & meditation.

October 31, 2017—Dress up as your favorite book character