



WHAT IS PLEx

Learning at ICS

At ICS we define learning as “an ongoing process in which students acquire, develop and apply knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential to thrive in, and contribute to, an ever-changing world”.

Learner Agency is the ability of a student to take specific and purposeful action to impact his or her level of success. We also believe that learning is optimized when it is personalized, meaningful, authentic, reflective, collaborative, transdisciplinary and active.

Personalized learning is an educational approach that allows students to customize learning to their own strengths, needs, skills and interests. Each student develops a learning plan that’s based on what s/he knows and how s/he learns best.

We strive to be a Highly Effective and Learning Progressive school. As part of this journey, our students will engage in a personalized learning experience that supports every aspect of the ICS Learning Process, helping students learn how to learn.

Introducing PLEx

PLEx is a five-week personalized learning experience with the objective to promote student agency and authentic personalized learning for all grade 1-10 and non-IB grade 11 students.

Each student will follow a topic of interest, develop a learning plan, research, implement and share their findings..

How Does It Work?

At its core, PLEx is about students personalizing their learning process to individual choices and interests, shifting ownership of learning from teachers to students. The process offers students the freedom to pursue their passion and curiosity, empowering them to learn at their highest levels.

While students take ownership of their learning, PLEx includes coordinated supervision where teachers take on an advisor role, to help guide and support students in their PLEx journey.

Pathways : How we organize student work

Pathways : How students organize their work

While all students will be on their own personalized learning journey during these five weeks, Pathways are a tool for sorting students, staff, and community members, as well as spaces to optimize learning. There are four Pathways that allow for a wide range of personal learning experiences.

We believe all personalized learning ideas can be sorted into the following following

Pathways:

- The Citizenship Pathway: Learning to Participate
- The Personal Development Pathway: Learning to Become
- The Systems and Structures Pathway: Learning about Our World
- The Expression Pathway: Learning through Exploration and Experimentation

Progressions: How to evaluate student work

The progression of skills that are used to assess PLEx will be based on the Approaches To Learning (ATL) from the International Baccalaureate (IB). Through the use of the ATLs, students will develop the skills necessary to answer the four PLC Questions. #1 What do I want to learn? #2 How will I know I've learned it? #3 What do I do if I don't know it? #4 What do I do if I already know it?

Each of the ATLs are broken into grade-level progressions in order to facilitate student assessment and reflection.

The 5 ATL skills of PLEx are:

Research Skills: These are skills that involve asking questions, selecting relevant sources, using information from multiple source, organizing information from multiple sources and sharing findings with others.

Thinking Skills: These involve critical thinking, creative thinking and thinking about thinking.

Social Skills: These involve working effectively with others.

Self-Management Skills: These skills include setting goals, learning and enhancing the work environment to get the best out of the learning process.



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**“Launching
PLEx is exciting,
overwhelming,
inspiring, scary
and a wonderful
opportunity for
all of our learners,
both students and
teachers. I can’t
wait to see how it
all develops.”**



Communication Skills: These skills include exchanging thoughts, messages and information effectively through interaction, and engaging with feedback.

Our Vision and PLEx

ICS PLEx embraces the ICS vision of ‘Our best with Africa and our world’.

- Our Best is the expectation of what each individual within our community is expected to bring to PLEx.
- With Africa guides learning to go beyond skills and knowledge for oneself to using them to contribute to and benefit from the local community.
- Our world defines the world as perceived by the individual. In PLEx, students will link directly to their world, however individual that may be or on a global scale.

Reflection

At the heart of understanding how to learn is on-going reflection. Throughout the PLEx, each student will reflect on their learning daily. In order to reflect, students require timely feedback to ensure their perspective aligns with the

observations of those around them. A variety of opportunities to provide and receive feedback will take place in the form of peer feedback, advisor feedback, pathway facilitator feedback, mentor feedback, etc.

Utilizing constructive feedback, students will reflect on the impact PLEx is having on them as students, and how they will continue to develop. Students will consciously reflect on how their learning outcome/product connects with the ICS Vision of “Our Best with Africa and Our World.”

Presentations of Learning

At the end of PLEx, all students will make a presentation. These presentations will focus on students’ engagement with the approaches to the ICS Learning Process as well as on any learning outcomes or products resulting from PLEx. This sharing will vary by division: the PYP Exhibition format in ES, with smaller group formats in MS and HS. After students have shared their learning, they will have time to reflect on their presentation, as well as their PLEx.

This reflection will culminate in a final conference with their advisor.

Community Support

We need your help. With all the students selecting personal projects, we need mentors in every possible topic. If you have an area of knowledge, a talent, a specific skill set or expertise and are willing to share with students, we need you!

Please fill out a short survey on what you can offer and we’ll be sure to get back to you.

We will need all the support we can find. To access the survey, use the QR Code.



THE ICS LEARNING PROCESS

DEFINITION OF LEARNING:
Learning is an ongoing process in which learners acquire, develop and apply knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential to thrive in, and contribute to, an ever-changing world.

REFLECTION

Q3: What will I do if I am not learning?
Q4: What will I do if I already know it?

INQUIRY

Q1: What do I want to know and be able to do?

LEARNING IS OPTIMIZED WHEN IT IS:

PERSONALIZED MEANINGFUL AUTHENTIC
REFLECTIVE COLLABORATIVE TRANSDISCIPLINARY ACTIVE

ACTION

Q2: How will I demonstrate that I know it?

