



## COLEGIO MAYA MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



Middle-school students benefit from developing competencies throughout and across the academic disciplines, school life, and activities. While the knowledge may vary, teachers agree on key competencies, concepts, and character traits, designing courses to address student needs. Consistent academic and behavioral expectations throughout their classes clearly communicate these priorities to students.

Students know that they are recognized as individuals and take ownership of learning that reflects their identities. Therefore, teachers must act as curriculum designers prepared to design and modify units of study that reflect the needs and interests of the students. Not least, learning is surprising, challenging, and fun!

To promote rigor and engagement, students engage in projects with real purpose and demonstrate their learning in authentic contexts. Their voices shape their demonstrations of learning. Because missteps occur in every learning journey, failure is treated as part of the learning process; teachers coordinate to provide students multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. Learning portfolios are an indispensable tool that both drive student reflection and demonstrate student growth not only within an academic year, but throughout their middle-school journey.

To take advantage of these multiple opportunities, students must possess - and teachers must foster - a growth mindset and a strong work ethic. Grit and positivity empower students to persevere in the face of obstacles. Opportunities to develop relationships with mentors and role models enhance students' empowerment to drive their own learning.

These elements combine to provide students with a strong sense of their own identity. Our program encourages students to identify their own strengths and challenges, providing them the space and support to grow from both failure and success. Students leave middle school empowered, beyond what they previously thought possible, to confront and engage with complex challenges.