The IB continuum: Challenges and opportunities

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A little background

- DP in 1968
- MYP in 1994
- PYP in 1997

“The DP was established as IB’s charter program in 1968, while the PYP and MYP were added to form the Three Programmes’ continuum in the mid-1990s.” Hanover Research, 2010.

This was not the case
Stratford Hall: our context

• Created in 1999, opened in 2000 with intent to do all 3 programmes.
• Authorized for PYP in 2003
• Authorized for DP in 2005
• Authorized for MYP in 2009
• 500 students k-12
• Every student is a full IB student
Challenges

- School organization – fragmentation
- Transitions between programs that do not link
- Multiple evaluation visits
- Professional development – program coordinators
- Early on: different core elements
Opportunities

- Unified school culture built around core elements
  - Learner Profile
  - Approaches to Learning
  - Approaches to Teaching
  - Command terms and assessment types
  - One program, not three
- Continuum activities
  - Cross grade buddies
  - Community service
- Common approaches to planning and assessment
Action at Stratford Hall

- Three Continuum Coordinators:
  - Action
  - Core elements
  - Professional growth
- Organization
  - Junior School/Senior School with intentional program overlap
- Staff Development
  - 2 days devoted to Continuum ideas
- Buddies
- Culminating events: Exhibition/PP/EE
- Community service
- Direct links to other local continuum schools
The Network of IB Continuum Schools

- 10 Canadian schools
- www.nibcs.org
- What next?