



Design Course Introduction

According to IB, Design is the “link between innovation and creativity.” Design at Willows Preparatory School will explore product *and* digital design using both low and high-tech materials and methodologies. We feel strongly that the following holds true about Design:

- Designers adapt their approach to different situations but have a common understanding of the process necessary to form valid and suitable solutions.
- A designer has a role and responsibility to the community and the environment. Their decisions can have a wide-reaching impact and, therefore, their ethics and morals can and should be questioned regularly.
- A designer should have the ability to evaluate a situation objectively, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of a common product or system.
- Effective communication, through visual and oral presentation, is a key trait of any good designer.

Largely a project and problem-based learning experience, our class will tackle several “design challenges” throughout the year, in which students must creatively solve a problem using the IB’s official *Design Cycle*. Since the best designers are effective communicators, our class will require students to work in groups, demonstrate open-mindedness, and relay their ideas and feedback in meaningful ways. Most importantly, students in Design will learn to adapt to different situations, build resiliency, and understand the impact of their creations on the world and its people. Our class is very “hands-on” and experiential; we will explore design throughout history, study present trends, and anticipate the future of design through field trips (both physical and virtual) and interdisciplinary lessons with *all* teachers at Willows Preparatory School.