



What is transdisciplinary learning in the PYP?

Transdisciplinary learning in the PYP refers to learning that is support and enriched – and not confined - by the boundaries of the traditional subjects. (*PYP, Learning and Teaching, 2018*)

What does that mean here at Mark Twain? A conversation with Ms Brown produced a good example:

In the **How We Express Ourselves** planner, she is reading Jan Brett's picture books to her kindergarteners. Through these beautifully illustrated and well-constructed stories, the students learn about the purpose of stories – telling them, listening to them – exploring how stories shape our world view. That is the conceptual lens, the big idea underlying this planner.

There is also much skill development through these stories within the traditional subjects - in reading/language arts – story elements, main idea, sequencing, written response, spelling, sentence structure; in math – more sequencing and number sense; science and social studies concepts and terminology – seasons, cycles, comparing, sorting, classifying.

In summary, the goal of transdisciplinary learning is for students to develop their skills in specific subjects and be able to apply these skills in a meaningful way to broaden their understanding of the world. By integrating learning in this way, we honor the students' time, curiosity, efforts and voice.

Questions? Please contact Kathleen Blakeslee, IB Coordinator, KBLAKESL@houstonisd.org