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## Portland's International School offers Oregon's first elementary International Baccalaureate program

By **Betsy Hammond**, The Oregonian  
April 05, 2010, 3:21PM



courtesy of The International School

**The International School**, a private Portland school that teaches students exclusively in Japanese, Chinese or Spanish, has become the first in Oregon approved to offer the rigorous International Baccalaureate program in the elementary grades.

Five Oregon schools, including two public schools in Beaverton, already offer approved middle grades IB programs. And a growing number of Oregon public high schools -- 18 so far -- offer the IB diploma program. **Among them** are Beaverton, Gresham, Tigard, Tualatin and Hillsboro high schools, Lincoln and Cleveland of Portland, Sunset and Southridge of Beaverton and Putnam High in Milwaukie.

**The International Baccalaureate Program** is an international non-profit organization that works with schools and governments around the world to establish rigorous academic programs that meet its standards for high-level, inquiry-based education that promotes international understanding.

Schools get tentative approval to begin offering an IB-level program, then are subjected to rigorous on-site inspections to make sure what they're doing meets international standards.

The International School began offering its program in fall 2007, but got word today that it won approval and can now publicly proclaim that it offers IB's "Primary Years Programme."

Michelle Kerin, president of the school's board of trustees, said in a statement that, "The International School, where children are fully immersed in Spanish, Japanese or Chinese language and culture, applied to be an IB World School because it felt that the IB world view and focus on international understanding are a perfect match with the school's mission."

- **Betsy Hammond**

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