



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

For Immediate Release: Thursday, January 17, 2008

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Beacon Hill Elementary designated as an International School

Curriculum to include Spanish and Chinese Mandarin Immersion Programs as well as Global Perspectives to enhance students' cultural competence

Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D, announced today that Beacon Hill Elementary School will become an International School beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. Beacon Hill elementary is only the second international elementary school in the district, joining the John Stanford International School. Led by Principal Susie Murphy, the school will offer three key programs next fall: Spanish/English Dual Language Immersion, Chinese Mandarin/English Partial Immersion and an English Language International Program. The school currently has a diverse student population of 379 students speaking over ten different languages.

Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson said, "We are all very proud to see Beacon Hill Elementary become Beacon Hill International School. There is great value in educating our students to become global citizens. They have a better understanding of the world around them, language skills to communicate across cultural boundaries, and a deeper knowledge of the challenges and connections that link our community to those of the world at large. That knowledge helps our students and our community to thrive in our global society."

Beacon Hill International School will offer language immersion programs with incoming Kindergarten students spending half the school day studying and working in a new language taught by native speakers while also simultaneously advancing their academic skills in core curriculum of reading, writing, math and science. The school's current federally-funded Chinese Mandarin classes, taught a half hour each day, will continue for those students attending Grades 1- 5 next year.

The international education program will also encompass the integration of global perspectives into curriculum, stressing multicultural literature, world economics, global health as well as arts, music, dance and drama from around the world. The mission of the international education program is to educate and prepare all students with the cultural competence to achieve today and tomorrow in a global community and economy.

Students will also learn about a variety of cultures and countries using an international social studies curriculum that also explores current challenges and issues facing the world community. The international school model includes three essential elements of academic excellence, global perspectives and world languages. This expansion builds on the success of other international schools and programs throughout the district.

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Seattle Public Schools has had a strong commitment to international education, beginning in 2000 with the launch of the John Stanford International School with immersion programs in Japanese initially and followed by Spanish a year later. With award-winning international schools at John Stanford and at Hamilton Middle School, the district also has prestigious International Baccalaureate programs at Ingraham and Chief Sealth High Schools. Additionally, there are numerous language programs throughout district schools including a dual language program at Concord Elementary School.

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