

# GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWS

## WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUTHORIZED AS INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

*(Greenwich, CT: For Immediate Release – Thursday, September 26, 2013)* The Greenwich Public Schools are proud to announce that Western Middle School has been authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School for a three-year Middle Years Programme (MYP) by the IB Organization. Western began the exploration and implementation of the Middle Years Programme in 2009. The authorization process requires candidate schools to teach the program for at least one year, participate in professional learning opportunities, submit two very comprehensive applications for authorization, and host a site visit by IB officials.

Siva Kumari, Ed.D., the IBO's Chief Operating Officer for the Schools Division, stated in the authorization letter, "we commend your school's educators, administrators, students and families for their active roles in choosing to offer the MYP." Western received the following commendations from the IBO based on their site visit findings. The IBO defines commendations as "school practices that go beyond the requirements for authorization and will benefit the implementation of the programme,"

- "The school celebrates students for meritorious behavior as exemplified by the IB learner profile attributes."
- "The library/media center is well staffed and resourced and is at the core of inquiry learning as well as coordinating the instruction of skills related to academic honesty."
- "The school is commended for providing very extensive supports to help all students be successful."

Superintendent of Schools William S. McKersie, said, "IB is regarded as one of the leading educational programs in our nation. Their record is clear as a way to improve outcomes for students. I am thrilled that another of our schools now has this distinction as an authorized International Baccalaureate World School. I congratulate the staff at Western for their hard work and dedication in getting to this point. I know that they, and the entire Western Middle School community will continue to work together to generate successful outcomes for our students in profound and deep ways."

Western Middle School Principal Gordon Beinstein said, "I couldn't be more proud of the staff, students and the entire Western community for this recognition. This authorization represents 4 years of hard work by dedicated staff members under the leadership of Mr. Richard Crawford. Teachers embraced the IB model, planned units under the auspices of the IB framework and created learning environments, which fostered a deeper understanding of the world in which they live. While this certification is incredibly important, it is not the end of the work. The staff will continue to grow the program in an effort to create global citizens that we can all be proud of."

Western Middle School teacher and IB Coordinator Richard Crawford noted, “It has been a challenging few years, but even more rewarding. The IB certification effort has brought out the best in our teachers. Our students reside in a learning environment that fosters the deeper level of thinking that they will need for their future success. This process has also made us more aware of the benefits of learning and living in a diverse community. I look forward to many more years of working with this dedicated staff as we continue to embrace the IB philosophy.”

According to the notification letter from the IBO, as an IB World School, Western Middle School is “part of a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who will be ready to negotiate their futures successfully and make contributions resulting in a more harmonious and peaceful world.”

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