

January 22, 2020

Dear Norgate community:

Subject: *IB PYP approved for Norgate Community Elementary*

I am very excited to share with you that Norgate Community Elementary School will officially begin its journey to become an IB PYP school. At the public meeting of the North Vancouver Board of Education on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, the Board unanimously voted in favour of transitioning the school to an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school. This means that in September 2020 the school will begin to implement the IB PYP curriculum and program requirements. The 2020/21 school year will be a transition year, with formal accreditation occurring the following school year.

The International Baccalaureate Organization is a long-standing international organization that focuses on global education. There are roughly 5,000 schools in 150 countries that teach IB curricula. The programs are world-renowned for fostering student success – socially, emotionally, academically, and in extra-curricular endeavours. Students develop the personal attributes and skills that enable them to become well-rounded, globally-minded, and service-oriented citizens. The North Vancouver School District has been providing IB programs since 2007, and will now be able to offer the full continuum of IB programming for Norgate students from Kindergarten through to Grade 12. All of the programs within the school district have been incredibly successful. We are confident that the program at Norgate will also be a huge success.

Norgate Community Elementary is an ideal school to become an IB Primary Years Programme school because of its location, the community's strong level of engagement in the school, and the connection with Squamish Nation. The intercultural awareness of the IB program embodies Indigenous ways of knowing and supports ongoing student engagement on the path to reconciliation.

Thank you to the Norgate community for your support over the past few months as we have explored the possibility of bringing IB to Norgate Community Elementary. The community's response in favour of this change has been overwhelmingly positive.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Barter
District Principal
North Vancouver School District