



West Bay Elementary School



The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program



Inspired Learning for Global Connections





WEST BAY ELEMENTARY
~ AN ENVIRONMENT
TO INSPIRE

A small, personal, welcoming school, West Bay Elementary is nestled in the heart of West Vancouver. The school is at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with forested playgrounds on either side. Students' sense of belonging, active parental involvement, and a highly dedicated teaching staff contribute to its success.

WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
~ A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

We aspire to be the finest educational system in the country – for our children, our employees, our community and our world.

The West Vancouver Board of Education's Vision Statement

The West Vancouver Board of Education develops goals and objectives for our District that demonstrate its commitment to this vision statement. With education excellence being a key goal, it is not surprising that our District has become synonymous with high achievement. The number of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) has consistently placed the District at the 100th percentile among public school districts. Our grade 10, 11, and 12 students' results from government program examinations are also close to, or at, the 100 percentile.

The District continually reviews specific instructional strategies that impact student achievement. Differentiated instruction is an ongoing focus; many teachers and administrators are taking advantage of workshops on Grant Wiggins' and Jay McTighe's *Understanding by Design*. With the use of technology viewed as a vehicle for learning across the curriculum, the District is implementing digital literacy strategies to promote the development of technology skills that are important for students in their education, their future careers, and their everyday lives. The School District continues to expand the implementation of the Service Learning Model thereby encouraging students to contribute to positive change in their school and in the community.

The West Vancouver School District has a commitment to a range of unique program options. In addition to district-wide programs and career programs, there are a number of site specific programs, including West Bay's IB Primary Years Program.

AN EXCITING OPTION FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



In 2005, West Bay Elementary became a designated "School of Choice" within the West Vancouver School District, offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP). In addition, West Bay's Preschool, Early Inquirers, offers the IB PYP for three and four year olds.

Developed by the IB Organization specifically for this pre-K to 12 age group, the PYP integrates the BC curriculum into a framework of inquiry with a global perspective. This approach expands the BC curriculum in breadth and depth. Rigorous learning activities are directly linked to progressively challenging stages of questioning that drive the inquiry.

This inclusive, enriched program ensures students are challenged to think and question critically. Their research skills and sophistication in writing and presenting are significant outcomes of the program. West Bay's PYP also offers second language instruction from Kindergarten through to grade seven.

The PYP's goal is to deliver global citizens who are balanced, principled inquirers with an understanding of their responsibilities to our society and a commitment to academic excellence.





WHAT MAKES THE IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM UNIQUE?

At the heart of the PYP is a commitment to structured inquiry as a vehicle for learning. Six organizing themes help teachers and students explore the BC curriculum within a broad global perspective:

- Who We Are
- Where We Are In Place And Time
- How We Express Ourselves
- How The World Works
- How We Organize Ourselves
- Sharing The Planet



Teachers and students use key questions that are concept-based to structure the units of inquiry.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Form: | What is it like? |
| Function: | How does it work? |
| Causation: | Why is it like it is? |
| Change: | How is it changing? |
| Connection: | How is it connected to other things? |
| Reflection: | How do we know? |
| Perspective: | What are the points of view? |
| Responsibility: | What is my responsibility? |

WHAT DOES THE IB PROGRAM DELIVER FOR THE STUDENTS?

PYP students are given the opportunity to reflect and take action in response to their learning. In doing so, the following attitudes are specifically encouraged:



- appreciation
- commitment
- confidence
- cooperation
- creativity
- curiosity
- empathy
- enthusiasm
- independence
- integrity
- respect
- tolerance

As a result, students acquire and learn to apply transdisciplinary skills to perform confidently in all areas. The results, documented throughout the world, are:

- motivated, happy learners,
- students who have learned how to learn,
- learners who can apply critical analysis skills,
- children who take risks to seek deeper understanding of concepts with a global significance,
- students who are involved in responsible action, social service, and
- students who work collaboratively.

"IB [methodology] doesn't teach children 'what' to think but rather 'how' to think and that is an extraordinarily powerful tool, particularly in an increasingly competitive and ever-changing world."

West Bay Parent





WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANIZATION?

The International Baccalaureate Organization was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. Its original purpose was to facilitate the international mobility of students preparing for university by providing schools with a curriculum and diploma recognized by universities around the world. Since then its mission has expanded, and it now seeks to provide students of all ages with a truly international education—an education that encourages an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, languages and points of view.

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. There are more than 800,000 IB students at 2,904 schools in 138 countries.

How Does the IBO Support West Bay's Primary Years Program?

The IBO provides IB applicant schools with:

- detailed curriculum guidelines and approval of a school-wide planned Program of Inquiry
- extensive teacher training workshops
- online access to thousands of education resources, subject area experts, and discussion sessions with teachers at IB schools throughout the world
- an external evaluation three years following authorization and every five years thereafter to ensure stringent standards and expectations for the program of inquiry are met
- a PYP exhibition showcasing senior students' abilities to carry out an extended, collaborative inquiry project
- procedures for school-based assessment of student work

THE WEST BAY ADVANTAGE

Why Choose West Bay Elementary?

- Students educated through a cohesive, challenging, inquiry-based curriculum with a community and international perspective
- Safe and caring environment
- Exceptional parent partnership (supportive, highly involved, a strong sense of community)
- Dedicated and "extraordinary" staff

"The responsibility for learning is shared in the IB Primary Years Program; students, parents, teachers, and community members all take an active role in developing global citizenship. Supported by a community of learners, students learn to think critically and make wise decisions through informed inquiry. They are free to explore issues that really matter to them in a quest to understand and improve their world. This increase in decision-making, paired with best teaching practices, promotes ownership and excitement in learning and increases academic, social and emotional well-being for all students."

West Bay Teacher

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are pleased to accept applications from families residing both within and outside of West Vancouver providing there is space. Priority is given to students residing within West Bay Elementary's school catchment boundaries. Please check the school website under the "Registration" tab for current information regarding when and how to register.

You are welcome to tour the school and find out more about the IB Primary Years Program. To make an appointment, please contact West Bay Elementary at 604.981.1260





West Bay Elementary School



The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program

A W E S T V A N C O U V E R C H O I C E

3175 Thompson Place
West Vancouver BC V7V3E3
604.981.1260
www.sd45.bc.ca



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