Borel Middle School Receives International Baccalaureate Authorization

Foster City, CA – The San Mateo-Foster City School District is proud to announce that Borel Middle School has been accepted by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization as an IB World School. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is an internationally recognized educational institution with the core belief that an education emphasizing critical thinking and exposure to a variety of points of view is vital in today’s shrinking world. The IBO works with schools around the world to develop rigorous and challenging academic programs that deeply engage students and encourage them to become lifelong learners.

Borel Principal John Cosmos commented, “IB has brought some balance back to the work teachers are doing with their students and with each other. We are designing more inquiry-based, integrated lessons where students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and reflect on their learning. Helping students make connections between school, their local communities, and the global world is a primary objective of our program.”

The school’s five year exploration and implementation of the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) began in 2006. The process involved extensive training for teachers and administrators; the completion of multiple applications which included the creation of integrated IB units, lessons, and assessments; and a two-day, site visitation in October 2010 from the International Baccalaureate Organization where the IBO team met with staff, students, parents, community members, and district office personnel to determine the effectiveness of the school’s implementation work. Based on the applications and the visitation, the IBO granted Borel its official authorization as an IB World School.

The Middle Years Program at Borel Middle School offers students challenging lessons and opportunities to think critically and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. The philosophy includes a focus on five Areas of Interaction, or themes, and provides students a chance to reflect on their learning experiences. The goal of Borel’s MYP is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

For more information, visit the school’s website at http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us/borel/.

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