

# Denny Middle School to Become an International School

After a year of research, school visits, and many discussions, I am very pleased to announce that Denny Middle School is going to become a Seattle Public Schools International School beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. Denny International Middle School will be focused on providing:

- Academic Excellence for All: Innovative and Culturally Competent Teaching and Learning
- Global, Cultural and Ethnic Perspectives & Partnerships
- An Emphasis on World Languages

**Academic Excellence for All  
Innovative and Culturally Competent Teaching and Learning**

**Denny Middle  
School: Vision for  
International  
Education**

Outstanding  
Achievement for  
All Students in:  
Reading, Writing,  
Math, Science,  
Music, Art, PE,  
Communication

Multiple  
perspectives  
in all classes;  
global  
challenges;  
cultural  
partnerships

**Our  
Children**

Expansion of world  
language learning to  
include: Spanish Dual  
Language Program,  
expanded Mandarin  
programs—world  
languages for all  
students!

**Global, Cultural and  
Ethnic  
Perspectives &  
Partnerships**

**World  
Languages**

Denny Middle School has a beautifully diverse student population, representing many races, cultures, religions, and linguistics groups from around the world. Over one-third of our students are bilingual and our English Language Learning population is growing. The International School model is not only a perfect fit for our demographics, but it is also what our children need educationally.

All of us at Denny want our curricular and instructional efforts to provide rigor and to challenge the students we serve. Our students are smart, capable and can become leaders in the global

community that they will enter as adults. Providing them with academic instruction that is complex and curricular frameworks that explore global issues in depth, along with language skills in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and some day Arabic, will aptly prepare them for the rewards and challenges they will face as citizens of the world. In this model, language learning opportunities will be available to all students—ranging in need from the student just starting to the student who arrives at Denny already bilingual.

We are making this transition to become an International School with the big picture in mind: Kindergarten through Twelfth-Grade. A major focus for Denny Middle School continues to be preparing all of students for future success in the Chief Sealth High School International Baccalaureate program. We are working with Sealth staff to align curriculum and programs with this goal in mind.

As a whole community, we are striving to create a neighborhood school Kindergarten through Twelfth-Grade pathway that is rigorous and globally-focused while preparing every student for success in college and life. If you have any questions regarding Denny becoming an International School, please contact me at 206-252-9005 or [jlark@seattleschools.org](mailto:jlark@seattleschools.org).