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# News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

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## International education programs expanded in West Seattle

### Concord Elementary and Denny Middle designated as International Schools

**Seattle** – Continuing Seattle Public Schools' commitment to international education programs as a best academic practice, Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D., announced today that Concord Elementary School and Denny Middle School will be designated as International Schools, beginning in September 2009. Forming the first phase of a K-12 international program pathway in West Seattle, the schools will offer major components of an international education such as language immersion, academic excellence in all content areas, world language proficiency and global perspectives incorporated into each class.

“The expansion of international programs is one of the strategies we are using to ensure that every school is a quality school and that we provide *Excellence for All*,” said Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D. “Research shows that language immersion and other world language programs promote academic achievement for English Language Learners as well as English-speaking students. We are all very excited to designate Concord and Denny as international schools. This is a significant expansion of an invaluable program: educating our students to become global citizens. Students with a global perspective have a better understanding of the world around them, the language skills to communicate across cultural boundaries, and a deeper knowledge of the connections that link our community to those of the world at large. These skills help our students and our country to thrive in a global society.”

With 315 students speaking 15 languages, Concord Elementary currently offers a dual immersion Spanish program at Kindergarten and first grade. Reading, writing and social studies are taught in a Spanish immersion environment. Other subjects are taught in English. Dr. Norma Zavala, a native Spanish speaker appointed as Concord Principal beginning in fall 2009, will build on the excellent and very popular program developed by current principal Sandra Scott.

Denny Middle School will develop the components of an international education and offer the following language programs: dual language for Spanish/English program, Spanish classes for heritage and native speakers of Spanish, an enhanced Spanish class for beginning Spanish speakers, and Mandarin Chinese classes. Arabic language classes are a possible offering. The school currently has 600 students speaking over 22 different languages and is led by Principal Jeff Clark.

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The international education program integrates global perspectives into daily learning, with an emphasis on multicultural literature, world economics, global health and arts, music, dance and drama from around the world. Students will also learn about a variety of cultures and countries using an international social studies curriculum that explores current challenges and issues facing the world community. The mission of the international education program is to educate and prepare all students with the cultural competence and skills to achieve in a global community and economy.

Seattle Public Schools has had a strong commitment to international education, beginning in 2000 with the launch of the John Stanford International School. With the addition of Cooper Elementary and Denny Middle, the district now offers five international school programs. The award-winning John Stanford International School and Hamilton International Middle School offer language immersion in Japanese and Spanish; and Beacon Hill International School offers Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English immersion programs.

Seattle Public Schools also offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate program at Ingraham and Chief Sealth high schools. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a demanding college prep series of international education courses and exams developed for academically ambitious juniors and seniors. It follows a two-year comprehensive program that incorporates the best elements of college prep programs from a number of countries.

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