



IB World School

Whittier International Elementary School

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Mission Statement

The mission of Whittier International Elementary School is to inspire and educate young people in a supportive environment, which promotes academic excellence, confidence, creativity, and global understanding.

Information for the 2008-2009 school year

523 students (High 5 through 5th grade)

- African American 35%
- Caucasian 26%
- Hispanic 34%
- Other 5%

Whittier International Elementary School was authorized as an IB World School in February 2007. It is a magnet school serving all of south Minneapolis. There are no applications or “gate-keeping” for students wanting to enroll in the program.

Whittier International Elementary School has retained a rich arts residency programming, from its former status as a community school for the arts. Every grade level has an arts residency linked to one of their grade-level’s *Units of Inquiry*. To support all units across the school year there is a strong partnership with the *Minneapolis Institute of Arts* (MIA)-pairing an MIA docent with each grade level to team teach, model lessons, and tour the MIA. Also, through our partnership with *MacPhail School of Music* children can elect to begin piano lessons in 2nd grade, or violin lessons in 3rd grade. All students attend plays at the *Children’s Theatre* every year. These diverse art experiences build a strong appreciation for the arts as well as providing an opportunity to expand the children’s personal interests and skills within the arts.

All children have *Spanish as a World Language and Culture* class. Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade attend classes one, two, or three times per week with a licensed Spanish teacher.

K-12 International Baccalaureate Pathway:

There is one other authorized IB-Primary Years Program (PYP) World School serving the north side of Minneapolis. There are currently two middle schools in the process to gain IB-Middle Years Program (MYP) authorization. There have been two authorized IB-Diploma Program (DP) schools (one on the north side and one on the south side) for many years. This configuration of PYP, MYP and DP sites across north and south Minneapolis provide an opportunity for all Minneapolis students to attend an IB site for their elementary, middle school and high school years.

2008-2009 Program Offerings at Whittier International Elementary School

- Full Day Kindergarten for all our students
- Pre Kindergarten (High-5)
- Spanish World Language for all Students
- Specialists in P.E., Art, Media/Technology, and Music
- Special Education Program
- Resource model provides additional teacher support during reading and math
- On-going job embedded professional development
- Extensive Volunteer Program
- Native Language Literacy (Spanish) grades k-3
- English Language Learner Program
- Amity Interns, sponsored by the PTA, to increase Spanish language acquisition
- MacPhail Music program in Kindergarten and grade 1, violin and piano lessons beginning in grades 2 and 3
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts docents for classrooms
- Children's Theater for grades 1-3
- Yearlong Children's Theater residency (Neighborhood Bridges) in grade 5
- Active parent involvement through PTA, volunteering and site leadership committee
- Yearly Book Fair
- Target Corporation provides volunteers for Career Day, Earth Day and Reading Night