

International Baccalaureate (IB) Report for Joe Michell TK-8 School, an IB World School, and Granada High School Diploma Programme

Background:

The International Baccalaureate (IB) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 by a group of forward thinking teachers from the International School of Geneva. The initial IB Diploma Programme was intended for internationally mobile students, primarily children of diplomats, who were university bound. Today, there are four IB programmes for students from elementary through high school age. For more than 50 years, IB programmes have gained a reputation for international mindedness, high academic standards, preparation of students for life in a globalized 21st century, and helping to develop the citizens who will create a better, more peaceful world.

The IB mission statement follows:

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners, who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

In the fall of 2012, with the full support and encouragement of our Board and District, Joe Michell Transitional Kindergarten (TK)-8 School staff, students, parents, and community formed a steering committee to explore and implement an International Baccalaureate Programme for primary and middle grades. The parents and community embraced the IB's rigorous, competitive, and engaging curriculum with a focus on developing internationally minded people, who recognize their common humanity and share global responsibilities. After thorough IB authorization applications and verification visits for both the Primary Years Programme (TK-5) and the Middle Years Programme (6-8), Joe Michell TK-8 School was authorized as an IB World School in 2015.

As an extension of the IB programme and in creating a pathway from elementary, middle, and through secondary, Granada High School (GHS) pursued the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, which is designed for juniors and seniors. Once again, with the full support and encouragement of our Board and District, in 2013 an exploratory committee of GHS teachers and administrators visited existing IB World Schools and spoke with teachers and students who were already experiencing an IB education. They explored course offerings and determined the best courses to offer for launching the Diploma Programme (DP) at Granada High School. This work was completed during the application phase of candidacy. In the following two years, GHS staff worked diligently to complete all requirements including engaging the community, participating in professional development, creating course descriptions, determining school policies and procedures that reflected the integrity of the IB Programme as well as Granada and District philosophy. In the fall of 2016, the school year began with GHS offering a fully authorized IB Diploma Programme.

Joe Michell TK-8 School and Granada High School are now members of the International Baccalaureate

(IB) community offering over 7,500 programmes across over 5,400 schools in 159 countries. Currently in the United States, there are only 1,913 World Schools that offer one or more IB programmes. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is only offered at 615 schools, Middle Years Programme (MYP) at 724 schools and the Diploma Programme (DP) is offered at 962 schools. In addition, 1,660 universities recognize IB and have official policies for admitting IB students.

Status:

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVUSD) is uniquely fortunate to have three IB Programmes available for families due to committed staff, dedicated leadership, and a supportive Board of Education. Joe Michell TK-8 School offers both the Primary Years Programme and the Middle Years Programme for all students in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through eighth grade. This is key for the school community as staff fully implements the programmes for all students in the school. Since Joe Michell TK-8 School began the process of pursuing IB authorization in the 2012 -2013 school year, the enrollment has increased from 461 to the current enrollment of over 780 students. Joe Michell TK-8 School offers *Project Lead the Way Launch* and *Gateway Engineering Design* curricula, visual art experiences, and Spanish instruction to students throughout the grade levels. Thanks to the support of our generous community, we welcomed students to our new classroom building and gymnasium as part of the Measure J Facilities Bond Program. In the fall of 2020, Joe Michell completed the school authorization and evaluation visit which occurs every 5 years and was granted reauthorization for both the Primary Years and Middle Years Programmes. Following the visiting team's recommendations, the staff will continue to participate in IB authorized professional development to delve deeper into understanding and to implement a rich and rigorous IB programme. This year, all professional development has been virtual.

GHS is now in the sixth year of offering the full IB Diploma Programme. IB courses are open to all 11th and 12th grade students whether they choose to pursue the full IB Diploma or take individual IB courses. This year, 307 students (28% of GHS 11th and 12th graders) have chosen to enroll in rigorous IB courses and 40 students are pursuing the internationally recognized IB Diploma. Over the last two years, 43 students have earned the IB Diploma, including all 25 Diploma candidates from the class of 2021, which was our largest IB Diploma graduating class yet and our first time our students had a 100% success rate in earning their IB Diplomas. Teachers within the Programme, as well as parents/guardians of students taking IB courses, are noting the enhanced student engagement and greater depth of discussion and writing performance due to the IB philosophy and curriculum. Teachers continue to collaborate and engage in professional development as they build this international learning experience for students. Granada IB students love the IB courses and the IB way of learning. The IB Diploma candidates are doing outstanding work in their IB coursework, as well as in their Creativity Activity and Service (CAS) program and on their Extended Essays. Several IB Course students (those taking one or more IB courses, but not pursuing the full IB Diploma) have participated in the CAS program and taken the Theory of Knowledge course even though they are not required to as they are not full IB Diploma candidates, because they want to challenge themselves with these components of the IB Programme. This year, our IB Dance course is in its second year, and students were able to enter our beautiful new dance studio, part of the Athletics complex made possible by the Livermore community through Measure J Facilities Bond funds. Teachers continue to collaborate and engage in professional development as they build this challenging and engaging international learning experience for students. We experienced a lull in growth of our IB Diploma Programme due to the pandemic, but we anticipate growth to continue to increase in the coming years as we get back to normal.

We are currently undergoing our first 5-year IB Evaluation of our IB Diploma Programme. We have

submitted our Self-study report and accompanying required documentation, and hosted a virtual visit by our IB Evaluation team on February 7-9. The visiting team held virtual meetings with our IB staff, our principal, students, teachers, parents, the Superintendent, and members of the Board of Education over the course of the 3-day visit, and they also visited IB classes virtually. The visiting team presented us with a summary of their evaluation report at the conclusion of their visit on February 9, and we will share their findings with our school community. Overall, it was a successful visit and we are confident that they will reauthorize GHS as an official IB Diploma Programme World School for another five years. We appreciated hearing the visiting team's suggestions on ways to help us continue to grow and develop our IB Diploma Programme.

In addition, this year Granada High School has continued the process of implementing the Middle Years Programme by adding 10th grade MYP classes to the 9th grade classes we began last year as a part of our candidacy phase for official MYP authorization. The MYP provides a natural bridge to the Diploma Programme for students from the MYP at Joe Michell TK-8, but it also provides access to the program for students from other feeder schools. The MYP at Granada is a cohort program that also allows access to students outside of the cohort. There are currently 62 students in two MYP cohorts per grade that follow a full slate of classes. We also added Orchestra and Design: Video Production classes as options for our MYP students this year. Additionally, we are having our sophomores complete the MYP Personal Project for the first time this year. This is the capstone project of the MYP for 10th graders. Our students are working on some great ideas for their projects, and we plan to have them present their MYP Personal Projects to panels in April. We are in the process of inviting various members of our educational community to serve on a panel for this event. We have also instituted an MYP Mentors program, where some of our junior and senior IB Diploma students act as mentors to our freshmen and sophomore MYP students. This program has been very successful. We have had several activities where the students have met and interacted, and we plan to have more activities and to grow this program as our MYP develops further. Granada's MYP is in the candidacy phase, and we continue to collaborate with the IB organization to prepare our school for MYP authorization. Our goal is to apply for official authorization next school year.

The Joe Michell TK-8 School community celebrates the milestone of its seventh year as an authorized IB World School. All staff continue to embrace the rigorous, ongoing IB work in refining teaching and learning and completing the IB requirements, which include defining assessment, and reporting of student progress within the IB curriculum. Joe Michell TK-8 School has become a destination school for both teachers and students who seek the rich and rigorous curriculum and collaborative learning environment. In addition, Joe Michell TK-8 receives inquiries from surrounding districts seeking to learn from an established IB Programme.

At Joe Michell, 7% of the student body are English Learners, 14% are considered Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and it currently does not have any Foster Youth students in its IB Programmes. In order to meet the diverse learning needs of all students, Joe Michell has allotted time in the regular schedule to provide targeted support for each of these student groups. In the elementary grades or Primary Years Programme (PYP), Designated ELD instruction occurs 5 days per week for 30 minutes in small groups. Staff uses a workshop model for reading, writing, and math instruction, which provides teachers with opportunities to meet with individual or small groups of students for additional targeted instruction and support based upon their identified need using formal and informal assessment data. In addition to the focused support for their student groups, Joe Michell TK-8 has designed integrated IB Units of Inquiry that connect key concepts taught across all subjects and provide a meaningful, engaging curriculum. Teachers use IB Rubrics to evaluate student work, which provide clear expectations and allow students to set their

own learning goals. Student reflection is an important aspect of all IB Units as it helps students identify their own strengths and areas of growth as learners throughout both IB Programmes. In addition to the academic needs of their students, Joe Michell staff provides social-emotional and behavioral support through the *Choose Love* curriculum and *Creating a Culture of Kindness* as part of the IB Learner Profile attributes that are taught throughout the PYP and MYP.

Next Steps:

The Granada High School IB Diploma Programme is in the sixth year of implementation and has already become well known within and beyond our community. At this point in the school year, over 500 current ninth and tenth grade students have expressed interest in taking the coursework and completing the requirements for the full IB Diploma beginning next year. Over 260 current freshmen and over 255 current sophomores have expressed interest in taking IB courses after learning about the offerings available to them at GHS. We continue to conduct outreach to share information about the IB Diploma Programme with feeder Middle Schools and to current 9th and 10th grade students and parents/guardians.

The MYP at GHS is currently in its candidacy phase. We are planning to apply for authorization in the 2022-2023 school year, and we anticipate that we will become a fully authorized IB MYP school for grades 9-10 after the completion of our authorization process. This will involve a visit by an IB authorization team, and we will be working with an IB MYP consultant to prepare for the visit. Once we are authorized for MYP, LVJUSD will offer a full and continuous TK – 12th grade IB Programme at Joe Michell and Granada with the IB PYP, MYP, and DP.

At GHS in both the MYP and DP, the school would like to build and expand current programs so they can increase the representation within the program of traditionally marginalized student groups. While we do have some classes that attract a large number of EL students, and while we conduct targeted outreach to schools and community groups, such as the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), we are also working with our counselors on guidance that will attract a greater variety of students into the IB classes.

Teachers and leaders at both schools will continue to engage in IB authorized professional development to deepen their knowledge and understanding as well as network with other IB authorized school staff members from around the world. The IB coordinators and administrators from Joe Michell TK-8 School and GHS meet regularly to share, plan, and build a strong IB pathway experience for our students.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding for implementation and continuance of the International Baccalaureate Programmes will be from Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) designated General Fund and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) dollars.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

This item is informational only and requires no action be taken by the Board of Education.