

December 2018

Dear 8th Grade Families:

Welcome to the new year! As we enter 2019, it's time to begin thinking ahead to next fall and the choices available to you as you look forward to beginning high school.

This letter is to inform you about Eugene International High School (Eugene IHS), one of your choices as you enter a new school and a new grade level.

Do you value global understanding and communication, exhibit an interest in learning about cultural differences, and want to be a part of a close knit community of learners? Eugene IHS is an award-winning alternative school in international studies for students in grades 9-12. Our school is a school-within-a-school model on the campuses of South Eugene High School, Sheldon High School, and Churchill High School. We are open via district lottery to any student who wishes to attend.

Please join us for any of the special information nights to learn more about our exciting school:

South region

- Tuesday, January 15, 7:00 pm, South Eugene cafeteria (includes French Immersion break-out session)
- Thursday, January 17, 6:30 pm in the South Eugene cafeteria (joint session with South; 6:30-7:30 Eugene IHS information, 7:30-8:30 South information)

Sheldon region

- Tuesday, January 22, 7:00 pm, Sheldon lecture hall C9 (includes Spanish Immersion break-out session)
- Thursday, January 24, 7:00 pm, Sheldon lecture hall C9

Churchill region

- Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 pm, Churchill cafeteria
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In addition, each of the regional high schools may hold other information meetings explaining all the aspects of their particular high schools, including registration procedures, program choices, and curriculum decisions, as well as information about clubs, activities, and athletics. It is important that, in addition to one of the Eugene IHS evenings, you attend an information night offered by your high school.

If you have an interest in the world, and want to learn about other countries and cultures, we hope you will consider becoming a part of our Eugene IHS family. To be considered for enrollment via the 4J lottery you must submit an **online 4J School Choice Application by the deadline on January 31, 2019. The online school choice application is available at: www.4j.lane.edu/choice**. For more information, please call one of our offices, or visit our website: <http://www.ihs.4j.lane.edu> . We look forward to seeing you in January—please read on for more information!

What is Eugene International High School?

Eugene IHS offers a four-year interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the relationships of countries and people. Students spend about half a school day in their Eugene IHS classes and the other half in host school classes, including math, science, language, PE, and electives. Students in Eugene IHS have the opportunity to develop:

- Cultural awareness necessary for international communication and understanding;
- Proficiency in a world language;
- Awareness of the interdependency of countries, their economies and politics;
- A global perspective on the relationship between people and natural resources;
- Skills for successful post-secondary experiences;
- Appreciation of global literature, arts, and culture.

We employ a variety of best practices to ensure all students' academic success, including:

- **An integrated curriculum.** We make relevant connections to students' lives.
- **Team Teaching.** We create powerful learning opportunities.
- **Year-Long classes.** We provide a more personalized education.
- **Student cohort groups.** We help students build meaningful relationships.
- **Established rigor.** We are an International Baccalaureate World School.

What are some of the features of Eugene International High School?

- Each year students enroll in **integrated courses** organized around international themes.
- The schedule is structured to provide **blocks of time** that facilitate discussion, a sense of community and value, and more opportunity for collaboration as well as individualized attention.
- Students register for three or more years of a world language to complete graduation requirements for the honorary Eugene IHS diploma, and students with advanced language skills may take **immersion classes** taught in French or Spanish.
- Courses emphasize **higher level thinking skills** while providing necessary instructional scaffolding and **academic support**. The entire curriculum is **college-preparatory**.
- During their junior and senior years, Eugene IHS students have an **independent component** to their educational experience. Students complete 150 hours of Creativity, Activity, and Service as well as an extended senior research project which concludes in a 4,000 word research paper.
- Eugene IHS students have the opportunity to earn the **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma** or IB credits in individual subjects; all IB coursework at the junior and senior levels prepares students for the IB exams should they choose to take them or not. Ninth and tenth grade courses are designed to prepare students for IB-level classes. All Eugene IHS students have the opportunity to receive a **rigorous and challenging education**.
- Eugene IHS graduates who successfully complete the curriculum receive a **special honorary Eugene IHS diploma** in a unique graduation ceremony.

Why is an international education necessary?

In 1979, the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies recommended the establishment of international high schools as a means of giving students knowledge of the interdependency of nations and peoples. The Oregon Governor's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies endorsed the concept in its report issued in August 1982. In 1984, Eugene International High School was established as an alternative high school in the Eugene 4J School District. Hundreds of such international schools now operate throughout the United States and worldwide. Eugene IHS is one of the oldest and most successful schools in international studies, and we invite you to consider the imperative of an international education.

An educational experience in Eugene IHS is purposefully designed to prepare students for living in a globalized age. Given the ways in which the world's economies and currencies are intricately tied to one another as never before, and that in politics, culture, the environment, and health, the actions of countries thousands of miles apart reverberate around the world in minutes, students must be aware of new realities in living. Technology is both an accelerator and a critical facet of this increasing interconnectedness, and migration and immigration are creating more culturally and linguistically diverse societies. As a result, the world in which we will live and work is fundamentally and dynamically different in new and complex ways. Our students must be ready for the new world, and an international education is one way in which they can be prepared.

As a result of this new connectivity, students need to be far more knowledgeable and curious about world regions and global issues, and must be able to communicate across cultures and in other languages. Their ability to be successful as citizens and leaders, and their ability to think beyond borders to connect and cooperate with their generation around the world, will depend on it. This is why we ask students to learn another language, to commit their time and energy to community organizations, to grapple with real world issues, and to work hard to understand the world through the study of culture, history, literature, economics, and philosophy.

Working together, students and teachers explore curriculum and opportunities that seek to create an openness and sensitivity to world cultures, encourage bilingualism, understand international politics and economics, promote technology, and manage complex work in collaborative teams. We hope to foster an awareness of the interdependent nature of the world, understanding and aiding the human condition. As our mission statement reads: "As global citizens at Eugene International High School, we aspire to value diversity, ambiguity, and discovery and to act with responsibility, integrity, and compassion." A global education depends on this vision.

We invite you to join our families and consider the possibilities!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Kuzma".

Brian Kuzma, Head Teacher
Eugene International High School

What is the International Baccalaureate (IB) option?

Eugene IHS is an IB World School and we offer the opportunity for students to aspire to international standards of achievement. IB is recognized as the highest standard of rigor globally and honors a holistic approach to student learning. “The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people, who recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.” (IB Learner Profile). The defining terms of an IB Learner include: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma program, administered through the International Baccalaureate Organization, is a program for juniors and seniors and is recognized for university admission throughout the world and for course credit at many colleges and universities.

The course requirements for earning the IB Diploma or IB credits in individual subjects can be met within the regular curriculum of the school. For more information about the International Baccalaureate Programme, please go to www.ibo.org.

How do I apply to Eugene IHS and what are the enrollment policies?

Admission to Eugene International High School is open to all students who wish to enroll. All interested students must fill out an online **4J School Choice application at www.4j.lane.edu/choice** by **January 31, 2019**. If you do not have a computer available to you, please contact Lisa Hollingsworth at the 4J District office at 541-790-7553. Students will be accepted to Eugene IHS based on a lottery conducted at the 4J District office. The 4J School Choice system will notify families by e-mail of acceptance or placement on a waiting list.

Immersion students will be enrolled in Eugene IHS *without* the lottery process because they entered the immersion program through the lottery in elementary or middle school. However, immersion students **do need** to turn in the Eugene IHS enrollment form to the South IHS office or the Sheldon IHS office by **January 31**. This form will be included in a special mailing to immersion families.

Students may enter Eugene IHS during the school year via the lottery as space becomes available, but no later than first trimester of grade 11, on a space available basis.

Should a student attending a Eugene IHS campus outside of his/her attendance area withdraw from Eugene IHS, the student must attend his/her neighborhood high school or obtain a transfer approved by 4J district and campus administrators.

If you have further questions about the policies, please contact one of our offices or the Instruction Department at Eugene School District 4J.

From our alums...

Every year, we send out an alumni questionnaire and newsletter, and these are just a few of the responses we've received about our school!

CLASS OF 2014

Solan Megerssa: "IHS, and especially IB, provides all the rigor you would expect from a specialized curriculum. However, the thing that sets IHS apart, and what I consider my most valuable experience, is the sense of community it fosters. In IHS you're not just part of a school, you're part of a family. As an IB diploma holder and a student at MIT, I can say that IB really prepared me for juggling all the different aspects of academics; from social studies to the sciences."

CLASS OF 2012

Allison Wonn: "I never fully appreciated all that Eugene IHS had given me until I stepped into my first college lecture. I learned very quickly just how prepared I was to be in that type of environment, and how comfortable I was with that transition into higher education. I will never forget the great relationships I formed with my teachers and classmates, and will always thank the program for developing and cultivating within me a genuine interest in the acquisition of knowledge."

CLASS OF 2010

Benjamin Howorth: "[Eugene IHS] was one of the most important aspects of my life so far. I would not be who I am today if I had not gone through Eugene IHS. If every person had the chance to graduate from [Eugene IHS], the world would be a much more welcoming place with empathetic, understanding, and kind individuals."

CLASS OF 2009

Tanner Harris: "Eugene IHS was all around the best... educational experience I have ever had... IHS opened my eyes to the world and removed my cultural bias. IHS made me realize that as human beings we need to all work together, no matter your culture or ethnicity, to make the world a better place."

CLASS OF 2008

Katie Vanderford: "I loved every minute of IHS. It prepared me very well for college and I enjoyed how my IHS classes felt like a close-knit family."

CLASS OF 2006

Katherine Parker: "Beyond the credits I received contingent on my IB Diploma and the academic rigor that I learned at IHS, I realize that my world view has made me able to relate to people in a way that other students cannot."

CLASS OF 2005

Ingara James: "The IHS curriculum gave me strong writing skills that I have also used in college, and a good well-rounded world education that other students didn't receive in high school."

CLASS OF 2004

Sean Chappell: "As an IB diploma student, I didn't come to appreciate the importance of all that work until college. It more than pays off... allowing a much lighter course load, being better prepared in nearly every academic sense for undergraduate work and having the confidence and knowledge that you've been through harder work than this!"

Eugene International High School

Educating global citizens

*Consider the possibilities in this award-winning high school with
a focus on international education.*

***4J School Choice application deadline:
January 31, 2019***



*Students using technology for a
research project*



*Seniors turning in their Senior
Paper*



*Students design their own Eugene
IHS apparel each year*



*Students in their Literature and the
Arts class*