



909 Haumea Street  
Kapolei, Hawaii  
USA 96707

Telephone:  
(808) 674-3523

Facsimile:  
(808) 674-3575

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Dear Parents,

You may remember a recent Friday Headlines in which Dr. White announced our intention to become an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. The IB is comprised of three programs: the Primary Years Program (K-5), the Middle Years Program (6-10) and the Diploma Program (11-12). As of May 2010, IPA is an IB Middle Years Program candidate. In April of the coming school year, we will enter candidacy for both the Primary Years and Diploma programs.

In so many ways, the International Baccalaureate is an extension of our current programs and practices: an emphasis on personal development, character education, writing and reflection, critical thinking, and real-world relevance. The IB will help us to further integrate inquiry-based and project approach curricula that connect multiple disciplines. The IB naturally lends itself to the support of a wide range of learners and learning styles. Furthermore, the IB will help us to cultivate global awareness and international mindedness in all of our constituencies. The IB offers our faculty rigorous and exciting opportunities for continuous professional development. Ultimately, the IB is the standard for excellence nationally and internationally in K-12 education and college preparation. You can find out more at [IBO.ORG](http://IBO.ORG).

In the coming year, we will offer a number of parent workshops to support your understanding of the IB program and its place at IPA. We will also be available to discuss the IB and its implementation at IPAPA events. Parent understanding and involvement is a requirement for IB authorization.

As Director of Secondary Curriculum and International Baccalaureate Coordinator, I look forward to supporting teachers in their professional growth and facilitating the articulation of curriculum across all grade levels. I will work closely with our Academic Counselors to provide more systemic support for all of our students.

I am excited by the possibilities that the International Baccalaureate brings to IPA, and I look forward to working with you and the faculty to create an even richer learning experience for your child.

Sincerely,

Phavana Silva  
Director of Secondary Curriculum  
International Baccalaureate MYP/DP Coordinator