

## **The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Journeys School**

Teton Science Schools' Board of Directors, Journeys School faculty, administration and a parent committee have jointly decided to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program to grades 11 and 12 beginning in the fall of 2010.

Since its founding in 2001, Journeys School has graduated 18 students. College admission statistics are excellent and graduates feel fully prepared for the university level work. The current upper school curriculum fosters a strong community of engaged learners. Innovative curricula, such as the academic journeys program and the community leadership program, enhance classroom methods. While grades 9-11 are integrated in a variety of classes, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students complete their Capstone Program under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The Capstone Program requires 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to take academic classes, complete a thesis project, engage in a significant experience or internship and commit to at least 50 hours of service learning.

The purpose of adding the IB Degree Program as an offering to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Journeys School students is threefold:

1. Expand on our successful Capstone Program by extending it to include 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.
2. Increase the international focus of the upper school program in grades 11 and 12, while maintaining an innovative approach to education.
3. Increase available resources for teachers to support curriculum development and assessment.

The type of student who has thrived at Journeys School will continue to thrive within the IB Diploma Program. The partnership with IB is a natural progression and will enhance what Journeys School offers by adding an international perspective to the curriculum. IN addition, the IB Degree Program is renowned for encouraging independent learning and developing excellent communication and collaborative skills—all hallmarks of Journeys School today. Total enrollment will be limited to 12-13 students per grade.

By the fall of 2010, it is expected that Journeys School will have completed the process to become an IB World School, and will be able to offer all 11<sup>th</sup> graders (Class of 2012) a full IB program. After that point, all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at Journeys School will be enrolled in the IB program. The IB program will be considered an offering of the Journeys School and will be fully integrated into the existing Capstone Program. The cost for this program is included in the tuition for Journeys School.

Over the next two school years (fall 2008-spring 2010) Journeys School faculty will attend IB trainings and revise the academic schedule to accommodate IB requirements. Beginning in the fall of 2008, courses offered in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be similar to the IB courses that will be offered after authorization. No official IB certificates or diplomas, however, will be awarded until full authorization is complete.

Major changes over the next two years will revolve around the integration of 11<sup>th</sup> graders into 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes as well as a curriculum restructuring in the humanities classes. Throughout the transition, Journeys School classes will continue to be innovative, challenging and engaging for all students.

For a complete program overview of The IB Diploma Program, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).