

Bess Streeter Aldrich Mission Statement

The mission of Bess Streeter Aldrich Elementary, an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme world school, is to guarantee academic excellence and the development of principled young people who become active, inquiring and compassionate life-long learners and global citizens by providing innovative opportunities and challenging programs of international understanding through guided inquiry.

International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

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.

For more information about the International Baccalaureate Programme, visit www.ibo.org.

For more information about the Primary Years Programme at Bess Streeter Aldrich Elementary visit <http://aldrich.mpsomaha.org/> or by phone at 402-715-2020.

Dr. Heidi Penke—Principal

Jodi Fidone – IB Coordinator



International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Bess Streeter Aldrich Elementary

506 N. 162nd Ave
Omaha, NE 68118



International Baccalaureate Programme at Aldrich

- Meets the needs of ALL students - representing a wide range of backgrounds and abilities.
- Uses the same board approved curriculum that all other Millard Schools use.
- Inquiry-based classrooms in which students are encouraged and given opportunities to question, explore, practice, respond and be engaged in learning.
- Focuses on the development of international mindedness that will prepare students to work and live in a global society.
- Includes the study of a second language for all students.
- Provides the opportunity for students to choose to act, to decide on their actions, and to reflect on these actions in order to make a difference in and to the world.

Primary Years Programme (PYP)

Our goal is to nurture a balanced learner who is well equipped with not only knowledge, but the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in our rapidly changing world. The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme has five essential elements:

Knowledge--What do we want our students to know?

The Program of Inquiry includes six transdisciplinary themes: *Who We Are*, *Where We are in Place and Time*, *How We Express Ourselves*, *How We Organize Ourselves*, *How the World Works*, and *Sharing the Planet*.

Approaches to Learning--What do we want our students to be able to do?

The Approaches to Learning are a set of skills that we explicitly teach our students to equip them to be world-class learners, fully confident in a variety of settings. They include thinking skills, research skills, communication skills, self-management skills, and social skills.

Concepts--What do we want our students to understand?

Structured, purposeful inquiry is a powerful vehicle for learning, and the primary teaching style of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. We use the key concepts of form, function, causation, change, responsibility, connection, perspective, and reflection to frame our questions for inquiry.

Attitudes--What do we want our students to feel, value, and demonstrate?

The twelve attitudes of the PYP program are: appreciation, commitment, confidence, cooperation, creativity, curiosity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect, and tolerance.

These attitudes, along with the learner profile: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective provide common language used by the entire school community as we work toward becoming internationally-minded citizens.

Action-- Students use their own initiative to demonstrate their commitment to what they have learned. Action often comes as the result of deep inquiry that becomes personal and is meaningful. At its most authentic, action occurs outside of the classroom - at home, or within the larger school or local community and can occur at any time.

The Fifth Grade Exhibition

The Exhibition is an important part of the PYP for all students. In the final year of the programme, students undertake a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry process that involves them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues. As the culminating experience of the PYP, the Exhibition offers students an opportunity to demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning.

