

## SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Bancroft is a magnet school serving students in High Five through fifth grade located in ethnically and socially diverse south Minneapolis with a long and rich history within its surrounding community. The school's academic program is built around the world-renowned International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum framework and is designed to encourage students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) aims to create a relevant, engaging, challenging and significant educational environment for all children.

## WHY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL STATUS?

Bancroft is pursuing Community Partnership School status in order to fully implement its IB program with fidelity, build on its current strengths and find new ways to address challenges in closing the achievement gap and meeting the needs of students and families. Over the next three years, the school will utilize key autonomies to redesign aspects of the school program, accelerate student achievement and become a model IB program in the school district. Specifically, Bancroft aims to see increases in academic achievement for student subgroups currently not making significant gains, including students receiving special education and English learner services.

As a Community Partnership School, Bancroft plans to implement the following:

- Provide additional focused, collaborative time for teacher teams
- Develop a report card aligned with the IB curriculum
- Modify the school calendar to align curricular units of inquiry to grading periods and provide additional professional development time for staff
- Create a more flexible daily schedule that promotes a transdisciplinary program
- Design a professional development plan to support professional growth and best practices aligned to the PYP
- Utilize integrated formative assessments aligned to units of inquiry
- Utilize autonomy in staffing to ensure stability and a commitment to the IB model
- Create teacher observation tools and processes aligned with IB principles
- Explore alternative intervention programs to best meet student needs

## SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Bancroft's student population is 38 percent Latino, 30 percent African-American, 19 percent white, 9 percent American Indian and 4 percent Asian-American.

- Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals – 86 percent
- Students receiving English learner services – 42 percent
- Students receiving special education services – 18 percent
- Students receiving homeless and highly mobile services – 5 percent

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The International Baccalaureate Organization is a central partner in terms of support and oversight of the academic program.

Bancroft seeks to expand community partnerships with current partners such as the Bancroft Neighborhood Association, the Cataract Lodge #2 of Minnesota, Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), Target and the American Swedish Institute. The school seeks to expand some partnerships such as building a pre-service teacher recruitment program in collaboration with Hamline University to sustain future staffing needs.

## STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

After being introduced to the Community Partnership Schools concept in September 2014, a design team was formed to develop a plan. Stakeholders were engaged throughout the plan development process and they are invested in the plan strategies designed to reach desired outcomes for Bancroft students. Staff and families were provided with multiple opportunities to provide input. School leadership and the design team also met with their city council representative and other community leaders during the process.

Staff voted on the plan at two different points, with a final vote of 82 percent of licensed staff and 95 percent of non-licensed staff in favor of the plan.