



Dear Andersen Families,

Welcome to a new school year! My name is Christen Morton and will be the IB program coordinator this year at Andersen Elementary. I am proud to announce that we are in candidacy to be an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. We are looking forward to providing your children with a memorable year of personalized learning, while also helping them to develop their research, communication, socialization, and self-management skills.

The International Baccalaureate states that, "The IB develops inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect." With an ever changing and fast growing world, we feel that it is important for your children to not only be highly engaged in learning the Arizona State Learning Standards through transdisciplinary inquiry-based learning, but also to develop a sense of self-worth and self-knowledge in a safe and inclusive environment where everyone belongs and diverse cultures are respected. We feel that this program aligns well with the Chandler Unified School District Mission, "To empower all students with the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to excel in college, career and life." It also aligns with the CUSD vision that, "Chandler Unified School District is a safe and productive environment where students and adults are engaged in meaningful learning. Our diverse population is a strength, and a spirit of equity, collaboration and respect permeates our community."

Throughout this school year, you will be receiving information about the shared and explicitly taught vocabulary that we are using here at school. This shared vocabulary will give your children and their teachers a common language to talk about their learning as they progress through elementary school. These vocabulary words can be carried over and applied to all areas of their lives. We hope that they are encouraged to use this language and these skills when they come home from school. We are excited to have them share their learning with you!

Please stay tuned for updates from your child's teacher, Mrs. Kinghorn (principal), Mr. Meyer (dean), Miss Larkin (social worker), or myself, Mrs. Morton, about celebrations and student successes throughout the school year. Please contact Mrs. Morton if you have any questions regarding the IB program or how you can help at home.

Working with you,  
Mrs. Morton  
Andersen Elementary School  
IB Program Coordinator  
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