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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **IT'S OFFICIAL – DAKOTA RIDGE HIGH GOES INTERNATIONAL**

Officially becoming an International Baccalaureate World School is no easy task, in fact, the process is quite lengthy. Over the last three years, Dakota Ridge High School, has worked hard on its quest to become an IB school and now it's a reality.

Dakota Ridge IB coordinator Beth Ward describes the school's IB program as "a private education in a public school."

"It's a different kind of the thinking that we're asking kids to do that's a little out of the norm," said Ward. "This thinking prepares them for life – it's more focused on critical thinking, a more global way of thinking that helps students look at situations in different ways, adjust quicker and make change quicker."

The two-year IB program is designed for high school juniors and seniors. Dakota Ridge also has a pre-IB program for ninth and tenth-graders who are interested in entering the program.

Teachers and staff say the IB program is structured to allow them to teach critical thinking skills to students.

"With the IB program, you teach a set of skills and ask the students what they can do with the skills, what they can create and then to experiment and show you what they have learned," said Ward.

Ward adds that Dakota Ridge is starting to see a spirit of academia.

"We don't just want to see IB kids rise to the challenge, we want all kids to rise to the challenge," said Ward.