

Press release: Japanese Consul visit, June 2023

Media targets: The Oregonian, Portland Tribune, Yuuyake Shimbun, The Asian Reporter, Lighthouse



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**International School of Portland Welcomes
New Japanese Consul General Yuzo Yoshioka**

June 6, 2023 (PORTLAND, Ore.) – On May 23, [International School of Portland](#) hosted Consul General Yuzo Yoshioka and Consul Naoto Shigehisa from the [Consular Office of Japan in Portland](#). Mr. Yoshioka, who arrived in Portland in March to lead the consulate, toured the 33-year-old school and met with students in the Japanese program.

International School of Portland is the only school in the United States to offer full Japanese language immersion, and to combine Japanese immersion with the renowned International Baccalaureate approach.

“We were honored to host Consul General Yoshioka and show him our students’ love and respect for the Japanese language and culture,” said Bodo Heiliger, Head of School at International School of Portland. “Our children are the next generation of global citizens, and we share a common goal with the Consular Office of Japan in Portland to strengthen the relationship between Portland and Japan.”

During the school visit, Consul General Yoshioka and Consul Naoto Shigehisa were able to experience daily student life and the variety of dynamic learning happening in the Japanese track classrooms. Early Childhood (pre-K) students were learning through play while using small loose parts and shapes, while kindergarten students were making hummus from chickpeas harvested from the school garden and first graders were writing personal narratives. Second and third graders just down the hall were inquiring into global economies and monetary systems. The consuls finished the tour in the fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms, where students

were learning about reproduction by incubating chicken eggs and propagating plants. Consul General Yoshioka also spoke with the fifth graders about their recent [Capstone Study Abroad](#) trip to Tokyo.

All of these learning experiences took place while students were speaking and being totally immersed in the Japanese language and culture, and the consuls were impressed by the fluency and academic level of the students. The Consular Office expressed a desire to partner with the International School of Portland and other local organizations to promote Japanese language and culture throughout the community.

About International School of Portland

Since 1990, the International School of Portland has offered full language and cultural immersion in a warm, loving environment that encourages curiosity and kindness. One of only two schools in the United States to provide three full language immersion programs under one roof, the International School of Portland is also home to the longest-running Chinese immersion program in the Pacific Northwest. It is also the only program in the country to offer full Japanese language immersion. It was the first school in the Pacific Northwest to adopt the renowned International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

International School of Portland's world-renowned professional faculty and staff—hailing from more than 17 countries—lovingly engage the school's nearly 400 students in academics, PE and the arts. With its multilingual and cultural environment, the International School of Portland's campus is a global microcosm, helping shape children who are open-minded, confident, empathetic and inclusive—traits that encourage them to take responsible action within and beyond our school community. intlschool.org

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