



## **Le Monde French Immersion School Summary Sheet**

### **Background**

Le Monde French Immersion School is a kindergarten through eighth grade public charter school serving approximately 400 students in the Portland Public School (PPS) district, in Portland, Oregon. Le Monde's mission is to educate children in a full French immersion environment that honors the best international traditions and develops students who are inquisitive, reflective, communicative and caring. Our hope is that students leave Le Monde as empathetic life-long learners who are ready to use their critical thinking skills to take action in the world.

Le Monde is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program, and is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to a high-quality, challenging, international education—that we believe is important for our students.

### **Academics**

Le Monde elementary grade students learn in a full French immersion environment, in which all subjects except English and some specials are taught in French; in middle school, more English is used to prepare students' English core competencies in subjects like Science. The French curriculum is drawn from materials used in different Francophone countries, primarily France and Canada. Students engage in Math using the Singapore Math curriculum. Science instruction is from the NCSS-aligned Building Blocks of Science curriculum in elementary grades, and the Smithsonian Science and Technology Concepts curriculum in middle school grades. English and Social Studies are common-core aligned, and include curricula to improve racial literacy. Starting in third grade, Le Monde students start learning Spanish as a third language at school.

The school provides a balanced education with weekly instruction in music, art, and health/physical education, including use of the MindUp curriculum to

promote mental health and well-being through mindfulness, positive psychology, neuroscience and social emotional learning.

Students at Le Monde have consistently scored well on the Smarter Balanced assessments in English and in Math. In 2019 (the last year in which such assessments were administered due to the pandemic), Le Monde was ranked first place in its test scores in the largest school district in Oregon, and 6th among all public elementary and middle schools in the state. The academic success of Le Monde has led other public schools around the state and country to visit to learn more about our instructional approach.

### **Grading**

Le Monde's focus is on the individual student and the student's growth, but to meet state grading requirements Le Monde uses a four-point proficiency grading system ("N" for not meeting benchmark standards, 'C' for Close to meeting benchmark, "M" for meeting benchmark, and "E" for exceeding benchmarks). It should be noted that the school sets the benchmark at a high standard for all students and, thus, an "M" proficiency grade might be deemed similar to a B+ or an A grade at another public school.

### **Staff**

Le Monde has a diverse multilingual and multi-national staff. Teachers are Oregon TSPC licensed or registered, and bring subject matter expertise from varied backgrounds. They extend a culture of respect, empathy and caring.

### **Governance**

Le Monde is operated by a nonprofit corporation with an independent board of directors. It is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) as a public charity. Le Monde contracts with its local public school district to create an entirely tuition-free public education. In return, Le Monde receives approximately 80% of the per pupil state funding of a traditional public school, and none of the federal funding.