

# International Baccalaureate

## Mission Statement

### *What we do, why we do it, and how to participate*

Bertolt Brecht Gymnasium (BeBe) is a state high school in Dresden, Germany and part of the Saxon Educational System (Sächsische Bildungsagentur). With 900 students from over 40 different national backgrounds, BeBe is a culturally and ethnically diverse school which prepares students for completion of the German Abitur. In addition, BeBe offers three programs after the normal school day, all of which are designed to give students bi-lingual opportunities for academic achievement, cultural understanding, public service and personal growth. Participation in all bilingual programs is voluntary and open to all students.

- Academic Achievement: The bilingual programs afford students the chance to become truly fluent in English and to perfect their knowledge of a native language. Participants improve their understanding of individual academic subjects through lessons offered in English by an international teaching staff. In the upper grades, students complete extended research and written assignments in English or another foreign language. This work prepares students for the demands of university study, foreign exchange programs or international work experience.
- Cultural Understanding and Public Service: All three programs offer students the chance to interact with teachers from other countries and to come into contact with students from other courses. The nature of all bi-lingual programs is to provide a broad and international perspective to complement that taught in the state curriculum. For the IB Diploma, students design and complete a service project, while for CertiLingua, students implement and analyze an interactive project about cultural diversity in Europe.
- Personal Growth: Because the programs are voluntary, students must motivate themselves both to participate and succeed within them and are encouraged to take risks and discover opportunities – for learning outside of their “normal” courses, for examining cultural challenges and for deciding how they can give back to their communities. All the bilingual programs offer students the chance to gain confidence through language acquisition, to improve their time management and writing skills and to broaden their cultural literacy and understanding.