



Claire Sylvan, Ed.D  
Executive Director  
212.868.5180  
claire.sylvan@internationalsnetwork.org

Liliana Vargas  
Director of CA School Development  
415.320.3969  
liliana.vargas@internationalsnetwork.org

## **Internationals Network for Public Schools** **Press Release** *For Immediate Release*

### **San Francisco International High School to open Fall 2009**

**San Francisco– March 27, 2009** – Internationals Network for Public Schools (Internationals) has partnered with the San Francisco Unified School District to open an in-district high school that serves recently arrived immigrant students. San Francisco International High School (SFIHS) was approved as a SFUSD Small School by Design in Spring 2008.

SFIHS will serve English Learner students who have been in the country four years or less. According to Sonia Geerdes, Principal of SFIHS, “The mission of San Francisco International High School is to enable each of our recent immigrant students to develop the academic, linguistic, and cultural skills necessary for success in high school, college, and beyond.” In addition to its college bound, academic program, SFIHS programs include before- and after-school tutoring, a Parent Empowerment Program, a college readiness program, an internship program preparing students for future careers, and sports.

The 25 years of experience that Internationals Network brings to opening a small school for recently arrived immigrants is a point of engagement for parents and students. “We chose San Francisco International High School because it can prepare students to graduate who are still learning English. I want a school for my daughter where she gets support and where the school feels like a family, a community,” explained Roxana Alfaro, parent of a SFIHS student.

SFIHS will co-locate with Mission High School and be housed on the fourth floor. Beginning with one class of 100 ninth grade students, the school will add a grade each subsequent year until the school reaches full capacity of 400 students. “We are very optimistic about the potential for collaboration among staff and students and about the unique partnership that our schools will develop,” says Ms. Geerdes.

Internationals Network for Public Schools is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and support of the network of International High Schools that serve late-entry immigrant English Language Learners. Internationals currently supports ten small public high schools in New York City and one in Oakland Unified School District.

For more information about the opening of San Francisco International High School, please contact the Sonia Geerdes, Principal at 415.828.6991 or [geerdess@sfusd.edu](mailto:geerdess@sfusd.edu).

###