

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2010

MARK MAYES
Magnet Schools Office

(517) 755-2793

WORLD'S LARGEST MAP OF ASIA ARRIVES AT EASTERN IB MAGNET SCHOOL

Students at Eastern International Baccalaureate Magnet High School will have an opportunity this month to explore Asia by using the world's largest map of the continent.

The giant map - which measures 26 feet by 35 feet and weighs 101 pounds - will be stretched across Eastern's auditorium stage through **Friday, October 29**. The map can be viewed by the community at a pair of Open Houses from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13**, and **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27**. Eastern is at **220 North Pennsylvania Avenue**.

The brightly colored, smooth vinyl map is on loan through the National Geographic's Giant Traveling Maps program, which is organized by *National Geographic Live*, the public programming division of the National Geographic Society. The map will lay flat on the stage so students and other visitors can walk across it and see a huge, accurate illustration of Asia's oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, countries and capitals.

In addition to the map, Eastern IB Magnet High School has been provided with a trunk full of accessories, including activities, games, props, and books designed to teach students about the physical, cultural and political characteristics of the continent.

"We are excited to have this giant Asia map come to Eastern IB Magnet High School," said Emily Oberlitner, Eastern's IB Coordinator. "One aspect of our IB mission at Eastern is to promote multicultural understanding, and the map activities are tied directly to that goal."

National Geographic's Giant Traveling Maps program was introduced in 2006 with a map of Africa and has since expanded to include 13 traveling maps that depict Asia, North America and South America. It is estimated that more than 300,000 students will interact with one of the maps in 2010-2011.

To learn more about the Giant Traveling Map project, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/giantmaps

(MORE)

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. The Society's mission is to inspire people to care about the planet. National Geographic reflects the world through magazines, television, films, music and radio, books, DVDs, maps, exhibitions, live events, school publishing programs, interactive media and merchandise.

Eastern is the first and only high school in the Lansing area authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, which is recognized worldwide as the most challenging high school curriculum available. The two-year IB curriculum for juniors and seniors emphasizes globalism and offers university-level coursework that prepares students for success in post-secondary study. Eastern also is an official candidate to offer the IB Middle Years Program for ninth and 10th graders. The IB Diploma Program requires students to participate in at least 150 hours of community service activities.

Eastern International Baccalaureate Magnet Academy is one of 10 magnet schools in the Lansing School District. Other magnet programs focus on the visual and performing arts; math, science, and engineering; Montessori; and leadership, law, and government.

