

#ISBsprichtDeutsch



ISB Junior School

Dual Language Programme

English-German





MISSION

“We all want to learn more;
We all do it in different ways;
We all have fun learning;
We all help.”

– ISB Student



WELCOME TO ISB JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the Junior School of International School Basel, our students are at the centre of everything we do. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the [Primary Years Programme \(PYP\)](#), we work together to provide an exceptional educational experience that is challenging and engaging. Students are encouraged to grow and learn in a happy and supportive environment built around mutual respect and care for one another.

At ISB, we take pride in the close relationships within our community and with the local community in Basel. To strengthen our local ties and enable a smooth integration for our students, we are very pleased to introduce the option of a Dual Language Programme (English-German) in Junior School starting in August 2022. This programme is ideal for families who would like to improve their children's language proficiency in both English and German. The programme is designed to cater for both English and German native speakers.

The Dual Language Programme will be delivered using the PYP framework, offering students learning experiences supported by the latest best practice pedagogy. Teachers in the Dual Language Programme are proficient to a native level in either German or English. Conceptual understanding and skills are developed through both languages, balancing this with the proficiency level of each child.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the ISB Dual Language Programme.

[Michelle Phillips](#)

ISB JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

ONE PYP - TWO LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS

The ISB Dual Language Programme (English-German) is a new addition to our Junior School Primary Years Programme (PYP) and will complement our current English Language Programme. Both programmes will follow the [full PYP Programme of study](#), a programme that ISB has offered since its foundation in 1979.

Starting in August 2022, the Dual Language Programme will be available to our youngest students (3 to 7 years old). It will enable students to develop proficiency in both languages, therefore allowing students to better integrate with the local community.



A VALUABLE CHOICE FOR A WIDE RANGE OF STUDENTS

The Dual Language Programme suits the needs of a variety of students (and parents), including:

- Current ISB families who seek a stronger focus on both German and English
- Local or newly-arrived families in Basel who are looking for an International curriculum and want their children to learn in two languages (English and German)
- German speaking Swiss families who are looking for a greater exposure to English for their children, without losing German as an academic language



ABOUT THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

The [Primary Years Programme](#) (PYP) is designed for students aged 3 to 11 (EC 1 to Grade 5). As part of the wider [International Baccalaureate](#) (IB) Programme, the PYP prepares students to become active, caring, lifelong learners who demonstrate respect for themselves and others and are well equipped to participate in the world around them.

The PYP provides a relevant, engaging and challenging educational framework, focused on the child's whole growth and development, encompassing their social, physical, emotional, academic and cultural needs.

THE DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMME IN PRACTICE

The Dual Language Programme, beginning in August 2022, offers students instruction in their first (home) language (English or German), while providing the opportunity to learn in and about a second (target) language.

Structure of Learning

Students in the Dual Language Programme will receive instruction in English and German. Each Grade will have two Dual Language classes and a team of **two full-time Teachers** (English and German) and **two full-time Teaching Assistants** (English and German). Students will be greeted

and settled in by the same two Core Teachers each day and will then transition to an English-language or German-language focus on alternate days. It is important to note that each class will have one of their Core Teachers or Teaching Assistants with them at all times.

Example of Weekly Schedule

■ English Teacher & German Teaching Assistant (TA) OR German Teacher & English TA

■ English Teacher & English TA

■ German Teacher & German TA

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Each day starts with an English/German Village Time				
English Day	German Day	Mixed Waldkinder (English and German)	English Day	German Day

The programme will be structured slightly differently in our first year of implementation (see below). In both cases, ISB offers high staff to student ratios and ensures the same Core Teachers each morning.

Early Childhood 1 and 2 (ages 3 to 5)	Early Childhood 3 and Grade 1 (ages 5 to 7)
Equal instruction time in English and German (50:50) starting in August 2022.	Transition phase starting in August 2022 to build up confidence in the target language. Learning focus is on skill and concept development in the home language, supported by the target language.



What is Waldkinder?

At ISB we partake in outdoor learning throughout the entire year and throughout all seasons and weather. Our weekly “Waldkinder” is an integral part of our curriculum, where the outdoors becomes our classroom! Learning in an outdoor environment allows children to interact with the elements around them and helps them to gain a deeper understanding of the world we live in. It is also an important way for our students to connect to our host country Switzerland’s environment and make connections to the local community.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes of the Dual Language Programme are in line with ISB curriculum continuums and match the English Language Programme class outcomes.

Listening	Speaking
Develop understanding and use of oral language through listening to and talking about topics and ideas that are important and relevant to them.	Demonstrate an understanding of information and ideas in oral texts by following simple and clear instructions, responding to the statements of others and actively participating in the give and take of conversation; Use words related to familiar experiences, inquiries and topics; join in with songs, rhymes and chants.

Early Childhood 1 and 2

Through exploration, play, discussions and interactions with others and the environment, students develop approaches to learning and skills that lay the foundation for reading, writing and maths. Examples include:

Pre-Reading and Pre-Writing	Maths	Programme of Inquiry
<p>Gain familiarity with the sounds and patterns of both languages;</p> <p>Begin to draw and use approximate writing in a variety of forms, identifying the topic, purpose and audience;</p> <p>Begin to show an awareness of the conventions of written text and sound symbol relationships.</p>	<p>Are introduced to mathematical concepts in both languages;</p> <p>Build-up mathematical vocabulary.</p>	<p>Develop an understanding of a range of concepts transferable to other settings;</p> <p>Build-up vocabulary.</p>

Early Childhood 3 and Grade 1

Examples of learning outcomes include:

	Reading	Writing	Maths	Programme of Inquiry
Home Language	<p>Read pictures and appropriate, familiar texts with fluency.</p>	<p>Draw and write in a variety of forms, identifying the topic, purpose and audience.</p>	<p>Understand, use and can explain a range of mathematical concepts.</p>	<p>Develop an understanding of a range of concepts transferable to other settings.</p>
Target Language	<p>Learn new vocabulary and receptive language;</p> <p>Develop phonemic awareness.</p>	<p>Recognise some written words;</p> <p>Are exposed to texts in target language.</p>	<p>Build-up mathematical vocabulary;</p> <p>Begin to explain concepts in target language;</p> <p>Are introduced to some maths concepts in target language.</p>	<p>Build-up vocabulary;</p> <p>Are exposed to non-fiction texts in target language.</p>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who is the Dual Language Programme most suitable for?

The programme is suitable for any students without diagnosed language difficulties. However, we recommend EC 3 or Grade 1 students should be proficient in either English or German.

2. Will my child in the Dual Language Programme learn the same curriculum content and concepts as those in the English Language Programme?

Yes, students will follow the same curriculum and content in both programmes, with students following the [IB PYP Programme](#) and doing the same Units of Inquiry.

3. What is the difference between a Bilingual and a Dual Language Programme?

Bilingual education is an umbrella term that refers to any programme with instruction in two languages. Dual Language education is a specific approach to developing language proficiency and literacy in one native language and one foreign language. It integrates native speakers of both languages for academic content instruction through both languages. Students maintain their native language while adding another language, and they develop pride in their own culture while developing an understanding of others.

4. Will my child be able to switch between programmes?

Students who request to move from the English class to the Dual Language class can apply to do so when they show proficiency in the languages. Students wanting to move from the Dual Language class to the English class can apply to do so and changes will be subject to school assessments.

5. Will there be a threshold of German language proficiency to join the Dual Language Programme?

In the first phase of the programme for 2022/23, there are no entry language proficiency requirements apart from EC 3 and Grade 1 students who need to be proficient in either English or German. It is, however, likely that as the programme extends to higher grades through the school, we will require students to have a minimum proficiency in English and German.

6. Will my child be able to receive Learning Support (LS) or English as Additional Language (EAL) when attending this programme?

Learning Support (in English) will be offered in both the English and Dual Language Programmes, while EAL support will be offered as part of the English Language Programme only.



Contact us to receive more information or book an individual consultation

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