



AIS Language Policy (April 2012)

Philosophy

AIS recognizes that communicating effectively in all subjects for a variety of purposes is key to academic success. As language is central to this success, all teachers are language teachers. We encourage students to develop their mother tongue to nurture their personal and cultural identities. Further, students learn additional languages, including German, the language of the host country, as a means of promoting intercultural awareness and global citizenship. Students are encouraged to develop a maximum level of proficiency in all their languages of study.

Language Profile

AIS has approximately 770 students with 53 different nationalities. Upon entry into AIS students are assessed for their English proficiency and placed into the appropriate level for language support. English as an additional language is taught to approximately 18% of the students in the Elementary School, 15% in the Middle School, and 6% in the High School.

Additionally, all students through Grade 9 are required by law to enroll in German, the language of the host country. German is offered for students in Grades 1-12. French and Spanish are offered for students in Grades 7-12. Students are required to study a modern language for graduation.

Mother tongue support is also offered outside of the school day in different languages. In cases of IB Diploma students requiring an A language in their mother tongue language tutorials are arranged privately.

Overview of Language Programs

English

English is the language of instruction except for the modern language classes and Austrian Studies.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) support is offered to students in grades 1-12.

Resource classes can provide language support for students who qualify.

German, the language of the host country

German is offered for native speakers in each grade from 1-12.

German is offered for non-native speakers, Grades 1-12, with up to seven possible proficiency levels. In the Secondary School, German classes are organized by ability, not grade level.

German is the language of instruction for “Austrian Studies”, a course required for the Matura equivalency program.

Additional modern languages

French as well as Spanish are taught at the basic level for Grades 7 and 8.

French and Spanish are taught at the basic, intermediate, and IB Language B levels for Grades 9-12.

IB Language A tutorials are offered for Norwegian, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and French. Other language A options may also be arranged depending upon the availability of a qualified teacher.

References

“Admissions Policy.” AIS Family Handbook, 2012. Vienna: American International School, 2011. 8. Print.

Ball, Jessica. Enhancing Learning of Children from Diverse Language Backgrounds: Mother-Tongue Based Bilingual or Multilingual Education in the Early Years. Paris: UNESCO, 2011. Print.

Cummins, Jim. “Bilingual Children’s Mother Tongue: Why Is It Important for Education?” Sprogforum 7.19 (2001): 15-20. Print.

“English and Mother Tongue Languages.” Taejon Christian International School High School Program of Studies 2011-2012. Taejon Christian International School, 2012. Web. 3 Apr. 2012. <<http://tcis.or.kr>>.

Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy. Cardiff: IBO, 2008. Print.

Language and Learning in IB Programmes. Cardiff: IBO, 2011. Print.

Skutnabb-Kangas, Tove. Why Mother-Tongue-Based MLE? Bhakatpur: Nepal Department of Education, 2009. Print.

Student Support Services Handbook. Vienna: American International School, 2011. Print.