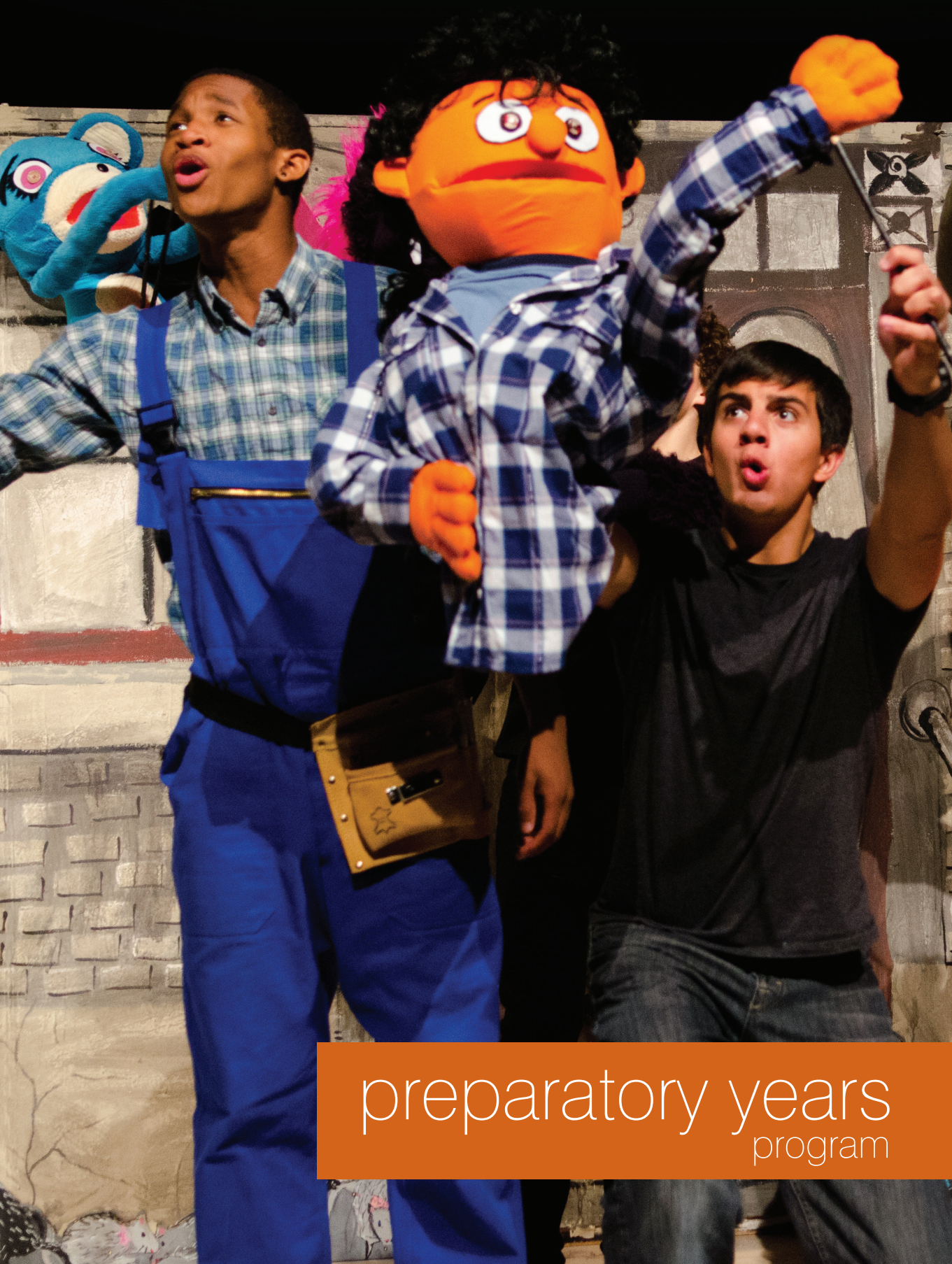




LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



preparatory years
program

why choose LAS preparatory years?

Putting Your Best Foot Forward

The LAS Preparatory Years is a strong academic program designed to broaden students' horizons and expand their interests. From opportunities for school involvement to enlightening cultural trips, grades 9 and 10 open new doors so that students can put their best foot forward, explore, learn, and flourish as they begin their high school education.

Growing Leadership Skills

As Preparatory Years students grow and mature, they are provided with the perfect stage and guidance to find their unique voice and practice leadership skills. School clubs, teams, and roles as Student Council members or Student Ambassadors invite students to be bold, practice effective team dynamics, and actively work to shape community life and make their time at LAS unforgettable.

Developing a Global Perspective

LAS works to develop a sense of international understanding within our diverse community and beyond the borders of the classroom. Preparatory Years students are invited to take part in weekend excursions, cultural trips, and volunteer trips abroad, becoming more globally minded as they do so.

Creating Lasting Friendships

The beginning of high school marks the entryway to a new set of experiences and opportunities. The Preparatory Years encourage the start of meaningful friendships as peers become teammates, cheerleaders, and fellow explorers during this exciting, transitional time of life. Students will also interact with peers from different grades and countries through their faculty families, at assemblies, and during some excursions.



Passionate Educators

The LAS faculty comprises a group of educators with an avidity for scholarship, mentorship, and discovery. Staff members help Preparatory Years students pursue novel ideas and newfound passions, and are a great resource when it comes to planning and carrying out Winter term projects. LAS teachers also enjoy one of the best professional development programs offered by an international school and keep up to date on the most innovative, research-driven teaching methods.



Fall and Spring Term Weekday Schedule

- 07:30 - 07:45
Breakfast Check-in
Grade 9
- 8:00 - 12:15
Morning Classes
- 12:15 - 13:10
Lunch
- 13:15 - 15:35
Afternoon Classes
- 16:00 - 17:30
Activities
- 17:30 - 19:00
Dinner
- 19:45
Dorm Check-in
- 20:00 - 21:30
Study Hall
- 22:30
Lights Out - Grade 9
- 22:45
Lights Out - Grade 10





**Luc, France
GRADE 9**

"I love all my classes but I particularly love Social Studies because we have to think deeply about each question that my teacher asks. He's a very good teacher and he really knows his subject. He's passionate about it and he makes us passionate about it as well."

ESL program

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at LAS uses a sheltered-immersion model designed to serve the individual needs of each student and help them become effective communicators and thinkers. Students in this program will engage in specially-designated ESL classes as well as mainstream Math and two electives. The ESL program ensures that students gain the necessary proficiency in English to graduate and continue on to university education.



**ESL
Literature
& Writing**



**ESL
Skills &
Debate**



**ESL
Science**



**ESL
Social
Studies**



**Mainstream
Mathematics**

Electives

Both Mainstream and ESL students can choose from a variety of elective courses each year. Mainstream students select one elective course and ESL students select two per year. Some options may include: *Creative Music, Design & Photography, Theater Arts, Visual Art & Design, and Physical Education.*

laying groundwork

As students enter grades 9 and 10, they begin to look towards their final years of schooling and the postsecondary preparation that comes with them. The Preparatory Years program is designed to lay the groundwork for the reinforcement of skills and study habits needed to be successful during the Diploma Years. Students will study in either the Mainstream or English as a Second Language (ESL) program, both of which will well prepare them for the Diploma Years.

mainstream program

Students in the Preparatory Years program will take seven classes, matching the number of courses they would have in the LAS Diploma Years Program in grades 11 and 12; six classes will consist of year-long core classes and one semester-long elective class. Classes take place at the beautiful Savoy Campus and include the following core classes subjects:



**English
Language
& Literature**



**Modern
Foreign
Languages**



**Social
Studies**



Science



Mathematics



Debate





cultivating creativity

Preparatory Years classes in the Arts aim to prepare students for IB-level Music and Art. These courses expose students to different art forms and genres of music while simultaneously encouraging them to develop a personal artistic or compositional style that they feel is representative of themselves.

Students are taught in a way which emphasizes the use of correct terminology, comprehension of technical vocabulary, and the development of basic skill sets. Classes in the Arts seek to foster a passion within the field; topics covered are often cross-disciplinary and push students to explore the world of art beyond their typical areas of interest.

Theater Arts

Music

Performing Arts

Design & Photography

Visual Arts



Laura, Zimbabwe
GRADE 10
 "[Music class] teaches you to be responsible and you really learn things. We have Garage Band where you compose your own music using loops from the program. So you can have piano and guitar and then you mash them up and make your own song. The class is really fun, I love it!"

experiential learning

In addition to academic classes, students will have the chance to augment their learning with events such as LETS Day, GLOBE Day, and Global Futurizer. These initiatives help students to develop fundamental skills in critical thinking and teamwork, as well as gain knowledge about global stewardship, entrepreneurship, and effective research habits.



LETS DAY

This endeavour allows students to make note of the ecology of our own mountain as they work in teams and gather information.



GLOBE DAY

This conference emphasizes citizen science, allowing students to gather environmental data and share projects with professionals in the field.



GLOBAL FUTURIZER

This event develops the entrepreneurial skills of students as they look to solve issues real companies have encountered.



expanding your horizons

LAS is committed to its mission statement of "developing innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world". In accordance with these values, Preparatory Years students are presented with a number of activities which promote learning outside of the classroom. These opportunities for interactive, self-regulated learning help to instill within students vital soft skills and abilities such as open-minded thinking, determination, and global awareness.



Alpine Institute

Through mountaineering, hiking, and camping, students in the Alpine Club connect with the great outdoors and gain practical knowledge in topics such as avalanche awareness and orienteering. Students who take part in this club are also able to pursue the widely recognized Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.



Model United Nations

The LAS Model United Nations group organizes a two day conference in which members create and debate solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues. This activity encourages students to develop research and debate skills, create solutions to challenging problems, and learn how to build consensus.



Robot Gardening

Preparatory Years science students combine their knowledge of ecology, electrical engineering, and robotics in a 3-4 week Robot Gardening project. Students undertaking this STEM activity learn how to code in Arduino language and follow design thinking to construct a robot capable of caring for plants through lighting, temperature, and soil moisture control.



strategies for success

Academic Services

Students' assignments are evaluated along carefully outlined expectations. In order to ensure students are reaching their full potential and meeting these expectations, LAS has a number of academic services in place such as a supervised Study Hall. When instructors are available, students can also take advantage of extra lessons and tutoring sessions. Additionally, the Learning Support Department works collaboratively with teachers and students to address unique learning needs.

College Counseling

Grade 10 students will begin working with the College Counseling Department and Belle Époque administrators to develop a plan of action to lead them successfully through their final years of high school. Over the course of three meetings with faculty members, sophomore students will learn how to select academic classes, choose a course of study—IB, non-IB, ESL—depending on their learning needs, and will begin participating in career exploration exercises. Students are also invited to take the PSAT during their grade 10 year.



embracing life abroad

At LAS we believe that the more comfortable a student feels with their living arrangements, the more they will be able to thrive and reach their full potential. Living at a boarding school is a wonderful way to develop a diverse yet tight-knit group of peers and lifelong friends. The LAS dormitories provide a supportive community and a comfortable backdrop as our Preparatory Years students undertake the challenges and transitions that accompany their early high school careers.



Manuela, Brazil
GRADE 10

"I like living in Beau Site because of all the girls—they're really nice, they're respectful to each other. My roommate is wonderful—she's nice and well organized and really respects my space—I think that's important."

Girls Dorms:
Esplanade & Beau Site

Boys Dorms:
Eden & Savoy



All dorms are equipped with lounges, faculty apartments, ski and bike rooms, a kitchen, a big-screen TV, and couches.



Promoting Independence

As they begin to embrace all that comes with early adulthood, Preparatory Years students are given the chance to exercise a suitable level of independence. This includes learning to manage a pocket money budget, laundering their own clothing, maintaining the cleanliness of their room and communal spaces, and cooking when they wish to in the dorm kitchen facilities.

Campus Wide Supervision

Dorm life provides our students with the chance to exercise their independence under the supervision of experienced LAS staff. Every dorm is home to live-in faculty members known as Dorm Parents. LAS also has a Health Center with support available for 24/7 care. These safeguards are implemented in a way that affords students the age-appropriate space they need to grow and mature.

getting involved



Student Council

The Student Council provides an integral link between students, faculty, and LAS administration. As members of the Student Council, students develop a sense of confidence and excellent diplomacy and negotiation skills as they engage in school life by representing their peers on many issues.



Student Prefects

Preparatory Years students are encouraged to participate in all facets of LAS life, including working to enhance the dormitory experience. Individuals who wish to take on such a role may apply to become Student Prefects. Student Prefects help to create a cohesive, home-like feeling in the dorms, plan and carry out fun activities, and promote fellowship and collegiality among their peers.





life at LAS

Leysin is situated in an ideal location for staying active, being creative, and embracing mountain living. The LAS school year is divided into three terms—Fall term beginning in August, Winter term beginning in January, and Spring term beginning in April. With the changing seasons, new opportunities continually arise for students to explore their interests and dive into new experiences.



FALL TERM

Faculty Family Weekend
October Cultural Trips
Dorm Olympics



WINTER TERM

Cowbell Games
Ski & Snowboard Term
International Week



SPRING TERM

Spring Break
Junior & Senior Prom
May Cultural Trips

Faculty Families

Faculty Families have been an essential part of the LAS tradition for many years. A Faculty Family consists of faculty "parents" and students from both campuses, creating an international family. As the school year progresses, families meet regularly to discuss personal successes and challenges, plan fun activities, and attend school events together. Families also act as an important social group and safe space to ask questions.

Activities

All LAS students take part in after-school activities Monday through Thursday during the Fall and Spring terms. Students choose from a diverse selection of activities which emphasize physical and emotional wellness, team building skills, and community outreach. Students on sports teams can also fulfill their activity requirements by attending 2 weekly practices; they may do additional activities for fun if desired.

The availability of activities change each year based on interest, enrollment, and staffing, but options in the past have included:

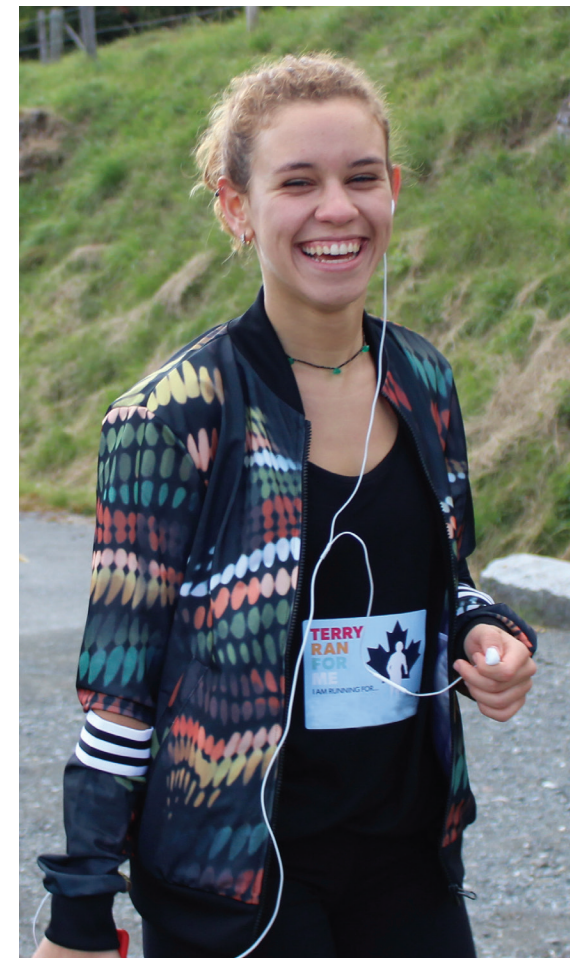
Astronomy	Floor Hockey
Climbing	Gardening
Computer Coding	Hiking
Crossfit Workout	Makerspace
Dance	Squash

Athletics

LAS recognizes the importance of upholding a healthy, balanced lifestyle; we encourage our students to take part in school sports teams so they can experience the value of teamwork, healthy competition, and sportsmanship. Many of our teams travel throughout Switzerland, representing LAS and competing against other international and private schools in the country. Students on sports teams are also able to fulfill their activity requirements by attending 2 weekly practices; they may do additional activities for fun if desired. Some options include—Cross Country, Basketball, Rowing, Soccer, Swimming, Volleyball, and Rugby.

Skiing and Snowboarding

One of the most anticipated events of the LAS school year is the first snowfall! From January to March, students ski or snowboard every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon following their morning classes; additionally, options are available for free ski and lessons on Saturday and Sunday. The ski slopes of Leysin welcome skiers and snowboarders of all levels; students may also take advantage of lessons provided by the Swiss Ski School.



Personal Travel

Grade 9 and 10 students who have been granted parental permission and maintain eligible grades are able to take part in personal travel on open weekends. Grade 9 students intending to travel must apply in advance through the LAS travel portal and must additionally be picked up and dropped off at LAS by their parents.

Weekend Excursions

Throughout the year, optional supervised weekend excursions take place within Switzerland, giving students time for fun, shopping, dining out, and exploration. These weekend excursions are a great way for students to become better acquainted with their host country.

Cultural Trips

One of the greatest benefits of choosing to study abroad is the opportunity it provides students with to participate in enriching cultural experiences. LAS offers faculty-supervised cultural trips to destinations in Switzerland and Western Europe in October, and to areas throughout Europe in May and June. All students are asked to participate in these trips and will receive an academic grade based on their contribution and involvement during the trip.



Class Bonding

As students begin their high school journey together, grade 9 cultural trips allow them to develop close friendships with their peers and bond over shared experiences.



Self-Guided Journey

Grade 10 students self-lead their Fall cultural trip in the Bavarian Alps using maps and compasses. Together with faculty supervisors they navigate challenging tasks such as a team tree climb and raft building.



what's next?

The skills students acquire during their Preparatory Years—international understanding, time management, communication skills, and goal setting—become resources they can rely on and make use of throughout the rest of their lives. Additionally, with a greater emphasis placed on postsecondary planning during their Diploma Years, grade 9 and 10 students are well-equipped to make the transition into the next phase of their high school careers.



University
Counseling



International
Baccalaureate



Global
Awareness



Alumni
Networking



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