



CAYMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CONNECT | INSPIRE | SERVE



CAYMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ELEMENTARY
A YEAR OF LEARNING AT A GLANCE

WHAT DOES LEARNING LOOK LIKE AT CIS?

Learning is a process of growing, deepening, and sharing conceptual understanding, competencies, and character in lasting, impactful ways.

CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Conceptual understanding is grounded in big ideas. Conceptual understanding happens when learners connect new learning to what they already know, when they construct theories of how and why things work, and test and refine their evolving theories in different contexts. To frame conceptual learning, we use the sentence stem "Students understand that..."

COMPETENCIES

Competency learning happens when students practice a skill in order to refine it and make it increasingly automatic. Specific sets of skills are developed in each subject area. In addition, thinking, communication, and collaboration skills are core competencies that are applicable to all contexts. To frame competency learning, we use the sentence stem "Students are able to..."

CHARACTER

Character learning refers to both values and dispositions. Good character is not a cause or result of learning, it is an integral part of it. It happens when students consider what particular dispositions and values 'look like' in a specific context then act and reflect based on these considerations. To frame character learning, we use the sentence stem "Students are becoming..."

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 2



HEAD

Conceptual



HANDS

Competency



HEART

Character



KNOW

Conceptual



DO

Competency



BE

Character

GRADES 3-5

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ELEMENTARY STUDENT



Supervised play is provided before school.



Class meetings foster character development and wellbeing.



Engaging student-centered classroom learning in core subject areas.



Students enjoy a morning, lunch and afternoon recess.



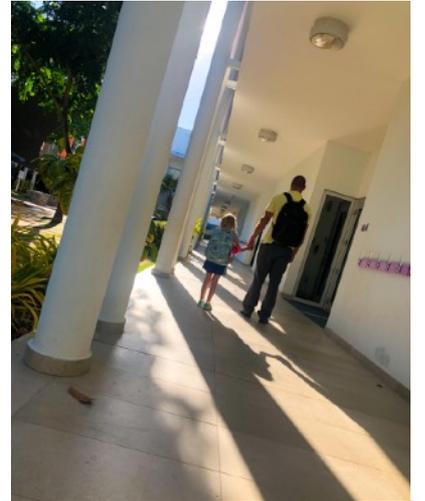
Exposure to a wide-range of specialist subjects daily



Students bring a home lunch or order from the cafeteria.



Hand-on experiential learning through field trips and special guests



End-of-the-day pick up from classrooms and teachers

WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN?

ELEMENTARY CORE SUBJECT AREAS

The Elementary School program at Cayman International School applies a challenging and integrated academic curriculum to provide students with a sound foundation for future learning in English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science. Small class sizes and high teacher-to-student ratio allow staff to truly know and support the children we serve -- their needs, their passions and their developing capabilities. Our teachers work collaboratively to provide a smooth transition process from the Early Childhood Program to Kindergarten, alignment from one elementary grade level to the next, and preparedness for Middle School.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Our English Language Arts program in the Elementary School uses a balanced literacy approach and views reading and writing as reciprocal practices. Effective literacy instruction is layered with reasons to read and purposes to write, as well as people to read with and audiences to write to. Guided reading and novel study groups provide differentiated support for students developing reading proficiency. The Writer's Workshop model helps to build strong classroom procedures and students' stamina and skill in editing and revision.

MATHEMATICS

Classroom teachers implement Everyday Mathematics, a comprehensive math program that uses games to develop strong conceptual understandings. The program includes ongoing and periodic assessments to provide information about each students' progress and opportunities for teachers to differentiate and meet each the individual needs of each child. Additional programs including IXL provide ongoing feedback on skills acquisition, extra practice, and help to build overall math fluency for students.

SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Driven by inquiry, our Social Studies and Science program provides students with Project-Based Learning (PBL) experiences that are relevant, life-worthy and interdisciplinary in nature. Experiential learning outside the classroom through field trips and community service take advantage of our unique island location to provide rich inspiring contexts for learning. Both our Science and Social Studies curriculum connect students to the world around them.

EXTENDED LEARNING IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In Elementary, students receive instruction in seven different specialist classes including Art, Music, STEAM, Library, PE, Swimming, and Spanish. Exposure to many different specialist classes provides students with the opportunity to develop understanding and valuable skills in a variety of areas of potential future interest.



SWIMMING



MUSIC



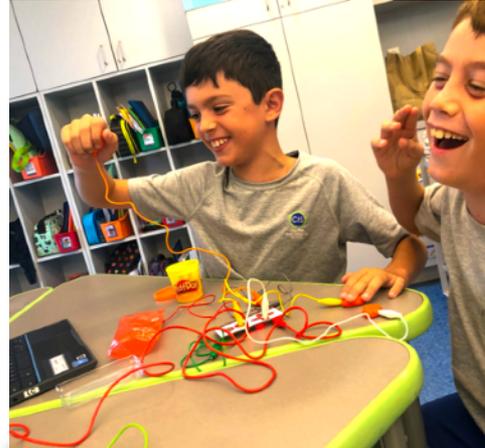
SPANISH



LIBRARY



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



STEAM



ART

PROJECT BASED LEARNING (PBL)

Project Based Learning (PBL) is a student-centred inquiry based process in which students learn by actively engaging in authentic projects of discovery that bolster and heighten our learning and community principles. Over an extended period of time, students work on a project that engages them in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question. They demonstrate their knowledge and skills in Social Studies and Science by creating a public product or presentation for a real audience. Teachers provide two PBL experiences per year. These experiences prepare students for Core Extension classes in Middle School and the International Baccalaureate program in High School.



KINDERGARTEN

CULTURAL SYMBOLS / INSECTS

Kindergarteners explore Cayman culture by answering the question “How do we preserve and bring awareness to important Cayman symbols? They also do a deep dive into the impact of insects and why they are so important to our world.

COMMUNITIES / HABITATS

Grade 1 students build a strong understanding of communities by exploring the question “How do we promote safe and happy communities”? Their second PBL focuses on animal habitats and examines what animals need to survive within those habitats.



GRADE 1

SUSTAINABLE ISLANDS & OCEANS

In Grade 2, students explore our wonderful island nation by answering the question “How do we make an island sustainable?” Next, students advocate to make changes and inspire others to make changes that will impact our world in a positive way.



GRADE 2



GRADE 3

INNOVATION & TRADE / EARTH'S COMPOSITION

In Grade 3, students explore the impact inventions have had on societies with an in depth focus on trade. Through inquiry and experiments, students explore the geography the earth and its composition. They develop an understanding of how physical changes of the earth over time are caused by natural and unnatural processes.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS / THE UNIVERSE

In Grade 4, students explore how the ancient innovations still impact our modern world. They also do a deep dive into how we fit into the solar system, within a larger galaxy and vast universe.



GRADE 4

IMMIGRATION & WAR / RENEWABLE ENERGY

In Grade 5, students are immersed in the history of immigration and the World Wars. Their first PBL explores ways to honor the ordinary people who lost their lives for their country during World War II. Their second PBL focusses on renewable energy as students inquire about how to promote its benefits and usefulness to the greater community.



GRADE 5

MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS

IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PROGRAM

The ELL program is designed for students who have basic English language skills and are in the process of acquiring the competent level of fluency required in their core content classes as well as for use in socialisation. Students are considered for placement in the program based on the level of need demonstrated on a case by case basis through assessments and observations.

EARLY READING INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Early Reading Intervention Program at CIS provides targeted instruction for struggling readers in Kindergarten through Grade 3. Targeted interventions help to ensure that all students make sufficient progress with their literacy skills and aids in identifying students that may need additional support and services beyond classroom instruction in later grades.

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Learning Support program at CIS is designed to help identify students who are experiencing difficulty meeting grade level standards and provide those students with the support they need to improve their school performance. Intervention and support plans are implemented by classroom teachers, instructional assistants and support services teachers.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Enrichment program in Elementary is designed to provide support for highly able and motivated learners who require additional challenges beyond the scope of the school's curriculum and differentiated classroom instruction in ELA or Math. The program also provides opportunities for all elementary students to take part in a variety of enrichment and extension activities including Destination Imagination and Battle of the Books.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Cayman International School offers a wide variety of extra curricular activities that enhance our academic program and utilize the wonderful outdoor sports facilities on our campus. Cayman International School strives to provide opportunities for all of our students to participate in extracurricular athletics regardless of skill level or prior exposure to sports. Activities range from team sports, skills training, arts and crafts, cooking, and more.



OUR CAMPUS & FACILITIES

CIS elementary classrooms are designed to be collaborative work spaces with agile furniture, flexible seating and open lighting. Kindergarten to Grade 2 students use 1-1 iPads for learning and Grades 3-5 use Chromebooks. The STEAM labs, Spanish, Art and Music rooms and other specialist classrooms are all fully equipped with tools, resources, technology and instruments. Our Elementary library provides an extensive selection of books for all interests and abilities.





The Cayman International School's 13-acre open campus is the finest in the Caribbean. The open campus campus and facilities, include a swimming pool, gymnasiums, tennis courts, a first-rate athletic field, multiple courtyards, modern collaborative spaces and more.



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CONTACT US

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