



LAKES INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Preparing tomorrow's global citizens

PreK
Through
Grade 12



FOREST LAKE, MINNESOTA • USA

MyLILA.org



WELCOME

欢迎

BIENVENIDOS

WELCOME TO LAKES INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Lakes International Language Academy (LILA) provides an international education, preparing students with global competence for the 21st century. We offer Spanish and Mandarin language immersion for PreK-5, and continue immersion courses for Upper School students (grades 6-12) who demonstrate proficient language skills. Upper School students with no previous language learning experience or immersion students looking to learn an additional language may choose fast-track courses in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and French.



The LILA Headwaters Campus opened in 2014 and serves Upper School students with bright classrooms, flexible study and performance spaces, and support for technology.



LILA's Main Campus houses the Lower School for grades K-5. It features a full-size gymnasium and stage and a modern media center with computer labs and interactive technology.

SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL LEARNING STARTS HERE

Since 2004, parents have chosen Lakes International Language Academy to help guide their children toward becoming responsible, caring, informed, curious, and engaged global citizens. LILA students gain the knowledge and good study habits that come from the rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program as they develop literacy and proficiency in their second or third language and English.

Preschool students (ages 3 and 4) learn and play in Mandarin and Spanish, in addition to English. Lower School (grades K-5) students choose a full language immersion program in either Mandarin Chinese or Spanish; Upper School (grades 6 and up) may choose to continue building their language skills through immersion or opt for fast-track Mandarin, Spanish, or French courses as IB requires studying a second language. Along the way, LILA students learn to appreciate the world and its many cultures. They're ready for greater challenges in their academic journey and beyond.



LILA IS YOUR AWARD-WINNING PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

- No tuition for Minnesota residents
- Full immersion in Spanish or Mandarin for grades K-5
- Optional immersion continuation courses for grades 6-12
- Fast-track Spanish, Mandarin, or French for grades 6-12 students new to learning a language or wishing to take a third or fourth language
- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) World School; IB-based curriculum for grades 6-12 with Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP) authorization in progress
- Focused on students' growth and achievements beyond standardized tests

OUR INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The vision for Lakes International Language Academy is to deliver a high-caliber education from a global perspective that combines second-language acquisition with a proven inquiry-based learning approach central to the world-renowned International Baccalaureate program.

We carefully select our faculty to help guide each child's success and the success of the school. All of us share the International Baccalaureate Organization's philosophy that seeks to develop students as internationally minded and active participants in a lifelong journey of learning.

LILA'S MISSION STATEMENT

LILA prepares tomorrow's critical thinkers and global citizens through language acquisition and inquiry-driven study.

OUR ACTION STATEMENTS

Think For Myself
Think About Others
Think Beyond Today



LILA Kinder Prep, our language-infused preschool for ages 3 and 4, is located in the Main Campus Annex with multiple classrooms, a lunch area, and outdoor play space.

IMMERSION IMPROVES LANGUAGE LEARNING

Language educators agree that immersion instruction is the most effective way for students to become bilingual speakers and biliterate readers and writers. Children are eager and curious. Young students new to the program accept learning in a second language as the norm. They're much less self-conscious than adults. Study after study proves that immersion during the elementary years results in many lifelong benefits.

Compared to their monolingual peers, immersion students typically:

- Score as well or better on standardized tests by 5th grade
- Build larger vocabularies and mastery of English grammar
- Show more creativity and flexible thinking
- Become better problem solvers
- Gain stronger listening and communication skills
- Demonstrate greater social skills

They're also jump-starting their college language requirements and enhancing their job marketability.

Source: American Council on The Teaching of Foreign Languages, et. al.

“The ability to communicate with respect and cultural understanding in more than one language is an essential element of global competence, [which is] a critical component of education in the 21st century.”

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

FULL IMMERSION BEGINS IN KINDERGARTEN

Beginning in kindergarten at LILA, students experience a full-immersion classroom environment for learning Mandarin or Spanish. Teachers speak to them and deliver lessons in the target language all day, every day.

In their target language, students study all of the content required to meet Minnesota standards, as well as the requirements of the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP). Homework is often provided in English and the target language as few of our parents speak the target language at home. By the time LILA students reach middle school, they've experienced over 7000 hours of second-language instruction, conversation, reading, and writing.

NEW STUDENTS THRIVE AT LILA'S UPPER SCHOOL

At the Upper School, previous immersion students may continue immersion studies in their target language and even add a third language. Monolingual students new to learning a second language will benefit from LILA's extensive expertise in world language instruction and experience an encouraging environment for using target languages. Again, new Upper School students at LILA are not required to know a second language to enroll; however, all LILA students must study a second language every year whether it's in the immersion, traditional language courses, or fast-track language acquisition program.

All of this, and Minnesota residents pay *no tuition* for LILA's world-class, public school education!



HERE COME THE LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS!

Every year, LILA welcomes Language Ambassadors to our classrooms. These young adults are native speakers of Spanish or Mandarin, and have completed or are about to complete their university degrees in education. One Language Ambassador works in each kindergarten classroom every day; the others are assigned to particular grade levels. LILA families apply to host the Language Ambassadors for one half of the school year. It's a cultural exchange with lifelong benefits!



“Bilingual people earn an average of \$128,000 more in their lifetimes than monolinguals.”

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology

LILA EMBRACES THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE APPROACH

Education at Lakes International focuses on the whole child. We don't see students simply as test takers. Our curriculum centers around a set of 10 learner attributes defined by the International Baccalaureate Organization. These qualities help prepare LILA students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners, ready to contribute to their colleges and universities, communities, and world.

Inquirers

Students develop their natural curiosity with research skills and independent learning. They're engaged in the learning process.

Knowledgeable

Students explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance, developing their understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers

Students think critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions. They're willing contributors to discussions, seeking to discover "why."

Communicators

Students express themselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and through various communication channels.

Principled

Students act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect. They take responsibility for their own actions.

Open-minded

Students understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories. They are willing to consider other perspectives, values, and traditions.

Caring

Students show empathy, compassion and respect. They have a personal commitment to service, often taking action to make a positive difference in the world.

Risk-takers

Students approach unfamiliar situations or academic subjects with confidence and resilience, bravely exploring and experiencing challenges and opportunities.

Balanced

Students are active participants in academic, physical, and social activities to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective

Students give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations.



“Students who study a world language for just one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs. Students who took four years of a world language showed scores more than 100 points higher on average.”

- Thomas Cooper, *Modern Language Journal*

WE CELEBRATE OUR STAFF AND OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LILA is focused on our students. We care about what they learn and how they learn. We hire only qualified, high-energy professional teachers who are willing to embrace the IB program. Our leadership has been selected to travel to Spain and China to help recruit teachers for Minnesota schools and the entire United States. We've presented at national and international conferences. We're very passionate about the work we do, which means that sometimes we receive awards and recognition along the way.



From earning multiple consecutive Minnesota Department of Education Finance Awards to receiving one of the largest federal grants ever awarded under the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP), which enabled us to introduce Mandarin, LILA has continued to impress educators, thought-leaders, government officials, community leaders, parents, and students.

- More than 10 consecutive Minnesota Department of Education Finance Awards
- National and state School of Character Promising Practices Awards
- National School of Character Award Finalist
- Local Government Innovation Award from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- Confucius Institute Classroom School
- Minnesota Twins Diversity Department partner school
- Multiple national grants recipient

A MINNESOTA CELEBRATION SCHOOL

LILA was named a Celebration School by the Minnesota Department of Education in 2015, recognizing our school's efforts to increase student achievement and effectively document our best practices.



“Bilingual students can pay attention 20% longer on average than their monolingual friends.”

- Viorica Marian and Anthony Shook,
Cerebrum: A Journal of the National Institutes of Health



AN ARRAY OF CHOICES FOR SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

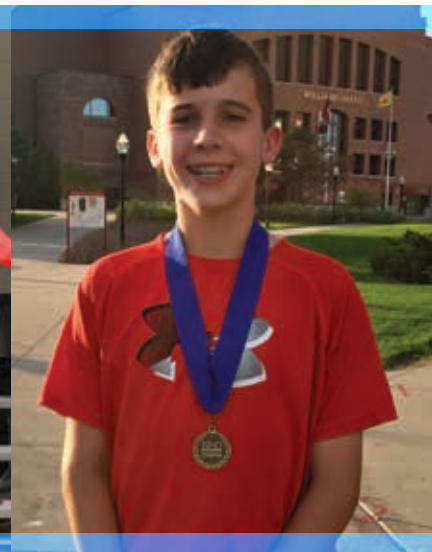
LILA encourages learning beyond the classroom. Complementing our rigorous academic curriculum, LILA provides opportunities for students to explore clubs and activities after school at both campuses.

Upper School adds even more choices. All of our clubs and teams are student-driven, depending on student interests—synchronized swimming, soccer, basketball, dance, archery, and baseball, for example. LILA also participates in Minnesota History Day, Model United Nations, Destination Imagination, summer camps, musical productions, and more. It's always busy here!



“Bilingualism serves as enrichment for the brain and has real [benefits] when it comes to executive function, specifically attention and working memory.”

- Dr. Nina Kraus, National Academy of Sciences



THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents who valued a global education initiated LILA. They volunteered countless hours researching best practices, establishing policies for state and national compliance, navigating international hiring regulations, and so much more. LILA had a Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) before we even had a building!

Your input always matters here. Our school's board of directors is comprised of parents and teachers, with one community representative, all elected by the parents and staff.

You'll find open communication with administration and teachers, as well as plenty of opportunities to get involved. Volunteer in a classroom or a library. Host a Language Ambassador. Join the LILA PTO or LILA Foundation, or both! This is the school you choose, and the place where you belong.



“*In the early 1970s, fewer than 50 immersion schools existed in the United States. Today, more than 1,000 U.S. schools offer immersion programs.*”

- Center for Advanced Linguistics



A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

In the early 2000s, a small group of parents from the Forest Lake area began discussions about creating a school that could contribute to the world community with bilingual graduates worthy of the International Baccalaureate credentials.

A lofty goal? Perhaps. But not unattainable for these determined, frugal, and visionary individuals. They formed an Interim Board of Directors that founded Lakes International Language Academy as a public charter school, specifically choosing not to identify "Spanish" in the school name so that perhaps one day we might include another language of study.

Today, we're so much closer to the dream than we ever could have imagined in 2004, when Lakes International Language Academy first opened. We've added a preschool, LILA Kinder Prep, with a language-infused curriculum for ages 3 and 4. In 2015, we opened our Upper School for grades 6-8. Then we expanded to grades 9-12 for the 2016 school year.

The progress continues with steady leadership, parent and teacher support, student enthusiasm, and big dreams!

GO, DRAGONS!



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Lakes International Language Academy is an equal opportunity employer and educator, authorized by Volunteers of America of Minnesota.

Minnesota Independent School District #4116.