



ISB JUNIOR SCHOOL
EARLY CHILDHOOD 1 - GRADE 5



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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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At ISB's Junior School, your child is at the heart of everything we do. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Primary Years Programme (PYP), we provide an exceptional educational experience that is both challenging and engaging. Our students thrive in a happy, supportive environment built on mutual respect and care for one another.

We are proud of the close connections within our school community and our strong ties to the local Basel area. To further support integration and enrich learning, we complement our English Programme with a Dual Language Programme (English-German). This unique offering is perfect for families who want to enhance their children's proficiency in both languages while fostering a deeper connection to our host country.

We invite you to explore this brochure to learn more about our Junior School for children aged 3 to 12, where holistic education extends well beyond the classroom. We look forward to welcoming you to ISB and sharing all that we have to offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Phillips'.

Michelle Phillips

ISB JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

THE IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME AT ISB

Designed for children aged 3 to 11, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) offers an engaging and challenging educational framework that supports the holistic development of each child, from EC1 to Grade 5.

The PYP fosters inquiry-based learning, encouraging curiosity and critical thinking. It inspires students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who respect themselves, others, and the world around them.

HOW WE LEARN

At ISB, learning goes beyond the classroom. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed to develop the whole child as an inquirer, encouraging curiosity and discovery both inside and outside the classroom.

Learning is organised around six engaging and meaningful themes:



Who We Are

Exploring what it means to be human—our beliefs, values, and relationships with others, including families, friends, and communities, as well as personal health and wellbeing.



Where We Are in Place and Time

Understanding our place in the world by exploring personal histories, homes, journeys, and the connections between people and civilizations, both locally and globally.



How We Express Ourselves

Discovering and expressing ideas, feelings, and beliefs through creativity, culture, and aesthetics, while fostering an appreciation of the arts and self-expression.



How the World Works

Uncovering the wonders of the natural world and its laws, exploring scientific principles, and examining the impact of technology on society and the environment.



How We Organise Ourselves

Investigating human-made systems and communities, decision-making processes, and the relationships between economic activities and their effects on people and the environment.



Sharing the Planet

Exploring how we share finite resources responsibly, building understanding of community relationships, and fostering a sense of global responsibility for living things and the planet.

This dynamic, inquiry-based approach helps students develop a deep understanding of themselves, their community, and the world around them.

SUBJECTS

At ISB, we take an integrated approach to teaching and learning, using a variety of creative and exciting teaching methods to inspire and engage students across all key learning areas.

Our homeroom teachers guide students in core subjects, including:

- Language (English or German)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies.

Specialist teachers work closely with homeroom teachers to provide expert instruction in:

- the Arts (Music and Visual Arts)
- additional languages (German or English)
- and Physical, Social and Personal Education (PSPE).



This collaborative approach ensures a well-rounded education that nurtures every aspect of your child's growth and development.

Learn more about
PYP Subjects

ONE PROGRAMME - TWO LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS

We offer the PYP programme in two language combinations: **English** (with German as a second language) and the **Dual Language Programme** (English and German). Both provide an engaging and challenging educational framework for children that encompasses their social, physical, emotional, academic and cultural development.

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

English, with German as a second language

Designed to support students to build their language skills primarily in English. They will still receive daily lessons in German, unless they are completely new to learning English.

This programme is ideal for:

- Families who speak English at home and want to strengthen their child's academic skills in their native language.
- Families new to English and German seeking a supportive environment to develop English language proficiency.

DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

English & German

Designed to support students in their first language (English or German) while also offering the opportunity to learn a second language in depth. This approach helps students develop linguistic skills in both languages, fostering a strong pathway to bilingualism.

This programme is ideal for:

- Families seeking a balance between English and German.
- Families looking for a top-tier international curriculum with bilingual education.
- German-Speaking Families wanting greater English exposure within a Dual Language environment.



Learn more about
**the Primary Years
Programme**

EARLY CHILDHOOD - LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play is at the heart of learning for young children at ISB. It encourages curiosity and hands-on discovery, where children explore their own ideas and collaborate with teachers to uncover new insights. Through playful inquiry, our students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they build and test theories to understand the world around them.

HOW WE LEARN IN EC1 - EC3 (AGES 3 - 6)



Communication Skills

Students enhance their ability to listen, speak, read, and write effectively. They also learn to create and interpret visuals and multimedia using modern technology.



Self-Management Skills

Students develop time management, organisation, and safety awareness. They are encouraged to make informed choices, practice good behaviour, and maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Research Skills

Students build their capacity to ask meaningful questions, collect and organise data, and present research findings clearly and confidently.



Thinking Skills

Through inquiry-based learning, students apply, analyse, synthesise, and evaluate the knowledge they gain to deepen their understanding.



Social Skills

Students learn to collaborate effectively in groups, resolve conflicts constructively, and actively listen to others.

These essential skills, inspired by the [IB Learner Profile](#) and [Approaches to Learning](#) are woven into our engaging Units of Inquiry, form the foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth.



IB Learner Profile



Approaches to Learning

GRADES 1 TO 5 - LEARNING THROUGH INQUIRY

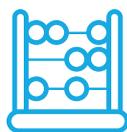
Inquiry is at the heart of learning in Grades 1 to 5, encouraging students to explore connections across disciplines. This holistic approach mirrors how adults navigate real-world challenges, drawing on diverse knowledge and experiences. By fostering deep and creative thinking from an early age, we prepare our students to think flexibly and confidently, equipping them for future success.

HOW WE LEARN IN GRADE 1 - 5 (AGES 6 TO 12)



Language and Literacy

Students explore a range of authentic texts and engaging prompts that provoke their thinking and inspire them to become effective communicators. Through inquiry, they analyse strong examples of spoken, written, and visual language, develop criteria for their own work, and practice the skills required for effective communication.



Maths

Students investigate real-world problems and patterns, using inquiry to uncover mathematical concepts. They practice the skills required for problem solving and apply these in their mathematical exploration.



Science

Students pose questions about the natural world and investigate through hands-on exploration and experimentation. They examine well-documented scientific investigations as exemplars and use these as a basis to design and reflect on their own inquiries and findings.



Individuals and Societies

Students explore how people, communities, and systems interact over time and place. Using primary sources, case studies, and role-play as provocations, they engage in inquiries around personal, local and global events, systems and interactions to learn more about the human experience.



Physical, Social and Personal Education

Students build awareness of themselves and others through reflection, collaboration, and physical activity. They are inspired by role models and scenarios that exemplify personal growth, resilience, and teamwork, helping them set developmentally appropriate goals for well-being and sports related progress.



Arts

Students are exposed to a variety of creative works that spark curiosity and inspire expression. They explore techniques, media, and performances through strong exemplars, and use these to guide their own artistic choices and develop a personal voice.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We live our Mission through an inclusive approach to teaching, welcoming students with very diverse learning profiles. Embracing students' differences and unique abilities adds to the rich diversity of our school and establishes a culture of mutual benefit, where students learn from and care for one another.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

We provide a nurturing and welcoming environment for students who have little English knowledge.

Our team of English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialist teachers support students who are not yet proficient in English. Working closely with each student, they equip them with the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills necessary to thrive in school.



Learn more about
our Academic Support

LEARNING SUPPORT

We offer a continuum of support for students with mild and moderate learning needs, to ensure a quality and equitable education for all.

Our Learning Support teachers (pictured below) help students access the curriculum and learn vital skills. We offer various levels of support depending on the student's individual needs. Students can also access our school educational psychologist and speech/language therapies on campus.



Wellbeing@ISB

A sense of Belonging and Safety,
Respect for our unique Identities and Diversity,
Balance and Bouncebackability.
Wellbeing is important for ALL members of our Community.



WELLBEING COUNSELLING

We help students develop essential social-emotional skills to help them thrive in a safe and supportive setting.

Our Wellbeing counsellors create a nurturing environment where students are encouraged to build trusting relationships with adults and are taught essential skills for life, such as teamwork, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, empathy, and respect.

SCHOOL NURSES

All our campuses have a medically equipped room and are staffed by trained and qualified nurses.

Our Junior School nurses are available to provide first aid and basic medical care, as well as helping and advising regarding local healthcare facilities.



OUTDOOR LEARNING



'WALDKINDER' - NATURE EXPLORATION IN A BILINGUAL SETTING

At ISB, outdoor learning is an essential part of our curriculum, embraced year-round in all seasons and weather. Our weekly 'Waldkinder' programme for EC1 to Grade 1 students transforms nature into a dynamic classroom, where children explore, discover, and engage with their surroundings in both English and German. This hands-on learning approach helps students deepen their understanding of the natural world while fostering meaningful connections with Basel's unique environment and local community.



Discover
Waldkinder



FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS - LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

A wide range of school trips provide Junior School students with extraordinary opportunities to go beyond the learning within the classroom, immersing themselves in diverse cultures, environments, and locations.

From visits to local museums and recycling center, to our overnight ski camps, our students enrich their learning while developing an appreciation for cultural diversity as global citizens who want to make a local impact.



Learn more about
Outdoor Learning



PLAYGROUND EXPLORATIONS – A SPACE FOR CREATIVITY AND GROWTH

In the Junior School, our playgrounds are more than just spaces for recreation; they are vibrant hubs of learning, creativity, and social development. Purposefully designed to inspire curiosity and collaboration, our various playground areas cater for the ranging interests and needs of children from 3 to 12 years of age.

Over multiple daily breaks, we encourage children to test their physical skills, solve challenges, and build friendships. Whether crafting imaginative games, engaging in team activities, or enjoying quiet moments in nature, students use the playground to explore new ideas, strengthen social bonds, and grow as confident, resilient individuals.



A DAY IN JUNIOR SCHOOL

No two days are quite the same in our lively, inquiry-based classrooms!

The school day starts at 08:15, with playground supervision from 07:45 and classrooms opening at 08:00.

Dismissal is slightly staggered:

EC1 and EC2 finish at 15:00, EC3 at 15:10, and Grades 1–5 at 15:20.



Most of the day is spent in the homeroom, where children learn through engaging, cross-curricular experiences that connect different subject areas in meaningful ways. Every day also includes a dedicated 50-minute German lesson, reflecting our commitment to multilingual learning and cultural understanding.

In addition to their homeroom activities, students enjoy a balanced schedule of specialist lessons. They have Physical Education and Music twice a week, and Art and Library once a week. Each week also includes “Village Time” – a special block set aside for wellbeing lessons, community building, and whole-school assemblies that bring children from across the Junior School together.

Students in the **Dual Language programme** experience a unique learning model where the main language of instruction switches weekly between English and German, helping them deepen their understanding and skills in both languages.

All children enjoy plenty of time outdoors each day, including a 25-minute morning break and a 50-minute lunch break (25 minutes to eat, followed by 25 minutes to play). In the **Early Years**, children often spend even more time outside, learning through play and developing important social and self-management skills that set the foundation for later learning.



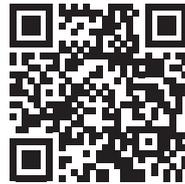
Learning at ISB extends beyond the classroom. Each grade takes part in regular excursions that bring their learning to life. For our youngest children in Early Childhood, Wednesdays are “**Waldkinder**” days – a time for exploring and learning outdoors in the forest or on the farm. This connection with nature and the local community continues in Grade 1, where outdoor experiences remain an important part of the curriculum. From EC3 onwards, children can join our **ISBx** after-school programme, which offers a wide range of fun and enriching activities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTINUE YOUR ISB DISCOVERY ONLINE!



Tuition Fees



Campus Visits - Virtual
and in Person



Why Families
Choose us

Contact us to receive more information or book an individual consultation

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