

# KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE & THE IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM

## ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

- Full-day program, 5 days/week
- Kindergarten: 90% core instruction in the target language (Spanish or French), 10% in English
- 1st-3rd Grade: 75% core instruction in the target language (Spanish or French), 25% in English
- 4th-5th Grade: 50% core instruction in the target language (Spanish or French), 50% in English
- Weekly specials in the target language (Art & Physical Education)
- Weekly specials in English (Science, Music & Library)
- School day hours: 8:30am-3:30pm (*early drop-off available from 8am-8:30am*)
- Extended Care & Enrichment Classes available from 3:30pm-6pm (see brochure for fees)
- 20-22 students per class (with two teachers in K & 1st)

## THE IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

The **IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)** is the curriculum framework for International Baccalaureate primary schools, designed for students in Preschool through 5th Grade. The curriculum and teaching approaches seek to grow the intellectual, emotional, and physical potential of each child in a secure and stimulating environment. The PYP fosters the development of thinking, communication, socializing, research, and self-management skills in addition to academic skills. Students are encouraged to put the knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes they have learned into action via projects, service, presentations, and application to real life contexts.

In the PYP, students explore **units of inquiry** through key concepts. Units of Inquiry interweave core subject areas such as mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, arts, and physical education.

The six transdisciplinary themes that guide the units of inquiry and compose a year of study are:

1. Who we are
2. Where we are in place and time
3. How we express ourselves
4. How the world works
5. How we organize ourselves
6. Sharing the planet

*\*Please see the Program of Inquiry Handout for examples*

The **IB Learner Profile** practiced as part of daily classroom life, translates into a set of lifelong values & attitudes. The learner profile aims to develop students who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective



## DAILY LIFE IN LOWER SCHOOL

ISB's holistic approach to education in a language immersion setting prepares students for the intellectual challenges of the next phases of their education and personal growth. It focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer - both in the classroom and in the world outside.

ISB's Kindergarten-5th Grade program incorporates local and global perspectives and issues into the curriculum, asking students to look at six related, transdisciplinary themes that provide the breadth of exploration across disciplines. Throughout the curriculum, students engage in six-week long transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry, focusing on such themes as "who we are," "where we are in place and time," and "how the world works."

By developing their inquiry skills at this early stage, students become active learners and have the opportunity to take charge of their own learning. All units also incorporate field trips to give real-life context to what is being learned in the classroom.

### Specialists

Lower School students spend time devoted to working with specialists in the following subjects, in addition to their regular classroom activities in these areas:

**Physical Education: 2x per week**

**Art: 1x per week**

**Music: 1x per week (K-1st Grade), 2x per week (2nd-5th Grade)**

**Library: 1x per week**

**Science: 1x per week**

### Literacy

Kindergarten begins the journey of biliteracy through a balanced literacy approach, as students plunge into reading and writing in two languages. With the use of detailed literacy maps developed in three languages, teachers implement both a structured linguistic approach and cognitively sequenced approach to literacy so that both skill and craft are refined. Students leave the Lower School as confident readers and writers in two languages.

### Mathematics

Standard foundational grade level math skills are taught at every grade level. The IB program brings the important added layer of math explored through the lens of the Units of Inquiry. Stand alone math classes cover the grade-specific math skills, while the PYP provides real world applications of these learned skills. Some PYP Math examples include: manipulating multi-digit numbers and learning about scale by building a historical timeline about explorers as part of the 3rd Grade "Explorers" unit; learning about longitude, latitude, and geographic coordinate systems as part of the 5th Grade "Mapping the World" unit; collecting data about what kind of transportation the community is using, entering that data, graphing it, and analyzing it as part of the 1st Grade "Transportation unit"; reading and interpreting primary source graphs about immigration as part of the 3rd Grade "Immigration" unit.

### Science

ISB's Lower School science specialist brings an ongoing science lens to the Lower School curriculum through the Program of Inquiry. The science specialist works in close collaboration with the classroom teachers to tie science knowledge and skills to the current Unit of Inquiry to create meaningful and contextual science experiences. Students learn the foundations of science skills such as inquiring, observing, experimenting, data collecting, analyzing data, and hypothesizing.

Please visit [isbrooklyn.org/admissions](https://isbrooklyn.org/admissions) for more information.

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