



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ICELAND

2009-2010

School Mission

The mission of our program is to provide a supportive, academically stimulating learning environment. We are committed to provide children with an international experience, based on tolerance and compassion that both celebrates and respects the culture of the host nation and all cultures present in our school population.

As an international program, we encourage bilingualism and strive to further language acquisition. The curriculum is structured to nurture each child as an individual and to encourage each student to feel safe, successful, stimulated, challenged and supported.

A School within a School

The International School of Iceland (ISI) is a private elementary school housed in Sjóalandsskóli in Garðabær. The school offers an international educational program to children in grades K-8. ISI is a privately owned company with a non-profit mission statement. The school receives full recognition and approval from The Icelandic Ministry of Education as well as the Municipality of Garðabær. ISI's license to operate was last renewed in 2009.

The Municipality of Garðabær rents accommodation to The International School in its newest primary school, Sjóalandsskóli. Sjóalandsskóli, built in 2005, was especially designed to be a school with open learning spaces that are flexible and multi-functional. The building is approximately 7,000 square meters in whole, that of which 4,000 sq. meters is used for academic teaching. Three thousand square meters are devoted to the swimming pool, after-school program, music rooms, multi-purpose room (hall, cafeteria) and gymnasium. ISI has access to all common facilities.

Academic Program

The program of study includes English, Icelandic, mathematics, science, art, gym and thematic units from the International Primary Curriculum. The International School has been a full member of The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) since 1997. In lieu of the IPC, 8th grade students take social studies and science classes. Students in grade 8 are required to bring a lap-top computer to school as they use on-line text books for various subjects.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on individualized instruction. Classes are arranged so that several grades work together in the same learning space. Though each child works at his/her own level, this multi-grade classroom allows for great flexibility.

Students at all grade levels study Icelandic language and culture. For those students whose stay in Iceland is temporary, the emphasis is on the spoken language and culture; Icelandic students focus more on reading and writing. Instruction takes place within small classes and pull-out programs.

In 2008 the Dual Language Immersion Program was launched. Students in grades 1-2 were given the option of being either in the bilingual (Icelandic-English) stream or the English stream. The bilingual stream uses a 50-50 model in that approximately half of the week is spent in Icelandic and half in English. Students learn language and content in both languages. The Icelandic stream follows the national curriculum for Icelandic and mathematics. The program has been expanded to include kindergarten and grade 3 in the 2009-2010 school year.

Admissions

The International School has an open admissions policy to students of all nationalities, including those who do not yet speak English. The International School will accept students throughout the academic year as long as an appropriate place is available. Each application is considered on its individual merit. Our objective is to ascertain that the prospective student would benefit from the school. Kindergarten students should be five years of age in the year of entry.

Children who have special needs will be considered for admission on an individual basis, and will be admitted if it is determined that our program is appropriate for the child. While we do accept non-English speaking children, we reserve the right to charge a fee for EAL* classes. The fee will be determined by the number of classes necessary to bring the child to fluency.

Parents of students with special educational needs should indicate the nature of the need on the application form and enclose all assessments, Individual Educational Programmes and other documentation that will help the decision process. The International School currently can not provide psychological services, occupational or speech therapy or assistance with severe cases of ADD/ADHD. Parents of children with physical disabilities should contact the school regarding the nature of the disability, as accommodation may be possible.

*English as an Additional Language

Tuition and other fees

1. Tuition is due two weeks after the child begins at school. Tuition for the 2009-2010 school year is U.S. \$18,190. New students are required to pay a one-time application fee of U.S. 275.

2. School supplies (stationary, calculators, pencils, etc.) are purchased by the school and cost \$60 per student. An event fee of U.S. \$50 is charged for field trips and other school events. A lap-top computer is required for students in grades 8.
3. Lunch is not included in the fee and can be purchased through the following company: Sælkeraveislur ehf. at www.heittogkalt.is Students also have the option of bringing lunch from home. After-school care, known as Sælukot, can be arranged for students in grades 1-4 and is handled by the municipality of Garðabær.
4. Full-time students who do not have a working knowledge of the English language may be required to pay an additional sum to support extra English lessons.

Full-time staff

Berta Faber: headmistress

Berta has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. A TCK or “third culture kid”, Berta attended international schools in both Saudi Arabia and Italy. She has many years of teaching experience, having taught all levels, from kindergarten to university preparation. Berta is half-Icelandic and half-American and is one of the founders of the International School.

Hanna Hilmarsdóttir: assistant headmistress, Icelandic as an Additional Language

Hanna has a BA degree in Human Development and Education from the University of Iceland. In 2007 she received her MA degree in Education Administration from the same university. Hanna teaches Icelandic as an Additional Language at ISI and is a key player in the development of the Dual Language Immersion Program. Hanna joined the staff in 2007.

Pamala Hansford: English, homeroom teacher, librarian

Pam completed a degree in Icelandic for Foreigners at the University of Iceland in 1992. In 2006, she completed a BA degree in English at the same university. In 2007, she received her teaching certification. Pam hails from England and has lived in Iceland since 1986. She has been teaching at ISI since it opened its doors in 2004.

Kirsten Kummerfeld: Art, homeroom teacher

Kirsten has a BA degree in Early Years Education from Alte-Eichen in Hamburg, Germany. Her MA degree in Elementary School Education is from Elly-Heuss-Knapp. Kirsten also attended art school for 2 years at Christian-Albrecht University in Kiel, Germany. Before moving to Iceland, Kirsten taught in schools in Sweden, the U.S. and Germany. Kirsten joined the staff when she moved to Iceland in 2005.

Elín Eiríksdóttir: Icelandic language & content in the Dual Language Immersion Program, homeroom

Elín has a BA in German and English, a BEd from Kennaraháskóli Íslands (University of Iceland) and is working towards an MA degree in multicultural education. She also has a diploma as a tour guide in Iceland. Elín has lived in several countries and her children attended international schools in Jerusalem, Geneva and Jakarta. Elín has been with the school since 2007.

Mirjam de Waard: Mathematics, Science, homeroom teacher

Mirjam received her Master's degree in Biochemistry, but soon found that her real passion was education and travel. She finished teacher training college in 1994 and worked in the Netherlands and Guyana as a Montessorian teacher and teacher trainer. Mirjam began teaching at the International School in 2008.

Ann Þórsson: English language & content in the Dual Language Immersion Program, K-3

Ann moved to Iceland from England in 2000. She received her TESOL qualifications from the London Teacher Training Centre in 2004 and a Teaching Assistant certificate from ICS Ltd in 2006. Ann is another staff member who joined our school community in 2007.

Part-time Staff

Mallika Swaminathan Psychology, English, Special Needs Consultant

Mallika has a Bachelor's Degree in History of Fine Arts Drawing and Painting, a Master of Science Degree in Education and Child Care, a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration, and a Master of Science Degree in Psychology - all from the University of Madras, Chennai, India. She is certified in the entire spectrum of Mainstreaming of Children who are Gifted and Talented from the University of Connecticut, Children with Special Needs from the Univ. of Berkeley, California and Children with Linguistic needs

from the Univ. of NSW, Australia. She is currently a research scholar with the Indira Gandhi Open University, New Delhi, India. She is extensively trained in art therapy and has worked in that capacity for many years in Pakistan, Malaysia and India. Mallika has worked in international schools in Belgium, Pakistan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Germany and Brazil.

Justin Shouse – Physical education, swimming, mathematics

Justin has a BA degree in Elementary Education from Mercyhurst College. In 2008, he received certification to teach in Icelandic elementary school by the local authorities. Justin has worked in schools in the USA, Germany and in Iceland. He plays and coaches youth basketball for the Stjarnan club. Originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, this is Justin's 5th year in Iceland.

School Board

School board members for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Philip Bunch, U.S. embassy appointed member
- Ágústa Barðardóttir, headmistress, Hraunvallaskóli, Hafnarfjörður
- Elizabeth Nunberg, English teacher, Hjalli school system
- Pamala Hansford, English teacher, International School of Iceland
- Anna Sveinsdóttir, Pre-school teacher,
- Berta Faber, headmistress, Int. School of Iceland

Daily Schedule

Sjálandsskóli and ISI begin each school day singing in the school hall. Recess and lunch are at the same time, allowing opportunities for friendships to develop naturally. Numerous after-school programs, such as Spanish, drama and music are offered to students from both schools over the year.

8.15 a.m. – 8.20 a.m.	School Singing with Sjálandsskóli students
8:20 a.m. -8:30 a.m.	Homeroom
8.30 a.m. – 11:40 p.m.	Subject areas
11:40 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.	Lunch and Recess
12:45 p.m. – 2.05 p.m.	Subject areas

Positive Discipline

The International School is proud to incorporate the philosophy of Positive Discipline by Jane Nelson. Positive Discipline promotes a positive attitude toward children and teaches them self-discipline, personal responsibility, and interpersonal skills through principles of kindness, encouragement, and mutual respect. Homeroom meetings are held on a daily basis to plan events, resolve issues and work on other life skills. For further information on this technique, we recommend the Positive Discipline website at www.positivediscipline.com

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