

# Language Learning at ICS

At ICS we are committed to encouraging and expanding students' language skills and awareness; we believe that in a changing world being multi-lingual is a necessity.

We encourage students to maintain and develop their mother tongue as this is important for their cultural identity and cognitive development. We recognise that having mother tongue skills also helps students in learning additional languages.

English is our language of instruction.

German is the language of our host community and holds an important place in the ICS curriculum where it is studied by all students up to Grade 10. Students may also choose to study German up to Grade 12.

We also offer Secondary students a choice of Spanish and French. Grade 11 & 12 students may opt for Beginner's Italian (Italian *ab initio*). They may also study other languages as a Self-Taught Language.

## **German**

German is the language of our host community and holds an important place in the ICS curriculum. All students study German from Early Years up to Grade 10 and students can choose to continue German in Grades 11 and 12 if they wish. Students can study German as Language A (a mother tongue/academic language) or Language B (an acquired language).

By providing German instruction to all students we enable our students to benefit from, contribute to and play an active part in their local communities.

German starts in the Early Years. Students are introduced to German through listening to stories, singing songs and playing games. From Grade 1 upwards, students are grouped for German lessons. Students entering ICS have their level of German proficiency assessed before being put into the appropriate group.

German Language A (the programme for mother tongue German speakers) is offered in all Grades.

### ***German in Early Years and Kindergarten***

During lessons in Early Years 1 & 2 and Kindergarten, the children are introduced to German in age-appropriate ways including listening to stories, playing games and singing songs. Connections are made between German and the students' Units of Inquiry, and to the local community. These include a variety of trips and participation in local events and celebrations.

### ***German as an Additional Language, Grades 1–5***

This is a programme for those students who do not speak German at home. In this programme, children in each grade level are divided into ability groups. Students learn everyday vocabulary to enable them to interact with the local community. In addition, where relevant, aspects of the Units of Inquiry are incorporated into the German programme. In the higher age and ability groups, when students begin to use German as an academic language, written assignments and grammar become increasingly more important.

### ***German as Home Language***

Students in this programme follow an adapted curriculum for native speakers. Building on language competencies acquired in the English language classrooms, students deepen their understanding of formal aspects of German. Links to Units of Inquiry are frequently made to enhance student learning.



## **Language Option**

In Secondary, students choose to study French or Spanish as well as German. Beyond Grade 8, Spanish and French are offered as options through to Grades 11 and 12. (Spanish and French are not offered as Language A courses – mother-tongue language courses – at ICS within the daily schedule.)

Students in Grades 6 to 8 may be placed in EAL or Learning Support classes instead of French or Spanish if it is deemed more suitable for them. Such decisions are always made in consultation with parents.

Grade 11 & 12 students have the option of taking Italian at Beginner's Level (Italian *ab initio*) for their IB Diploma.

### ***IB Diploma 'Self-Taught' Language A***

In the IB Diploma Programme (Grades 11 & 12), students select their best language for study as Language A. Most world languages are available.

At ICS, English A and German A are offered as taught programmes. Students wishing to choose another language as Language A can opt to study their preferred language as a Self-Taught Language. For students who do this, ICS will provide overall supervision of their programme of study and help in finding a suitable language tutor, where possible.

## **Mother Tongue Classes**

ICS strongly encourages students to maintain and develop their mother tongue language. Mother tongue classes take place after school and, where possible, ICS makes rooms available for these classes. The school supports families by reimbursing part of the costs of recognised and approved mother tongue classes.

The ICS Parents' Association organises a group of volunteer Country/Language representatives. These volunteers can offer information about mother tongue classes. You can find their contact details in the [Parents' Association section](#) of the website. (Password required.) For the 2017–18 school year the following mother tongue classes are available (Please note that not all classes take place at ICS): Chinese, Danish, Dutch, French, German (exempt from reimbursement programme), Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

Enrolment begins in August. Contact your Country/Language Representative for more information.

