



44, Partizanskii pr., Vladivostok, 690106, Russia
Phone: +7 (423) 240-42-84; 240-42-83
e-mail: mlsh@vvsu.ru; www.mlsh.ru

ILS School-wide Language policy

As per Federal Regulations of the Russian Federation, the working language of the school is Russian. Language policies related to programs offered by the school other than the IB Programme, are outlined in the School's Language Policy, "Regulations on Language (Languages of Training and Education at the International School of Linguistics", 2021. Policies specific to the Ib Program are addressed in this addendum.

School language profile

ILS is a bilingual school where the languages of instruction are Russian and English. The majority of ILS students are Russian native speakers or Korean native speakers. There are also a small number of English, Japanese and native speakers of other languages.

ILS IB Programme Language Philosophy

The ILS mission is to create for our students an educational environment that encourages an intelligent, inquisitive approach to learning and a proactive approach to life; that teaches children how to help create a better, safer world; and that fosters love and respect for one's own culture and history as well as the history and culture of other nations.

We believe that the ability to communicate effectively in more than one foreign language as well as one's own mother tongue is essential to the concept of international education that promotes intercultural awareness.

The school aims to encourage the students to communicate effectively in English, Russian and in their native language as well as in other foreign languages, and to use them as tools for personal, academic and future professional development.

In order to ensure that students maximize their learning potential, we must therefore:

- Acknowledge that all teachers are language teachers who are responsible for facilitating communication and integrating language into every aspect of the curriculum.
- Require students to be proficient in the acquisition of a second language,
- Maintain appropriate conditions and practices to support learners who are not using their mother tongue to access the IB programme. For example, additional English as a Second Language instruction will be provided for students who are not native English speakers.
- Require that students take at least four years of English as part of their standard curriculum. In addition, we encourage students to read and write outside of the school environment. In other curricular areas (first language and world languages excluded) all IB instruction and materials are in English.

- Be committed to providing all staff (teachers, librarians, administrators, etc.) with the necessary professional development to increase their efficacy as language teachers.
- Create ongoing collaborative, reflective practices which involve students, parents, and faculty where the language progress of students can be discussed and reviewed so appropriate modifications can be made.

Definitions

- **First language:** The language the student uses at home and/or outside of the classroom/school environment. This term encompasses other terms including: home language, preferred language, native language, heritage language, and sometimes best language. This term also includes sign language. This could also include multiple languages since many second-language students use more than two languages outside of the classroom.
- **Language A:** describes the language studied as the first language.
- **Language B:** describes the language(s) learned subsequently to the first language.
- **Language Acquisition:** The class that provides instruction and support for the learning of the language B.

Languages offered at the school and the levels of instruction

For Russian native speakers, Russian is the main language of instruction for the Russian national curriculum subjects in the middle school of ILS. In addition to this, students learn English as a foreign language in groups of no more than 10 students and their English language skills are further developed in the lessons of Reading/Literature, Science, Cultural Studies and Economics, which are taught in English. The total number of lessons per week taught in English in the middle school is no less than 18 for students of 5th - 7th grades, and no less than 20 for the students of 8th - 9th grades.

ILS is a recognized Cambridge English Language Assessment preparation center and middle school students are encouraged to take Cambridge English Exams at the levels from Flyers for 5th grade students to FCE for 9th grade students.

The levels of the language acquisition in the middle school are the following:

Grade 5- starter/elementary

Grade 6- pre-intermediates

Grade 7- pre-intermediate

Grade 8- intermediate

Grade 9- upper-intermediate

Language Curriculum in the DP

English is the main language of instruction for students of grades 10-12 enrolled in the Diploma Programme of International Baccalaureate offered by ILS. Students pursuing both the Certificate of Secondary (Complete) General Education and the IB Diploma have about 30 lessons taught in English per week, which is more than the number of lessons they are taught in Russian.

- Language A: Russian, English or Korean; Higher or Standard level. This option is for a fluent language user studying his/her most competent language. In cases where a student may have more than one native language, admission to an appropriate Language A course will be determined after preliminary testing, in addition to a meeting between the student, the Language A teachers, and the IB Coordinator. Students will study literary and non-literary texts and are responsible for fostering communication skills. The school is responsible for providing a teacher with appropriate teaching credentials to teach the course.
- Language B: ILS offers English as Language B SL for the majority of students. For students who study Language A in English, Russian Ab Initio Standard Level is offered. Language B groups usually don't exceed 10 students. If there are more than 12 students, two groups are formed. The level of English is taken into account when groups are formed.

Students are encouraged to continue to build upon the proficiency of their Language B choice from their years in the middle school program. Students learn to communicate effectively, analyze literary texts, and develop fluent language skills. The language course is organized so that all four skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking) are developed. Relevant textbooks as well as other materials prepared by the teacher are utilized; in addition, they have communication practice classes with a native speaker. The students are also encouraged to use resources from the library, the internet and other sources.

Most local students choose English as a Unified State Exam at the end of the 11th grade. Their results are usually very high (75-85% in general, up to 97). Many students take IELTS by the end of grade 11. Their results are also high - 7 to 8.5.

Development of the host language

Russian is the language of instruction for the subjects of the Russian national curriculum in grades 10 and 11. Students who are both native and non-native but fluent speakers of Russian and wish to obtain the Certificate of Secondary (Complete) General Education take the Unified State Exam in the Russian language and a range of other subjects at the end of the 11th grade. Russian is also offered as Language A in grades 11 and 12 to students pursuing the IB Diploma.

Less fluent non-native speakers and beginners learn Russian as a foreign language with the aim of taking the Test of Russian as a Foreign Language at the levels from basic to levels 2 and 3. They are offered (6) 40-minute lessons of Russian per week in the 5th grade, 8 lessons per week in grades 6 to 11 and 4 lessons in the 12th grade. Students work in small groups or in one-to-one lessons, which allows considerable flexibility in meeting the students' language needs and individual learning styles. Russian is also offered as an ab initio course for those wishing to take it as part of the IB Diploma Programme.

Additional Language Options Offered (may be studied as an additional language)

- Russian Language for Academic Purposes (for foreign students wishing to apply to Russian universities)

- Korean
- French
- Chinese
- German
- Japanese

Students choosing an additional language will have a minimum of (3) 40-minute lessons during middle school; in grades 10 to 12 the students usually continue studying a second foreign language, but not as part of the IB Diploma Programme.

Additional Supports

- The library provides access to books and technologies that enhance our students' language skills, both for native and non-native speakers.
- The IB programme staff help to identify students who are in need of additional language support, and facilitate interventions to help students to become more successful learners in the classroom. The school meets all local, state and federal guidelines regarding services provided to students who are identified as English as Second Language learners.
- The School hosts a range of events, interdisciplinary projects and activities each year to enrich the students' experiences in mother-tongue languages, second languages or additional languages with the aim of increasing their cultural awareness and international-mindedness. Among the most well-established are the following: participation in the school newspaper, International Day, Russian Poetry Reading contest for non-native speakers, "Performing Classics", "The Russian Language Contest", Thematic Round Tables focusing on various cultural aspects, The Annual Culture Festival at Far Eastern Federal University, "I study in Russia" at Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services, "TruD" a project for learners of Russian within the international educational event, "Totalny Dictant", and "Spelling B".

In order to enhance the breadth and depth of language learning in the continuum of language and learning domains, ILS emphasizes the importance of out-of-the classroom events and activities offered to and organized by students. Participation in educational trips, conferences, forums, competitions and exchange programs is optional but it is an important part of students' school life.

ILS has agreements with CHUO High School in Morioka, Japan, the Chinese International Institute of the Shanxi Pedagogical University in Xian, China, School Districts of Vancouver, Vernon and Penticton, British Columbia, Canada. On vacations educational trips to Canada, China, South Korea and across Russia are popular among both middle and high school students. The students stay with the host families during their visits, which offer another opportunity not only to practice a foreign language in the everyday environment, but also to promote their intercultural awareness and international mindedness.

These trips provide an opportunity to foster foreign language acquisition as well as leave the comfort zone of their own culture and become immersed in a different cultural environment. This experience allows the students both to ask questions about a different culture and to better understand and appreciate their own culture. They get accustomed to evaluating different points of view and broaden their first-hand knowledge.

Strategies to support all teachers in their contribution to the language development of students

ILS promotes the view that all school teachers are first of all language teachers. Therefore, the school invests in qualified, professional language and subject teachers who are expected to speak at least one foreign language fluently.

As most of the subject teachers at school are not native English speakers, the school encourages the teachers to increase their foreign language competency as they are responsible for supporting the linguistic needs across the curriculum.

IB teachers were hired for the Diploma Programme only if they have demonstrated a satisfactory level of one foreign language. The necessity of improving language skills is recognized, and encouraged by the following:

1. The teachers attend workshops organized by the IBO.
2. They attend English language courses that are organized by local language schools.
3. The School provides in-house English courses for teachers, and individual lessons, if necessary.
4. Teachers attend English Language courses while they travel as chaperons with the students to language programs in Canada, China, and South Korea.
5. Teachers participate in programs that provide scholarships for temporary study, project development and scientific research (Fulbright, Teacher-to teacher program, skills transfer programs).
6. The school organizes in-school professional skills workshops with special emphasis on approaches to teaching and learning.

The ILS school-wide Language Policy “Regulations on Language (Languages) of Training and Education at International School of Linguistics” was last ratified

9 September, 2021.

This IB Language Policy was last reviewed and updated May, 2022.

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