

MISSION STATEMENT

International Spanish Language Academy (ISLA), a K-6 Spanish immersion community, empowers the whole child by nurturing the development of personal growth, strong character, academic excellence, and global vision.

We live in a changing world. As educators and parents, it is our responsibility to prepare children to be a part of an evolving society. Nations are increasingly dependent on one another. As a result we experience more interaction between people of different cultures. International Spanish Language Academy is committed to involving students in educational experiences that will prepare them for life in a global community. The enrichment of Spanish immersion combined with the pursuit of International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme candidate school status will allow us to achieve our mission.

ISLA is located at 12007 Excelsior Boulevard, Minnetonka, in the Faith Presbyterian Church. ISLA is an independent, public school. It is not affiliated in any way with Faith Presbyterian Church.

No child will be refused admission to International Spanish Language Academy on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, intellectual or physical ability, social economic standing, measure of achievement, aptitude or athletic ability. All students must make an application for admission

ISLA is an independent, public school located in the Hopkins School District and is not affiliated with Faith Presbyterian Church. Bus transportation is available for students in the Hopkins district.



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**K-6 Public Education
Choice**



*NURTURING LEADERS
FOR TOMORROW'S
WORLD*

OUR PROGRAM

ISLA is a public school choice for elementary students living in Minnesota. We are a K-6 elementary school. Combining Spanish immersion and the International Baccalaureate curriculum, we offer a challenging elementary program for all learners.

SPANISH IMMERSION

Total immersion programs, like ISLA, have the greatest success in terms of foreign language development. Students in immersion programs become functionally proficient in a second language at a level appropriate to their age and grade in school. Immersion students not only become bilingual, but master the subject content of the regular elementary school curriculum that is taught in a second language.

Research in immersion education provides accumulating evidence that early language learning has the following cognitive and academic benefits: mental flexibility, the ability to shift easily between symbol systems, improved abilities in divergent thinking, meta-linguistic awareness, and occasionally, higher scores on measures of verbal intelligence.

All instruction in kindergarten and grade one is conducted in Spanish. Formal instruction in English language arts begins in grade two. This instruction is increased by approximately fifteen minutes each year as students move into higher elementary grades.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME CANDIDATE SCHOOL

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) integrates global-mindedness into the ISLA curriculum. Challenging units of inquiry will focus on who we are, where we are in place and time, and sharing the planet. Students will develop this global-awareness through daily activities.

PYP is an international, interdisciplinary program designed to foster the development of the whole child, not just in the classroom, but also through other means of learning. The PYP focuses on the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs in addition to academic welfare.

International Baccalaureate schools encourage learners across the world to become active, compassionate and life-long learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

CHARACTER BUILDING

At ISLA, we believe that the development of character in children is essential to their overall development. We have carefully chosen the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme to nurture character in all ISLA students.

The philosophy of the Primary Years Programme, as it directly affects the child, is expressed in a series of desired attributes and traits that characterize students with an international perspective. Taken together, they create a profile of PYP students. These attributes include:

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

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