

A BILINGUAL EDUCATION AT HAUT-LAC V 09.2010

PHILOSOPHY

Students at Haut-Lac live and learn in a bilingual and multicultural environment. They are provided with a rich and varied dual-language academic and extra-curricular programme. Our aim is to give each student the opportunity to develop his/her full potential in the two working languages of the school - French and English.

The development of organisational skills is highlighted from an early age to enable students to meet the challenges of the demanding bilingual programme. The concept of intercultural awareness is consistently promoted and students are helped to realise the importance of effective communication as the key to local integration and global understanding.

We believe that a bilingual educational programme enhances cognitive development and encourages students to be more organised in their work, more imaginative in their thinking and more sensitive to the needs of others.

Families are encouraged to appreciate the fundamental importance of the continued promotion of their mother-tongue(s) and their native language culture in relation to their children's personal and linguistic growth.

Our students are supported at all times to become increasingly more competent in the different languages to which they are exposed, allowing them to actively and confidently apply their skills and abilities within their everyday lives.

BILINGUALISM IN PRACTICE

The bilingual academic curriculum at Haut-Lac begins in the infant and primary school with the implementation of an internally developed approach based on linked learning. This leads into the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme in the secondary school, adopted because the values it promotes closely correspond to our school's philosophy, and culminates in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme which prepares students for entry into further education.

In the Haut-Lac admissions process, parents are advised which language focus is most appropriate for their child. The choice of principal language (either English or French) determines the structure of his/her programme of studies.

Extra-curricular activities in French and English, or a combination of both, form an integral part of school life. These experiences support the progress made within the academic programme and help students feel at ease in either language environment. German is introduced in the upper primary school. Spanish is a subject option at IB MYP level.

The proportion of French and English represented in any individual student's timetable can be adapted at different stages in response to his/her abilities and requirements. Students whose projected time of stay is too short to acquire the necessary proficiency to fully access Haut-Lac's bilingual curriculum may be given the opportunity to study primarily in one or the other of the school's working languages. Diploma level students are encouraged to work towards obtaining a bilingual International Baccalaureate Diploma.

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