

German Handbook for the Lower School of the International School Augsburg



Information for
speakers of other languages



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1. Our mission and philosophy

Mission Statement

It is our mission to create a welcoming school environment where open-mindedness and respect are fostered. Here learners are challenged and supported to achieve their unique potential and to become confident, caring citizens of the world.

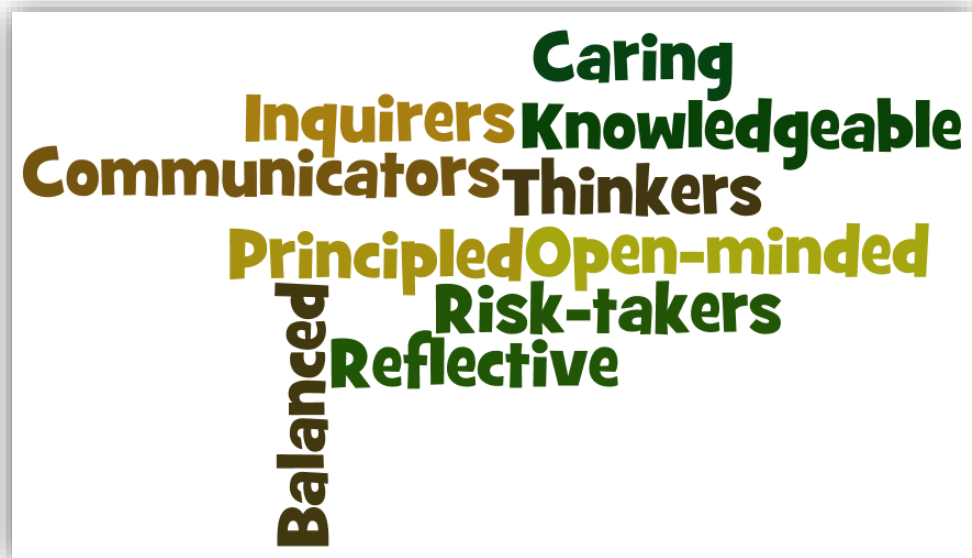
Philosophy

The International School Augsburg is committed to creating and maintaining a collaborative community in which learners can discover and develop their talents and fulfil their individual potential.

We provide a balanced, intellectually challenging programme which fosters in students the skills, knowledge and attitudes that enable them to be successful in school and in life.

We value the diversity of cultures within our school and our links to the local and global community. We recognise and accept our responsibility to promote intercultural understanding and to contribute to a sustainable, peaceful world.

2. The PYP Learner Profile



The Lower School follows the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. The aim of this programme is to develop internationally-minded people. The IB articulates this vision in the form of the Learner Profile. This is a list of ten attributes which describe an internationally-minded person. This vision for education is at the heart of life and learning at ISA.

The Learner Profile unites us all with a common focus: on the whole person, as a lifelong learner. It applies to us members of an IB school community, students and adults alike, as we are all continually learning.

3. The aim of this handbook

This handbook is for new families whose children attend ISA. It aims to inform

- about the structure and organisation of the GAL programme (German as an additional language)
- the importance for children to learn the host country's language in order to participate and interact with other children in everyday situations

4. The aim of the German lessons

The International School Augsburg is an IB World School with a commitment to international-mindedness. The school language is English. Regular German lessons enable our international students to participate in the local German community and to understand their new cultural context. Native speakers of German attend a parallel course of lessons for mother tongue speakers.

We currently run GAL lessons in all grades from ELC (Early Learning Centre) up to grade 5.

ELC 1 and ELC 2 2 lesson of German a week

Grade 1 to Grade 5 5 lessons of German a week

Our specific goals are to:

- make learning German an enjoyable experience
- enable students to make connections between German culture and language and their own native language and culture
- give students some experience of German stories and poetry
- develop and practice the skills of reading, writing, spelling and grammar

5. Curriculum Framework Guidelines for German as an additional language (GAL)

GAL lessons are offered to the students who do not have German as their first language. GAL lessons take place at the same time as the regular German lessons.

Lessons are developed to follow the ISA GAL curriculum which is based on the European Language Framework. Lessons begin addressing basic language competencies: useful everyday vocabulary, conversational structures and simple grammar.

As the range of German proficiency may vary in any one GAL class, the specialist teacher may draw on both the GAL and the Mother Tongue curriculum to design lessons.

Current curriculum themes:

Grüßen und sich vorstellen	(Introducing oneself)
Meine Familie und ich	(My family and I)
Die Schule und meine Schulsachen	(School and school things)
Mein Körper und meine Gefühle	(My body and my feelings)
Kleidungsstücke & Farben	(Clothes & colours)
Hobbys & Freizeit	(Hobbies & free time)
Essen & Trinken	(Food & drinks)
Bei uns zu Hause	(At home)
In der Stadt	(In town)
Ich und mein Geld	(Pocket money)
Berufe	(Jobs and professions)
Mein Wochenende	(My weekend)

Other themes that may be addressed are:

Tiere	(Animals)
Wegbeschreibungen	(Asking, giving, following directions)
Formen	(Shapes)
Gegenteile	(Opposites, e.g. full-empty, hot-cold, fast-slow)
Kaufen und verkaufen	(Buying and selling)
Über die Vergangenheit reden	(Talking about the past)

Geschichten erzählen (Story telling)
Feste, Feierlichkeiten und Bräuche (Festivals and celebrations)

As we work with international students, from all over the world there can be many festivals and traditions to celebrate. In German lessons, we give special attention to the German feast days (e.g. Christmas, Easter etc...) as each of them approaches. This is to ensure that all students have a good understanding of why these days are celebrated and how they are celebrated in Germany.



Unit of Inquiry (UoI)

As our school is committed to working with the PYP curriculum, it is desirable to try to integrate the Units of Inquiry into the German lessons. This sometimes means that we spend one lesson a week on the students' current Unit of Inquiry, teaching specific vocabulary (unit words) and doing activities that support the UoI. On the other days we continue with the GAL curriculum.

Reading

Learning to read the language is an important component of Second Language Acquisition.

In order to promote steady development of reading skills in German, one lesson per week is reserved for reading and reading comprehension. The reading activity may take place within a group reading, with a partner, or individual (silent) reading.

We encourage you to support your child reading German at home as well.

Writing

Students will be engaged in writing activities as they are learning to speak German. They will be encouraged to produce texts and to spell correctly in German. Depending on their level of German the students will write postcards, letters, emails, dialogues, stories etc. Students will receive feedback from their teacher to develop their writing. Writing will sometimes be a part of assessment. The teacher will keep writing records to document the student's development.

Assessment

Assessments will include pre-assessments and summative assessments, to inform teaching to provide feedback to students regarding their progress.

Assessments may include Visible Thinking Routines, oral presentations, power point presentations and other small projects. Students share their learning with their GAL group or the Mother Tongue German group.

6. About us: The German team

At the moment we have two German teachers who teach German to native speakers of German. There is one GAL teacher who supports the students in smaller learning groups.