



# AISR Modern Language Program

## AISR Language Philosophy

Language is the means by which we negotiate meaning in our world and communicate with others. Through language, we come to understand our culture and ourselves. Through additional language acquisition, we strive to understand and have empathy with others.

As a community of learners, AISR recognizes and promotes the opportunity to become multilingual and demonstrate international mindedness. The school recognizes that learning and maintaining language(s) facilitates cognitive development, literacy and internationalism.

We believe that the learning of language is fundamental to students' cognitive and personal development and that students should:

- learn English to a level required for academic success;
- maintain and develop their mother tongue;
- develop a sense of international awareness and genuine respect for perspectives different from their own.

## Mother-tongue Language Instruction

Mother-tongue language instruction is an integral part of the AISR curriculum as it benefits an individual's emotional well being, enhances academic success and promotes the acquisition of other languages.

We define mother tongue as:

- the language(s) of communication a student generally uses in his/her family.
- the language(s) that the student feels most comfortable with, and in which he/she intuitively and correctly describes the world and his/her emotions.
- the language(s) that ties a student to his/her cultural identity(ies).

In practice, this means that:

- the school works with parents to foster the best environment for language learning, recognizing that a great deal of language learning takes place at home.
- the school offers a broad range of mother-tongue languages.
- all teachers recognize that they are language teachers as well as subject teachers.
- students are given the opportunity, wherever possible, to continue developing their mother tongue.

## **Mother tongue Language Classes in Early Learning (Pre-K1, Pre-K2) and Elementary School (KG, Grades 1-5)**

Research shows that it is essential for students to continue to develop their mother tongue, and for this reason, we offer mother-tongue support in as many languages as possible. We strongly encourage students to continue the development of their mother tongue by taking part in these classes.

Many students will return to their home countries to continue their education, and of course, they also need to be able to continue to communicate with family and friends at home.

At AISR, some early learning and elementary students study their mother tongue during the school day.

*The mother tongue language classes meet 45 minutes daily.*

This mother-tongue program is designed for those students in Pre-K1 through grade 5 who already converse in their native language. Based on a wealth of educational research, recognition of a child's home culture and native language is an important feature of any language learning approach. Provision for the maintenance and further development of the native language also helps to address many social, emotional and academic needs of the language learner.

Students may take the mother language course available for them into the Language Department. In 2017, Spanish, Italian, French, Japanese, Chinese, German, Dutch & Russian are offered.

## **Modern Language Classes in the Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)**

Learning a second language, learning about language and learning through language encourage understanding and appreciation of other languages and cultures. The ability to empathize with others through an increased intercultural awareness is at the core of communication skills in the modern globalized world. The increased potential for career mobility and an ability to integrate and collaborate with others are essential lifelong skills that can be enhanced through the learning of additional languages. The expansion of language abilities also helps to develop a stronger sense of the learner's own identity while bringing their own language into sharper focus.

*The modern language classes meet 45 minutes daily.*

Mother-tongue instruction is offered in Dutch.

Foreign language instruction is offered in Dutch and Spanish.

## **Modern Language Classes in the High School (Grades 9-12)**

Learning a second language, learning about language and learning through language encourage understanding and appreciation of other languages and cultures. The ability to empathize with others through an increased intercultural awareness is at the core of communication skills in the modern globalized world. The increased potential for career mobility and an ability to integrate and collaborate with others are essential lifelong skills that can be enhanced through the learning of additional languages. The expansion of language abilities also helps to develop a stronger sense of the learner's own identity while bringing their own language into sharper focus.

In order to graduate from AISR, students are required to have completed at least three years of the same language in High School.

### **Grades 9 and 10**

In grades 9 and 10, mother-tongue instruction is offered in Dutch.

In grades 9 and 10, foreign language instruction is offered in Dutch and Spanish.

### **Grades 11 and 12**

For the IB diploma program, students should have completed three years of one language by the end of grade 10 in order to study the same language at the IB level.

At IB level, mother-tongue instruction (IB Language A) is offered in the following languages:

- Dutch
- Self-taught option (the IB Coordinator will help to find a suitable tutor)

English is also taught as an IB Language A offering.

At IB level, foreign language instruction (IB Language B) is offered in the following languages:

- Dutch
- Spanish

Language *ab initio* is offered in Spanish.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

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