

Basic information

State: 01.09.2007

1. The school – an overall view

- The iDSB is an international German-language school with a long tradition (since 1803), working under the responsibility of the Association of the German School of Brussels (since 1951) and supported by the Federal Republic of Germany.
- As an established German school abroad the iDSB is part of the quality network of German schools abroad and strives for a top position within the national and international competition in education.
- The iDSB provides education for native German speakers as well as children and young people learning German and aims at preparing girls and boys of different cultural backgrounds for a common future. Classes are held in German. The iDSB accepts children and young people of all nationalities whose parents live in Belgium.
- The iDSB is the only German school in Brussels leading to recognized German final examinations for grammar school (Gymnasium), secondary school (Realschule) and secondary modern school (Hauptschule) as well as technical college (Fachoberschule). The German university entrance qualification (Abitur) obtained at the iDSB is acknowledged by the host country Belgium and by all other member states of the European Union. The iDSB aims at awarding the German international university entrance qualification.
- The iDSB is an open school with small classes governed by an atmosphere of familiarity. There are about 550 pupils in primary and secondary/grammar school, a further 90 children attend the kindergarten. The iDSB is rich in experience with respect to the integration of children living in Belgium for a limited period of time.
- The iDSB consists of two modern buildings opposite to one another. The school is located on a campus in a residential area of the community of Wezembeek-Oppem out in the open.
- The DSB lies some 15 km east of the centre of town, close to the Brussels ring road and is easy to join by private (bike, car) and public transportation (tram, metro, bus).
- The iDSB has its own bus service to and from school. A majority of pupils is living in Wezembeek-Oppem, Sterrebeek and Tervuren.

- After 12 years at the iDSB, students may obtain the general German university entrance qualification (Abitur) or the general advanced technical college entrance qualification (Fachabitur). After the 10th form they obtain an intermediate qualification (Realschulabschluss), after the 9th form the qualification of the secondary modern school (Hauptschulabschluss).
- The iDSB has a kindergarten, four years of primary school and eight years of grammar school. Students of junior high school level or modern secondary level are in general integrated into grammar school classes. After the junior high school qualification, school career may be carried on for two years of technical college for economy and law.
- The iDSB curriculum follows that of the Free State of Bavaria. In grammar school, senior pupils work in classes on compulsory as well as on a large number of optional subjects. Regulations for moving and examinations follow the guidelines of the conference of ministers for education and cultural affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz).
- The iDSB offers to learn several languages: Classes are held in German, bilingually taught subject matters (history and physics) will sometimes be held in English. In lower classes, German as a foreign language is becoming increasingly important. French or English is taught from the 1st form, from the 6th form French or Latin is taught as second foreign language and Dutch as 3rd foreign language is taught from the 10th form. Bilingual classes are one of the prerequisites for the planned awarding of the German international university entrance qualification (deutsches internationales Abitur).
- The iDSB offers several additional possibilities for learning: The Learn-Play-Club and homework assistance for primary school kids, specific development classes and attractive study groups (some bilingual) such as theatre, music, sport, computer applications.
- The iDSB is developing innovative class projects, such as computer science for primary school kids, laptop classes (technical college) or blocks of scientific traineeship in biology, chemistry and physics.
- The iDSB is an all-day school. Classes start at 08.00 a.m. Primary school ends at 01.15 pm (additional offers in the afternoon), secondary/grammar school ends at 03.15 pm (except for Wednesdays).
- During the long lunch break, iDSB pupils can have a warm meal in the school canteen, food and beverages are also available at the kiosk in the grammar school building. Lunch break activities open to all (e.g. library, sporty lunch break, silentium) give room for recreation and individual development.
- The iDSB employs more than 50 highly motivated teachers organizing classes at a high level. Pedagogic quality management is a focal point of action. Fourteen teachers have been sent from Germany, one from Austria. Almost all of the other teachers have completed a German teacher training.
- Due to a flexible system of deadlines for catching up (in particular in French) and specific support, the iDSB enables a flexible transition for students from other schools, be it from one of the 16 German Länder or from one of the other 116

German schools abroad, the German school in Antwerp or a school in Austria or Switzerland.

2. Educational offer

- The **kindergarten** consists of five groups, including two nursery school groups. Two teachers are in charge of each group. Due to this multilingual concept (one of the two teachers working with the group will speak English or French) children are initiated to language learning at an early age. Children are accepted from the age of three years and upwards. At the end of the kindergarten, school maturity of each child is evaluated and parents are guided accordingly. Kindergarten opens at 08:00 a.m., children can arrive until 08:30 a.m. All depending on their registration, children are looked after until 12.25 or 1.15 p.m., if required they may stay until 03:15 p.m. or 05:15 p.m.
- **Primary school** comprises classes 1 to 4. There are two classes per year. The form teacher is in charge of teaching basic knowledge, specific subject teachers are in charge of classes in music, art, computer knowledge and the foreign languages French or English (from the 1st form on). In general, children found mature and who are six years of age on 30 June of the respective year start school. Upon parents' request, children born between 1 July and 31 December who have been found mature may equally start school. At the end of the 4th form, the school recommends the appropriate kind of school for each child (grammar school, junior high school or modern secondary school), the final decision, however, is up to the parents. School starts at 08:00 a.m. and ends at 01:15 p.m.. Afterwards (apart from Wednesdays), there is room for the offers of the open all-day school : „Primary school plus“ has the Learn-Play Club and homework assistance. This offer is completed by numerous study groups.
- **A two years assessment stage** starts off comprehensive and grammar school. Subject teachers teach both comprehensive and grammar school students at grammar school level, differentiating between the different levels within the class and taking account of this differentiation when giving marks. Development classes are offered to selected pupils in the subject matters German, Maths, English and French. By the end of the assessment stage there is another recommendation concerning the most suitable school type for the individual student. As a rule, the decision is up to the parents. All classes of secondary education are held within an all-day school: classes are held from 08:00 a.m. to 03:15 p.m. (Wednesdays to 01:15 p.m.). On Tuesdays and Thursdays there is room for study groups. In the beginning of the term, study groups offered are presented within a study group market.
- After eight years of **grammar school and sixth form education** and an overall 12 years of school education, students pass the “Abitur” (A-Levels). When choosing a second foreign language in the beginning of the 6th form, distinction is made between comprehensive school (classes in economy and law instead of a second foreign language) and grammar school (Latin or French). In the 6th form, history is taught in English in bilingual modules. By the end of the 9th form, grammar school education is completed; this does however not apply to the subject matters German and Mathematics for which grammar school education is concluded by the end of the 1st semester of the 10th form. With the beginning of the 10th form, students are free to choose Dutch as third foreign language. The 10th form has a linking function as, from an organisational point of view, it is

already part of the sixth form. Sixth Form classes are not organized according to the principle of streaming (basic courses and special subjects), but according to the so-called high school diploma system: Apart from the core subjects German, Maths, foreign languages and natural science, optional subjects such as Dutch, informatics, geography, economy and law, philosophy or religion are taught. All the other regulations applying to the Sixth Form (responsibilities, point system, choice of exam subjects) are unchanged. Within the all-day school classes may be held between 08:00 a.m. and 03:15 p.m. (Wednesdays 01:15 p.m.); this may be different in the Sixth Form. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there is room for study groups. In the beginning of the term, study groups offered are presented within a study group market.

- If the number of pupils is sufficient, independent **comprehensive school classes** are set up from the 6th to the 10th form, into which secondary school pupils are integrated (until the end of the 9th form). Normally, however, all high school students remain together in the same class until the end of the 8th, sometimes even the 9th form. They are partly or completely integrated into grammar school classes with differentiated teaching according to the student's level which is also taken into account when giving marks. From the Sixth Form on economy and law is introduced as subject matter instead of a second foreign language. In the 9th form, students attend a several weeks long industrial training. In the 10th form, educational training is introduced as further subject matter. Within the all-day school, classes are held from 08:00 a.m. to 03:15 p.m. (Wednesdays to 01:15 p.m.). On Tuesdays and Thursdays there is room for study groups. In the beginning of the term, study groups offered are presented within a study group market. After the junior high school qualification students may attend our technical college for economy and law.
- After two years of education the **technical college** for economy and law leads to the advanced technical college entrance qualification (Fachabitur). This qualification is the prerequisite for studies at a German advanced technical college. Admission is granted with successful junior high school qualification or moving to the 11th form of grammar school. Apart from the usual subject matters there are classes in business administration and accountancy, economics, commercial information technology and law. Practical technical education is organized in the 11th form: During units of nine to eleven weeks students either attend school or the training establishment. The 12th form prepares for the advanced technical college entrance qualification examination.

3. Organisational remarks

- **Registration and notices of departure** are accepted **until 30 June** of each year. Registrations and notices of departure are also accepted during the entire school year. Registrations are binding once parents and the school have signed an application and the registration fee is paid. Notices of departure may be given at **three months notice** by the first of each month.
- **Terms of admission:** Normally, a good command of German is a basic requirement (not necessarily applicable to kindergarten level). Parents must have their place of residence in Belgium. The school-leaving certificate of the last school attended, the signed **student registration form** and payment of the registration fee are required. Membership in the school association is desired

(**registration form school association**).

- For **School fees** and admission fees please see the **leaflet on school fees**.
- **Classes:** In general, classes start at 08:00 a.m. In primary school, they end at 01:15 p.m., there are further offers until 03:15 p.m.. Within the all-day secondary school, classes may be held between 08:00 a.m. and 03:15 p.m. (Wednesdays 01:15 p.m.); all depending on the timetable, this may be different in the Sixth Form. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there is room for study groups. There is no school on Saturdays. Further details are given in the **time period**.
- **Lunch:** During the lunch break a warm meal is served in the school canteen. Lunch fees are listed in the **lunch leaflet**.
- **School bus:** A bus service passing by the following locations grants for safe transportation of our students to and from school: Woluwé-St.-Pierre, Woluwé-St.-Lambert, Kraainem, Overijse, Tervuren, Duisburg, Moorsel and Everberg. Bus stops are annually adapted according to requirements. The school bus fees depend on the number of users. For further details please see the **school bus leaflet**.
- **School books:** Parents are in charge of ordering and buying school books. The school hands out a **book list**. Teachers inform about specific literature in due time. A flea market for school books is organised at the end of each term.
- **Beginning and end of term:** There are 180 days in a term split up in two semesters and ending by mid July. iDSB classes start in the beginning of September. Upon proposal of the headmaster and in agreement with the parents' council and the staff council, the governing board of the school association fixes school holidays during the autumn term. The **holiday plan** as adopted is applicable.

4. Competent authority

- The **Deutscher Schulverein Brüssel** (association of the German school of Brussels) is the competent authority for the International German School Brussels. It was founded in 1951 as an „association sans but lucratif“, a cooperative body under Belgian law. Parents' membership in the school association is desired. Applications are to be addressed to the president of the governing board.
- The **governing board** consisting of ten members decides on current matters of the school association. This board deals with financial and staff matters and decides on basic questions related to the school. Every two years the annual general meeting of the school association elects eight members to the governing board from among its members. Together with the two presidents of the parents' council the parents decide on the other members. Half of the members of the governing board must be parents of students at the iDSB. This also applies to one of the two vice presidents.

5. Financing of the school

- The iDSB is a German school abroad subsidized by the Federal Republic of Germany and acknowledged as private school by the German Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz). The Federal Republic of Germany contributes to the school budget with **school subsidies** directly paid by the German Foreign Office. These subsidies do not cover the kindergarten and the school bus. The school grounds and buildings are owned by the Federal Republic of Germany. The iDSB uses them free of charge.
- The contribution of the Federal Republic of Germany also comprises part of the teaching staff, **the dispatched foreign service teachers** with contracts for a limited period of time and paid by Germany. The headmaster belongs to this category of staff. The Federal Republic of Austria dispatches one teacher.
- A considerable part of the school budget is financed by **school fees**. School fees will rise over several years in order to finance the modernisation of the primary school building. Upon request and in particular cases of hardship school fees may be reduced.
- The iDSB depends on **sponsors**. For many years, a considerable number of German companies in Brussels has been supporting school work with donations in kind, in particular in the field of computing technology.
- The iDSB is most grateful for **donations** which are used for implementing certain projects, among others in connection with the modernisation of the primary school building. Donations with equivalent receipts may be made to the bank account of the Freundeskreis Deutscher Auslandsschulen Bonn: Commerzbank Bonn, BLZ 38040007, Konto 2501112. intended purpose: Internationale Deutsche Schule Brüssel