

Additional Language Learning in the Junior School

What is the school's philosophy regarding additional language learning?

- We believe that learning *how* to learn a language is a key principle which develops the skills of language learning
- Providing choice with additional languages increases motivation and value in learning
- Learning a language with opportunity to practice with peers or in the local context increases the pace of language acquisition
- Offering languages relevant to the local contexts builds cultural awareness and understanding such as Arabic, Kiswahili and Luganda
- Offering a wide range of languages recognises the linguistic strengths of the student body and our aim of developing internationally minded learners

What age do you begin additional language classes?

- We shall introduce the language classes from age 5 (Kinder).
- Additional language learning in Early Childhood focuses on language in the context of games, songs and play in both mother tongue and the host country languages.

How often will my child learn their additional language?

- Additional Language will be offered through **two** 50 minute lessons per week in Kinder and Grade 3
- Additional Language will be offered through **three** 50 minute lessons per week in Grade 4 to Grade 5

What additional languages do you offer?

- We offer six additional languages: French, Spanish, Chinese, Luganda, Kiswahili and Arabic
- A variety of optional home languages are offered on Wednesday afternoons.

Which language should I choose?

- Learning an additional language is a different process to learning home languages. The additional language classes will focus on beginners to the language rather than students who have the language as a home language.
- We encourage parents to talk with their child about their language choice and consider the opportunities that they will have to practice their chosen language. Some possible examples are provided below:
 - Example A: One parent speaks Arabic, but not at home with the children, the children are near beginners so the language of choice is Arabic.
 - Example B: Your housekeeper speaks Luganda and you believe in the importance of language immersion as part of your stay in Uganda, so the language choice is Luganda.
 - Example C: The whole family speaks French so you would like your children to learn a new language, so the language choice is Spanish.
 - Example D: Your work assignment is based in East Africa so your children are likely to spend a significant portion of their lives here, so the language choice is Kiswahili.

Mission statement: We learn together to unlock the opportunities of a changing world

Authorized: International Baccalaureate Organisation, **Accredited:** Council of International Schools and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

How do I choose language classes?

- Language choices are selected during the admissions process and are limited by our class sizes, so if classes are full a second choice will be offered.
- The language chosen will remain the same throughout Junior School; students will not be able to change their choice once it has been selected.

Will my children be able to continue the language in Senior School?

- Languages offered will not necessarily continue in Senior School where we can currently only offer French or Spanish. In Junior School, our focus is on learning the fundamentals of the structure and function of language and the power that culture and communication provide in the foundation for lifelong language learning. These skills will transfer to language learning in Senior School and throughout life.

The form attached provides you with three language choices, please record your child's language choice by indicating first, second or third choice in the box provided. The Language options for 2018-2019 are as follows:

Kinder to Grade 1: Arabic, Chinese, French, Kiswahili, Luganda, Spanish

Grade 2 to Grade 3: Arabic, Chinese, French (Full), Kiswahili, Luganda, Spanish

Grade 4: Arabic, Chinese, French, Luganda, Spanish

Grade 5: French, Kiswahili, Spanish

Language Choice Form

Child's Name: _____ **Grade level:** _____

Write your language choice in the boxes provided below.

Chose from: **Arabic | Chinese | French | Kiswahili | Luganda | Spanish**

Priority	Language Choice
First choice	
Second choice	
Third choice	

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____