

Bilingual Primary School

Tuition in German and English



Schwalbach a. Ts. – Campus Frankfurt





Dr. Gerhard Obermayr
Headmaster

*«The aim of the school
is education and learning
in the spirit of
European integration.»*

Bilingual Primary School

Dear parents and pupils,

Opened in 2009, the Obermayr International School in Schwalbach represents an educational system offering a bilingual (German/English) primary school based on Montessori and Reggio principles. The aim of the school is education and learning in the spirit of European integration. The school is fully accredited by the state of Hesse and will be expanded in the summer of 2010 to incorporate a bilingual secondary school through to the 10th grade. Bilingual classes are taught by both German and English native speakers. School is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is followed by an extensive variety of after-school activities.

The school is situated within easy reach of Frankfurt on a 40,000 m² green campus. It offers spacious classrooms, a computer studies room, a sunny atrium, sports facilities, extensive grounds and facilities for a summer camp. Obermayr European Education also offers nursery, kindergarten and pre-school facilities on its campus in Schwalbach as well as in Wiesbaden and Taunusstein. These cater for children aged from 7 months to 6 years.

Our bilingual primary schools in Schwalbach and Wiesbaden function in accordance with the Hesse Elementary Education Act §17 HSchG. We convey basic knowledge and skills and give pupils the educational background that will prepare them for and enable them to enter into secondary education. Furthermore, the bilingual primary school puts into practice the agreement made between the European heads of state in 2002, which emphasises the possibility for all children in the European Union to learn not only their own language but also foreign languages at an early age.

The bilingual primary school is designed as an “all-day school”. Tuition starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Each lesson lasts 40 minutes and the school week consists of 30 lessons. The amount of English tuition in grades 1 and 2 is about 44%, in grades 3 and 4 about 50%.

In lessons emphasis is put upon English as the first foreign language. Tuition follows the recognized “Immersion” method. In addition to the extended English tuition, the timetable also includes 2 hours of individual free-choice learning, a leisurely lunch break and numerous extra-curricular activities from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. The bilingual primary school works according to Montessori principles in its approach to teaching content and its method.

Dr. Gerhard Obermayr
Headmaster

The concept



Entrance
International School

The concept

In accordance with the Hesse school regulations the bilingual primary school works on Montessori principles. The classrooms consist of “teaching” and “free-choice learning” areas offering a variety of pedagogical material which we call “intelligent” material. The teacher is regarded as a “helping tutor” supporting the child and helping him or her to use the material.

The teachers create an atmosphere which enhances learning in the class room. The material helps to reinforce understanding of topics handled in class by making them visual. The material encourages the child to learn and use his or her own initiative. The child is offered different possibilities to understand facts and issues and learns how to concentrate and check his or her own results.

The classes consist of an average of 24 pupils, thus allowing individual coaching and sophisticated learning. In addition to cognitive learning, stress is laid upon soft skills, for instance team work, and an early start with other languages and cultures.

All-day School

The bilingual school is an all-day school. The lessons and free-choice learning times are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participation in extra-curricular activities and additional coaching is voluntary, and takes place from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Timetables

The timetable allows effective learning organisation.

The 30 lessons per week are from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The last lesson in the morning finishes with individual free-choice learning. The long break at 1 p.m. includes lunch in the school canteen and time to play.

Daily Schedule after Lessons

Extra-curricular activities start after 3 p.m. The school offers a varied programme in English and German. Some of the activities offered are: games, handicrafts, athletics, cooking, music, computer studies, language clubs and yoga.



The timetable
allows effective learning organisation



Atrium



Maths is fun!



Classroom



Sports room

What does “immersion” mean?

Immersion means “totally plunging into” (a new language). In the bilingual education system the new language is “the working language” and the method of communication. One teacher speaks only German, the next teacher only English, in accordance with the principle “one language-one person”. Everything that the “foreign language speaking” teacher says is stressed additionally with gesticulations, mimicry or pointing (showing objects). The child then understands the language, connecting the language bit by bit to the situation. This method reflects the natural way that children learn languages, regardless of whether it is the first or second language. Immersion is a recognised method for teaching children. It is a strong motivator and does not pressure the child to perform. Immersion is not overwhelming for any child.

Children in pre-school and primary schools often enjoy immersion lessons more than German language lessons due to the fact that the immersion method is extremely versatile. The main objective of the teacher is to convey the content of the lesson and not the language. The language is a transmitter. Any initial lack of knowledge the children may have concerning the subject taught disappears within the first two years.

The “mother tongue” (first language) is not neglected but positively influenced. The children can learn a second foreign language in the 5th grade, earlier than is usual at the moment (6th grade or 7th grade). In this way the children gain time to intensify their knowledge of the second foreign language.

Fears that “the children won’t learn proper German” or “this way of learning is too demanding”, or “the children won’t learn the subject matter” are not justified. Often exactly the opposite is the case and these children perform better than those taught only in German.

Subjects

The subjects mathematics, social science, art, physical education and music are partially taught in English. The percentage of English language lessons is between 44% and 50%. This percentage can be higher if the chosen extra-curricular activities are also held in English.

Music plays an important role and tuition is complemented with the recorder, Orff’s instruments, dancing, choir and a theatre club. First tuition is offered in German, then in English.

The Content



Language Abilities

Bilingual education gives the pupils a better language competence in later years. Contact in primary schools with the new language should be without pressure, authentic and constant to ensure successful language learning. The new language should be continued constantly for a number of years.

Marks

There are two rules used when marking the lessons in the second language.

1. The pupil should not suffer any direct disadvantage due to the fact that tuition is in English. The lessons in English will not be marked more strictly than those in German. The willingness to speak should be encouraged.
2. It is important to respect the natural development of the language. The immersion method assumes that the second language is learned according to the same pattern with which the first language was learned, for the reason that the “language age” (the length of time the language has been learned) has to be taken into consideration.

In the lessons taught bilingually, the content and use of specific terminology is assessed. Language mistakes are mentioned but not stressed. Content, expression and language accuracy are marked in the subject English. The progress made in learning the language is appropriately taken into consideration.

Subjects taught in two languages (i.e. music, mathematics) are usually taught by the same teacher. In mathematics (through the medium of English) the tuition is organised in working groups and specific terminology is introduced in the first two years. Knowledge of the English language is so far developed in the third and fourth years that the marks, according to the number of lessons in total, can be given proportionally.



Daily Schedule

Lesson	Time	Subject
Lesson 1	08.00–08.40 a.m.	Main subject (tuition)
Lesson 2	08.40–09.20 a.m.	Individual free-choice learning
Break	09.20–09.40 a.m.	–
Lesson 3	09.40–10.20 a.m.	Main subject (tuition)
Lesson 4	10.20–11.00 a.m.	Individual free-choice learning
Break	11.00–11.20 a.m.	–
Lesson 5	11.20–12.00 a.m.	Secondary subject
Lesson 6	12.00–12.40 p.m.	Secondary subject
Lunch	12.40–01.40 p.m.	–
Lesson 7	12.00–12.40 p.m.	Secondary subject (i.e. sports)
Lesson 8	02.20–03.00 p.m.	Secondary subject (i.e. sports)
Break	03.00–03.20 p.m.	–
	03.20–05.00 p.m.	Extra-curricular activities

Bilingual Timetable

Grade Subjects	1		2		3		4	
	Ger	Eng	Ger	Eng	Ger	Eng	Ger	Eng
Religion	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–
German	7	–	7	–	7	–	7	–
Social Science	2	–	2	–	2	2	2	2
Mathematics	5	1	5	1	4	1	4	1
Art	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2
Music	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physical Education	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3
English	–	6	–	6	–	5	–	5
Additional lessons	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total per Language	17	13	17	13	16	14	16	14
Total	30		30		30		30	

Ger = tuition in German Eng = tuition in English

In addition to the 30 lessons per week, there will be approx. 8 hours of silent work (individual free-choice learning). During the silent work there will be room for individual coaching and support.

Fees and Legal Status



Schwalbach am Taunus
40,000 m² grounds

Place of Tuition

The bilingual primary school is located in Schwalbach am Taunus, Am weißen Stein, and stands in 40,000 m² of grounds.

Admission Requirements

All children who meet the requirements to attend primary school can be admitted to the school. An interview and an entrance test are held in the school. Admission is decided upon by the Headmaster.

Legal Status

The bilingual primary school is a state-approved school with special educational character.

Fees

School:

4,800.00 €* per year 400.00 €* per month

Food /Care:

1,800.00 € per year 150.00 € per month

Total:

6,600.00 € per year 550.00 € per month

Registration fee 260.00 €* (a one-off payment)

Fees for learning materials are additional. The materials remain the pupil's property. A small charge is made for art, handicrafts, special topics and photocopies.

The amounts marked with * are tax deductible as extra expenses for the legal guardian, if he or she pays taxes in Germany.

Information and Advisory Service

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PreS = Pre-School M-PriS = Montessori-Primary School
BiPriS = Bilingual Primary School PriS = Primary School
BiSMS = Bilingual Secondary Modern School
BiGS = Bilingual Grammar School
BiGS+ = Grammar School bilingual *plus*
GSsF = Grammar School Sixth Form
TC = Technical College (Economics & Business)

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taken in our schools.

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