

Westminster International School

One of the top Academic Programmes available in education today



Invest in your child's future

Westminster International School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School which offers the IB Primary Years Programme for students from three to 12 years of age. It is situated in Pisa to serve the surrounding areas of Lucca, Florence, Versilia, Pontedera and Livorno.

IB World Schools share a common philosophy about the nature of international education, which is expressed in the International Baccalaureate's mission statement and Westminster International School's mission statement.

Our community understands the important role of cultivating international-mindedness and intercultural awareness. Westminster nurtures children from early childhood to become lifelong learners, offering opportunities that enable them to continue their journey through life with:

- An education in a community committed to developing the whole person: the mind, body and spirit
- Small classes, assessment for learning and reporting processes to ensure that our team understand and regularly report the capabilities and needs of each student within a caring and outwardly focused international learning community
- A professional team with continual Professional Development through the International Baccalaureate
- An opportunity to maximize your child's academic potential
- Confidence to enjoy opportunity
- Freedom to experience other people's opinions
- Responsibility
- Compassion which we model for all who enter our doors
- The opportunity and responsibility to challenge themselves, to seek and find answers and to be accountable for excellent social and academic outcomes
- A school community that encourages the commitment to build a strong and safe learning environment

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate is proud of its commitment to provide rigorous, challenging and unique programmes of education to schools. The authorization process backs up this commitment. As a result of the process, parents and students can be confident that each IB World School, no matter where it is located, is held to the same high standard.

The *Programme standards and practices* is the fundamental document used by schools and the IB to ensure quality and fidelity in the implementation of its programmes in IB World Schools. Programme evaluation is both a requirement and a service provided by the IB Organization to IB World Schools. The aim is for the IB to ensure on a regular basis that the *Programme Standards and Practices* are being maintained.

The programmes of the International Baccalaureate have a long-standing reputation for their academic and personal rigour, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal growth, and to develop a lifelong thirst for learning. There are four programmes in the IB:

- The Primary Years Programme (PYP) for students aged three to 12 years, focusing on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside
- The Middle Years Programme (MYP) for students 12 to 16
- The IB Diploma Programme (DP) for students 16 to 19
- The IB Career-related Programme (CP) for students 16 to 19

- The four IB Programmes are designed to:
- Help students develop the attitudes and skills they need for both academic and personal success
- Be student-centred, promoting personal challenge
- Offer a broad curriculum with significant content
- Explore globally significant ideas and issues

For our students at Westminster International School, the expectations from parents, school and society are high; parents want their children to be skilled and intellectual, while possessing qualities such as cultural understanding, good communication, people skills, multiple languages, and so much more. An IB education provides opportunities to develop both disciplinary and interdisciplinary understanding that meet rigorous standards set by institutions of high learning around the world, and develop internationally-minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

The IB Primary Years Programme prepares students at an early age to become active, caring, lifelong learners who demonstrate respect for themselves and others and have the capacity to participate in the world around them.

How the IB Primary Years Programme differs from other International and National Curriculums.

Within the PYP it is believed student learning is best done when it is authentic – relevant to the “real” world – and transdisciplinary – where the learning is not confined within the boundaries of traditional subject areas, but is supported and enriched by them.

Beliefs and values about ICT in the PYP

The ever-increasing impact of ICT (Information & Communications Technology) on teaching and learning is an important consideration in education at all levels. Through ICT, there are greater opportunities for interactive communication and exchange of information through global collaboration, authentic learning, expansion of the learning community and empowerment for all learners. ICT in the PYP encompasses the use of a wide range of digital tools, media and learning environments for teaching, learning and assessing. ICT provides opportunities for the transformation of teaching and learning and enables students to investigate, create, communicate, collaborate, organize and be responsible for their own learning and actions. ICT allows students to make connections and reach a deeper understanding of its relevance and applicability to their everyday lives. Learners develop and apply strategies for critical and creative thinking, engage in inquiry, make connections, and apply new understandings and skills in different contexts. Westminster classrooms have interactive whiteboards and internet. Students have their own iPads.

Please visit our website www.westminsterinternationalschool.org, where you can view some IB videos introducing you to the IB Programmes. Our website is designed to give you an overview of the school. It will not give you all the answers, no website ever can, but it is an attempt to give information and answer some of your questions. If you do have further questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. We will be delighted to assist you with what could be an incredibly important decision in the future of your child.

We offer an International Middle School programme for students 12 to 15 years of age. Please contact us directly for further information on our Middle School programme (telephone +39 050 28466 / mobile +39 342 850 1812).