

New in the
Rhein-Main Area



Bilingual Primary School

Tuition in German and English

Starting in the school year 2009/2010 we are offering a bilingual school with the possibility of all day tuition in Schwalbach am Taunus.

The bilingual primary school will function like our bilingual primary school in Wiesbaden according to the Hessian elementary education law §17 HSchG. According to this law we will convey the basic knowledge and skills and give pupils the educational background that will prepare them for and enable them to enter into secondary education. Furthermore, with the new bilingual primary school we will be putting into practice the agreement made between the European Head of States in 2002 which emphasises the possibility for all children in the European Union to not only learn their own language but also two foreign languages at an early age.

The bilingual 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 classes 1 and 2 is about 44%, in classes 3 and 4 about 50%. In bilingual 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 'free work hours', an expansive lunch break and numerous organized extra-curricular activities after 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. The bilingual primary school works didactically and methodically according to Montessori principles.

It is advantageous for the pupil to have previously visited a Kindergarten (nursery school) which offered English in order to attend the bilingual primary school.

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The Concept

In accordance with the Hessian school regulations the bilingual primary school works with Montessori principles. The classrooms consist of 'learning' and 'free time' 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/her to use the material. In order to get the child's attention for the material, the tutors create an atmosphere which enhances learning in the class room. The material helps to reinforce understanding of topics handled in class by visualizing and exemplifying issues of the tuition content. The material encourages the child to learn and use his or her own initiative. The child has 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 22 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 opening for other languages and cultures.

Working all Day

The bilingual school is an all day school. The lessons and free work times are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participation in extra-curricular activities and additional tuition coaching is voluntary, and takes place from 3.20 p.m. until 5 p.m..

Rhythmic Timetables

The rhythmic timetable allows effective learning organization. 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 free work time. The long break at 1 p.m. includes a lunch break in the school canteen and movement and playing.

Daily Schedule after Lessons

Leisure activities start after 3 p.m. The school offers a varied programme in English and German. Some of the activities offered are: playing games, handicrafts, athletics, cooking, music, computer and yoga.

The Rhythmic Timetable – Daily Schedule

Lesson	Time	Subject
Lesson 1	08.00-08.40 a.m.	Main subject (tuition)
Lesson 2	08.40-09.20 a.m.	Free work lesson (games, movement, etc.)
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.	Free work lesson (games, movement, etc.)
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	01.40-02.20 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

The Content

What does 'immersion' mean?

Immersion means 'to plunge in' (literally translated) into a language bath. In bilingual tuition the new language is 'the working language' and the method of communication. One teacher only speaks German, the next teacher only English, according to 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 reproduces the natural way that children learn languages, regardless whether it is the first or second language. Immersion is therefore more appropriate for children than any other method of teaching. It is a strong motivator and does not pressure the child to perform. Immersion is not overwhelming for any child.

Children in nursery and primary schools often enjoy immersion lessons more than German language lessons due to the fact that immersion lessons are more

versatile. The main objective of the teacher is to convey the content of the lesson and not the language. The language is 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. Thinking along these lines the children could learn a second foreign language in the 5th form/grade earlier than possible at the moment (6th form/grade or 7th form/grade). In this way the children would 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', 'the children won't learn the subject matter' are not justified. Often reality reveals the exact opposite. Immersion children often perform better in German compared to children who were only taught in German.

The Bilingual Timetable (Ger = tuition in German, Eng = tuition in English)

Grade / Form	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	

Subjects and Contents

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%. The percentage can be higher due to the leisure activities that are offered and chosen in English

in the afternoons. Music plays an important role and tuition is complemented with the flute, Orff's instruments, dancing, choir practice and a theatre club. First of all tuition is offered in German, starting then in English with the 3rd form/grade.

Language Abilities

Bilingual tuition 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 acquisition. The new language must be continued constantly for a number of years.

Marks/Grades

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

1. The pupil should not suffer any direct disadvantages due to the fact that tuition is in English. The lessons in English shall not be marked stricter than in German tuition. 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 learnt according to the same pattern with which the first language was learnt, this is the reason that the 'language age' (the length of time the language has been learnt) 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 of English. Learning progress 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 organized 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 year that the marks, according to the number of lessons in total, can be given proportionally.

The text exercises in 'English' mathematics are based upon the German text exercises, which increases the use of English as a means of communication. The exams in the 3rd form/grade are mostly in German, in the 4th form/grade the exams are in some cases in English.

Place of Tuition

The bilingual primary school will be built in a 40,000 square metre area in Schwalbach am Taunus, Am weißen Stein.

Admission Requirements

All children who meet the requirements to attend primary school can be admitted to the school. After an interview and an entrance test, the child can be admitted.

Admission is decided upon by the headmaster/principal.

Legal Status

The bilingual primary school will be established as a state-approved school (Ersatzschule) with special educational character.

Fees

	per year	per month
Total	6.600 €	550 €
School	4.800 €*	400 €*
Food / Care	1.800 €	150 €
Registration fee 260 €* (a one-off payment)		

Learning material fees are in addition, the material is the pupil's property. A lump sum is charged for art, handicrafts, special topics materials 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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