

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Life at La Grande Boissière extends well beyond the classroom. Students, teachers and parents form a learning community which encourages participation in many spheres of activity – academic, cultural, sporting and social – designed to enrich the school experience and to foster a breadth of outlook and a spirit of cooperation. Our three schools take advantage of their proximity to central Geneva to organise frequent trips to museums, exhibitions and drama productions.

The following is a selection of activities offered at La Grande Boissière:

SPORT

School teams participate in local, national and international competitions. Large numbers of students participate in the school's recreational and competitive sports programmes. We are proud to be a founding member of the European Sports Conference for ten international schools.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Some 100 students involved in this challenging programme obtain a significant number of Gold Awards each year.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN

Students conduct tours of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. Humanitarian aid events such as United Nations Human Rights day and the Marche de l'Espoir, as well as fundraising events in support of local and international charities. Cultural, humanitarian and/or linguistic expeditions are typically organised to Senegal, India, Portugal, UK, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, France and Switzerland.

THEATRE, MUSIC, ART AND CULTURE

The Centre des arts provides over 4000 square metres of top quality facilities offering a rich programme of pedagogical and creative activities for all ages in the areas of music, choir, drama, dance, art, visual arts and new technologies.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACTIVITY CAMPS

We offer extra-curricular mother tongue classes, a variety of extra-curricular sports and creative activities and holiday camps.

CONFERENCES, DEBATES

Students participate in the Students' League of Nations (SLN) at the United Nations and in the Year 11 Study Day.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT

A variety of workshops and presentations as part of Health Week every spring.

KERMESSE

In June our annual summer Kermesse allows our families and visitors to sample distinctive national cuisines and cultures.



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EXPLORE

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

EXPERIENCE

OUR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

DISCOVER

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT



Ecole Internationale de Genève
International School of Geneva

LA GRANDE BOISSIÈRE

The oldest and largest of the three campuses of the International School of Geneva, La Grande Boissière is centrally located in Geneva in pleasant wooded grounds and is easily accessible via the efficient public transport system. The property blends a charming mix of old and new buildings, including a small 18th century château and an ultra-modern Centre des arts.

Our Primary, Middle and Secondary schools all benefit from well-equipped media centres, the latest ICT facilities, a STEM Centre which was developed in partnership with EPFL, and meeting rooms and learning spaces which have been developed with the needs of learners of different age groups in mind.

Our sports facilities allow us to offer an excellent Physical Education programme as well as a wide variety of recreational and competitive sports. Our Centre des arts provides exceptional facilities for the creative and visual arts, including music studios, exhibition spaces, a 200-seat theatre and a 400-seat auditorium.

Constructed in 1955 by staff, students and alumni, the Greek theatre, inspired by the theatre of Epidaurus, has symbolised the spirit of the International School of Geneva for over half a century: an arena of openness, dialogue and inclusion.

Why choose La Grande Boissière?

Our ambitious goal is to develop citizen learners for the future of humanity. We achieve this by following a student-centred teaching philosophy, one that includes:

- Bilingual instruction and plurilingualism
- Differentiated instruction to challenge every learner
- Discovering gifts within students and helping these gifts to emerge
- Student agency and voice
- Students participating in the construction and ownership of their own learning
- Concepts-focused learning
- Specialised programmes such as Extended Support, World Languages, Language Support and Learning Support
- Individualised guidance and coaching

Our teachers, as researcher practitioners, base their teaching practices on current educational research.

We continually liaise with leading organisations such as École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, the University of Geneva and Durham University. With our official partner, UNESCO's International Bureau of Education, we have created our "Universal Learning Programme" which develops competences in young people so that they are prepared to thrive in our world and act for the public good.

Dr Conrad Hughes, Campus Principal

The Primary School: an exceptional start

In our school’s fulfilling and safe environment, your child will have access to a high quality education emphasising participation in a global community on the basis of mutual respect, open-mindedness and shared human values.

We encourage children to be independent, knowledgeable, socially responsible, concerned for the environment, curious and keen to keep on learning. Our aim is to encourage every student to be open-minded, creative, thoughtful, honest and altruistic.

Children will develop language skills and deep understanding of numeracy. Our programme stresses interdisciplinary instruction (Philosophy for Children, programme for conflict resolution, etc.) and focuses on problem-solving, critical thinking, dialogue and international mindedness in contexts that are meaningful, interesting, challenging and authentic.

Information technologies are integrated into classes at all levels in compelling, engaging ways to help students in the creation of their learning.

At the end of the school day, children can benefit from our rich and stimulating after-school programme, and after-school care is available each day until 18:00 on a flexible basis.

Progressive bilingualism

Our programme in two languages, English and French, is designed to address the needs of each child, to promote their active participation in learning in and of both languages and develop their social, emotional and cognitive competencies.

Exposure to the second language increases progressively each year and reaches, in Classes 3 & 4, 60% of teaching in language A and 40% in language B with the addition of specialist classes of music, art and physical education in the second language. Additionally, thematic work is taught simultaneously by one teacher in French and one in English. Children will have second language classes at their language level.

Language support is available in both English and French according to the children’s needs and level.



Middle School: a special place with a special spirit

The Middle School provides a unique learning environment adapted to the academic and personal development needs of children aged from 9 to 13, in the important years of early adolescence.

The active teaching tradition of the school favours the acquisition of a growing independence and respect for diversity and differences; the multiple nationalities represented at the school provide a linguistic and cultural melting pot where the languages of instruction are French and English.

Students have the opportunity of following a French dominant Bilingual Programme or an English Language Programme which provides some exposure to content study in French through co-teaching for Science classes. Language support is available in both English and French.



Our commitment

The Middle School years are pivotal and filled with individual potential and opportunity. Our mission is that every young adolescent should grow into a knowledgeable, reflective and responsible citizen, keen and able to keep on learning.

The Middle School staff are experienced in and committed to the academic and social developmental needs of your child. Learning will be relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory, so that your child will not only learn but, as importantly, learn how to learn.

Your child will develop academically, socially and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where trust and respect are paramount and where family and community are actively involved. That is the “Spirit of Middle School”!

A broad and stimulating programme

The ability to construct an individually tailored bilingual programme is a distinguishing feature of the school: apart from language lessons themselves, students choose to follow each of their courses in either of the two teaching languages (English and French) providing that their language level is sufficient and this language can differ from subject to subject. Students with another mother tongue are also encouraged to maintain it.

The academic programme leads to an International Baccalaureate Diploma (DP) and/or a High School Diploma. There are numerous field-trips and extracurricular activities (cultural, sporting, social), prominent among which are the International Award and the Students’ League of Nations.

An environment of support and mutual respect

Heads of Year co-ordinate the work of the mentors who monitor the progress of a small group of students weekly and address general issues. Mentors play an important role in the partnership between home and school, which is reinforced by regular reports and Information and Consultation Evenings.

The Guidance Department provides help and advice for university and career choices and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Further support is supplied by the Learning Centre and a full-time educational psychologist.



>>> YOUR ROUTE THROUGH LA GRANDE BOISSIÈRE >>>



Early Years
A smooth transition between home and school. Preparation for Primary School. Use of French and English through play.

Years 1-2
Strong foundations for reading, writing and maths. Progression towards bilingualism. Instruction in language B according to the level of the child. Physical education and art are taught in language B, choir is bilingual.

Years 3-4
Continued development in reading, writing and maths. Units of enquiries (thematic work) simultaneously taught by two teachers, one Francophone and one Anglophone. Art, music and physical education taught in language B. Bilingual teaching reaches 60% in language A and 40% in language B.

>>> YOUR ROUTE THROUGH LA GRANDE BOISSIÈRE >>>



Year 5
Your child will have the choice on entering Middle School of our French Bilingual Programme, where subjects are studied in English (11 periods) and French (24 periods), or our English Language Programme, with its French language classes (5 periods) and Science lessons co-taught in English and in French.

Year 6
As your child’s independence grows, their teacher will start the preparation for the transition into Year 7, where increased autonomy and organisation are needed.

Years 7-8
The homeroom teacher will guide your child through the transition from a single classroom environment to subject specialist teachers in different classrooms. Students study a third language (German or Spanish).

>>> YOUR ROUTE THROUGH LA GRANDE BOISSIÈRE >>>



Years 9-10
The foundation years. All students follow a broad common core of subjects.

Year 11
The transitional year before the start of the IB Diploma. Students start to explore choices of subjects grouped around a common core.

Years 12-13
The examination IB Diploma years. Students study three subjects at higher level and three at standard level, alongside Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, and Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).