

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 co-operation. 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 new European Sports Conference for 10 international schools.

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

SOCIAL, HUMANITAIRE 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 new Arts Centre 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 the 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 summer camps.

CONFERENCES, DEBATES Students participate in the Students' League of Nations (SLN) at the United Nations and in the Year 11 Study Day at the International Labour Organisation.

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.



DISCOVER

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

EXPERIENCE OUR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

EXPLORE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

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 a new, ultra-modern Arts centre.

Our three schools: Primary (Pre-Reception - Year 4), Middle (Year 5 - Year 8) and Secondary (Year 9 - Year 13) benefit from well-equipped libraries, media centres, extensive student ICT facilities, assembly halls and recreational areas tailored to the needs of each age group. Top quality sports facilities allow us to offer an excellent Physical Education programme as well as a wide variety of recreational and competitive sports. Our recently opened *Centre des arts* includes music studios, exhibition space, a 200-seat theatre, drama studios and a 400-seat auditorium, providing exceptional facilities for the creative and visual arts.

Emblematic of our campus, the Greek Theatre has symbolised the spirit of the International School of Geneva for over half a century: an arena of openness, dialogue and inclusion. Inspired by the Greek Theatre of Epidaurus, it was constructed in 1955 by staff, students and alumni.

WHY CHOOSE LA GRANDE BOISSIÈRE?

Our Primary School offers programmes that begin with consolidation of French or English, and move progressively towards bilingualism. A large team of language specialists allows us to provide classes at the multiple levels of our students, and an equally large team of learning support professionals provides specialized services for children with learning concerns. The school provides a small protective environment and pedagogical structure for the students, through the division of the building into 6 "villages" that are the working units for the student, and with very important support of class teaching with a large number of specialists in language, learning support, music, art and physical education. Philosophy For Children and The Pacific Path are specific and very important transversal programmes that support the development of education for peace. Odyssey Of The Mind is a specific programme helping groups of students develop problem solving and creativity skills in groups. All of our programmes and pedagogy focus on developing a culture concerned with developing better understanding through questioning, discussing and collaborating.

Our Middle School provides two options: an English-dominant programme where Science is co-taught by two teachers within the class working in English and French, and a French-dominant bilingual programme, where students study mathematics and sciences in French and humanities in English. Extensive language support resources are provided in both English as an Additional Language and French.

The students in the Secondary School follow a broad range of subjects with a strong importance on languages. The curriculum emphasises thinking skills, enquiry, creativity, problem solving, planning, and many other skills to meet the challenges of the future. Teachers use best practice adapted to the cultural diversity of our students to engage them in exploring, experiencing and understanding the world they live in. Alongside our academic offerings, the school has student support systems which aim at fostering character, students' ambitions, helping them realize their full potential, and guiding them socially and emotionally. The extra-curricular programmes propose a variety of sporting, artistic and cultural opportunities in state of the art facilities.

In addition to actively promoting bilingualism, we also attach great importance to the maintenance and teaching of mother tongues. Currently more than 200 students are studying 19 world languages. Many parents also use the opportunity of immersion as a route towards bilingualism for their child in Primary and Middle School. An Extended Support Programme exists in Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools, providing a dedicated programme for a small number of students with moderate to more severe learning difficulties.

It will be a pleasure to show you around our campus.

Conrad Hughes, Campus Principal



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pre-Reception – Year 4



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 altruist.

Children will develop language skills and deep understanding of numeracy. Our programme stresses interdisciplinary instruction (Philosophy for Children, programme of 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 class of music, art, 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

Years 5 – 8



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 language 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 class. 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”!

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Years 9 – 13



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 >>>

PRE-RECEPTION	RECEPTION	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4
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.	

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YR 5	YR 6	YR 7	YR 8
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).	

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YR 9	YR 10	YR 11	YR 12	YR 13
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).		