

Year 6 Curriculum Handbook

Overview

As of September 2018, The International School of Brno (ISB) has begun implementing the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme as a candidate school. The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a highly acclaimed educational program. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) was established in 1997 and provides a curriculum framework for students aged 3 - 12. Please visit our website to see the timeline for PYP authorization.

The IB offers a significant, challenging, engaging and relevant curriculum model that meets the needs of international student populations. It offers a framework that specifies what students learn, how they should learn and how they should be assessed. Schools use this framework to develop a high-quality curriculum that meets the needs of their student population and the local environment.

The Written Curriculum: What do students learn?

The PYP addresses students academic needs in addition to their social and emotional well-being. The IB identifies five key elements that students should develop: knowledge, understandings (concepts), skills and attributes.

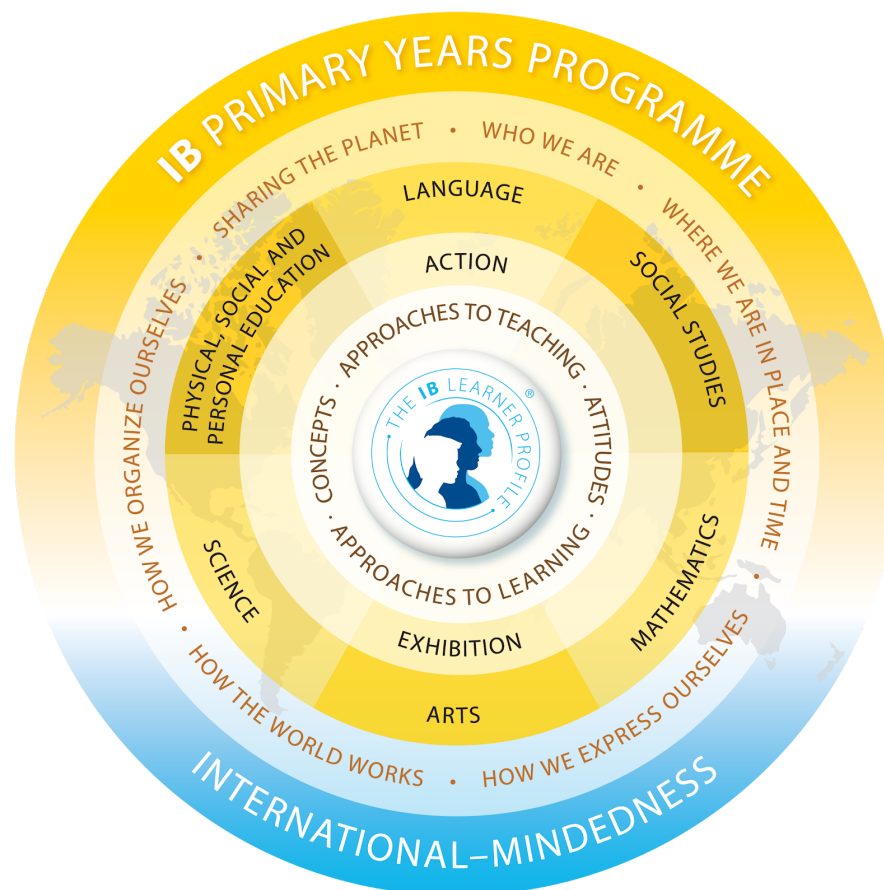
Key Knowledge: Transdisciplinary Themes

The PYP is a transdisciplinary programme, meaning it consists mainly of integrated units of learning where traditional subjects like mathematics and language are learned in the context of the unit of inquiry. There are six subject areas, Language, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Arts, and Personal Social Physical Education, which are taught through six themes: Who We Are, Where We Are in Place & Time, How the World Works, How We Express Ourselves, How We Organize Ourselves and Sharing the Planet

*** More details about each subject is described further in this handbook.*

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Early Years classes (K1 - Year 1) have four units, while Primary School classes (Year 2 - Year 6) have six. The programme ends with the PYP Exhibition which is an exhibit by the year 6 students of their learning through their primary years.



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Key Understandings (Concepts)

The key concepts are essential to our programme and the way in which we plan to transfer learning between subject areas. You will see particular concepts identified within the units of inquiry.

Form

Key question: What is it like?

Definition: The understanding that everything has a form with recognizable features that can be observed, identified, described and categorized.

Function

Key question: How does it work?

Definition: The understanding that everything has a purpose, a role or a way of behaving that can be investigated.

Causation

Key question: Why is it like it is?

Definition: The understanding that things do not just happen, that there are causal relationships, and that actions have consequences.

Change

Key question: How is it changing?

Definition: The understanding that change is the process of movement from one state to another.

Connection

Key question: How is it connected to other things?

Definition The understanding that we live in a world of interacting systems in which the actions of any individual element affect others.

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Perspective

Key question: What are the points of view?

Definition The understanding that knowledge is led by perspectives; different perspectives lead to different interpretations, understandings and findings; perspectives may be individual, group, cultural or disciplinary

Responsibility

Key question: What is our responsibility?

Definition: The understanding that people make choices based on their understandings, and the actions they take as a result do make a difference

Key Skills (Approaches to Learning)

The Approaches to learning are valuable, not only to the units of inquiry but for any teaching and learning experience, and are therefore integrated into everything that we do at ISB. They are planned for in every subject area, giving teachers and students a common language with which to support the making of connections between different areas of learning.

Self Management skills

Organization: Managing time and tasks effectively

States of mind: Using strategies that manage state of mind

Social Skills

Interpersonal relationships, social and emotional intelligence: Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration

Communication Skills

Exchanging information: Listening, interpreting and speaking

Symbolic exploration and expression

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Research Skills

Information literacy: Formulating and planning, data gathering and recording, synthesizing and interpreting, evaluating and communicating

Media literacy: Interacting with media to use and create ideas and information

Thinking Skills

Critical Thinking: Analysing, Evaluating and Forming Decisions

Creative Thinking: Generating novel ideas and considering new perspectives

Key Attributes (Learner Profile)

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people. Therefore, IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers: Asking good questions and seeking good answers.

Knowledgeable: Understanding the world in different ways and in different contexts.

Thinkers: Making ethical decisions through critical thinking.

Communicators: Expressing thoughts, emotions, ideas and opinions with confidence and clarity in multiple languages.

Principled: Acting with honesty, fairness, integrity, accountability and always respecting others.

Open-minded: Seeking to learn about new cultures and their history while also learning about and appreciating our own.

Caring: Being compassionate and making a genuine effort to make the world a better place.

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Risk-takers: Welcoming challenges and change.

Balanced: Working to ensure that we take care of our emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being and helping others to do the same.

Reflective: Looking objectively about our own strengths and weaknesses and always setting goals.

The Taught Curriculum: How do students learn?

The main approach in the PYP is an inquiry-based approach. Inquiry is the process that moves students from their current level of understanding to a new and deeper level of understanding. Inquiry can look like: exploring, questioning, experimenting, playing, solving problems in a variety of ways, making predictions, defending a position, making and testing theories, collecting data and reporting findings.

Students are given voice, choice, and ownership over their own learning. With teacher facilitation, they are expected to be active participants, develop independence and take responsibility for their learning. At ISB we recognize that students learn differently, therefore learning in all subjects is differentiated for the specific needs of each child.

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The Assessed Curriculum: How do we know what students have learned?

Regular assessments are carried out to provide feedback on the learning process:

- **Pre-assessment:** before the students start a unit to find out what they already know.
- **Ongoing assessment:** throughout the unit to find out how they are progressing
- **Summative assessment:** at the end of the unit, to find out what students have learned.

Exhibition

In their final year of the PYP, students in Year 6 will participate in a summative assessment activity which celebrates the transition from primary to secondary. Students are required to engage in the inquiry process and identify, investigate and offer solutions to a real-world issue of personal interest. As our students have only recently been introduced to the elements of the PYP, we will slowly begin to introduce the exhibition process this school year. The exhibition unit is 30 days and takes place from April 14 - May 29th. The school community is invited to see the year 6 students present their exhibition projects on May 29th.

Teachers use assessment to identify what students know, understand, can do and feel. The purpose, means and outcomes of assessments should be clearly explained to all members of the learning community through SeeSaw, conferences and shares (see page 18 for more information about each of these or review our assessment policy available on the school website).

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Year 6 Units of Inquiry

*September 2 - 6: Unit 0 Orientation to learning at ISB

September 9 - October 23	October 31 - December 13	January 6 - February 13	March 3 - April 1 (27 days)	April 14 - May 29	June 1 - June 19
Where We Are in Place & Time	How the World Works	How We Organize Ourselves	Sharing the Planet	How We Express Ourselves	Who We Are
<p>Central idea: People may choose to migrate as a response to challenges, risks or opportunities.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: -Reasons people migrate -Effects of migration on geography, community, cultures and individuals -Different views of migration</p> <p>Key Concepts: Causation, Perspective</p>	<p>Central idea: Scientific understandings evolve with technological advancements.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: -Purpose of different technology -The relationship between science and technology -Future implications</p> <p>Key Concepts: Function, Connection</p>	<p>Central idea: Businesses rely on the relationship between sufficient supply and customer demands.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: - The characteristics of an entrepreneur - Why people buy goods and services - How companies regulate supply and demand - How and why businesses compete</p> <p>Key Concepts: Connection, Function, Causation</p>	<p>Central idea: Organisms interact within an ecosystem and rely on interdependence for survival</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: -Interdependence within ecosystems, biomes and local environments -Ways organisms interact in nature -How human interactions impact the balance of an ecosystem</p> <p>Key Concepts: Connection, Function, Responsibility</p>	<p>Central idea: Passions and wonders can lead to meaningful action (EXHIBITION).</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: - Our passions and wonders - How to write a central idea - How passions can lead to local and global action</p> <p>Key Concepts: Perspective, Responsibility</p>	<p>Central idea: Humans experience physical and emotional changes throughout life.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: -My personal identity and how it is changing. -Changes that occur in different stages of human development -Responsibilities during adolescence</p> <p>Key Concepts: Responsibility, Change</p>

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Science

Throughout the early and primary years at ISB, students learn about the following strands of science: living things, earth and space, materials and matter, forces and energy. They develop skills which allow them to act as scientists and carry out their own inquiries.

Science learning is linked to the unit of inquiry and students engage in inquiries which allow them to use scientific knowledge and develop research and thinking skills. In year 6, students explore the following scientific topics: science and technology (unit 2), ecosystems (unit 4) and human development (unit 6).

Social Studies

Throughout primary years at ISB, students learn about the following social studies strands: social organization and culture, continuity and change throughout time, human and natural environments, resources and the environment

Social studies learning is linked to the unit of inquiry and students engage in inquiries which allow them to develop an understanding of the world through globally significant themes. Using a variety of sources, students learn to ask compelling questions, are encouraged to share ideas and take action. In year 6, students explore the following social studies topics: migration (unit 1), business and economics (unit 3), as well as a global issue of personal interest (unit 5).

Mathematics

Students are given the opportunity to see themselves as mathematicians, as they explore the following mathematical strands: data handling, measurement, shape and space, pattern and function and number.

When learning mathematics students take part in activities that allow them to understand mathematical concepts, transfer this meaning into symbols and apply independently with understanding.

When constructing meaning about mathematical concepts students may...

- explore their own personal experiences, understandings and knowledge

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- reflect upon interactions with objects and ideas
- interact with manipulatives/tangible materials
- engage in conversations with others

When transferring meaning into symbols students may...

- use symbolic notation: pictures, diagrams, modelling with concrete objects, math symbols (e.g. +, -, x, :, %)
- describe their own method using symbolic notation
- transfer into equations

When applying with understanding students may...

- engage in authentic activities (hands-on, problem solving, realistic situations)
- select their own method and explain their thinking
- justify answers and the processes by which they arrive at solutions
- make and evaluate their own and each other's idea

Students will be introduced to the learning objectives below during year 5. In year 6, students review and consolidate these skills and understandings with the expectation that most year 6 students are able to apply all of the objectives by the end of the school year.

	Data Handling	Measurement	Shape and Space	Pattern and Function	Number
<i>When constructing meaning learners:</i>	<p>Understand that different types of graphs have special purposes</p> <p>Understand that the mode, median, mean and range can summarize a set of data</p>	<p>Understand procedures for finding area, perimeter and volume</p> <p>Understand the relationship between area and perimeter and volume, and between volume and capacity</p>	<p>Understand the common language used to describe shapes</p> <p>Understand the properties of regular and irregular polyhedra</p> <p>Understand the properties of circles</p>	<p>Understand that patterns can be generalized by a rule</p> <p>Understand exponents as repeated multiplication</p> <p>Understand the inverse relationship between exponents and roots</p>	<p>Model numbers to millions or beyond</p> <p>Model ratios</p> <p>Model integers in appropriate contexts</p> <p>Model improper fractions and mixed numbers</p>

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	<p>Understand that probability can be expressed in scale ()-1) or percent (0% - 100%)</p> <p>Understand the difference between experimental and theoretical probability</p>	<p>Understand unit conversions within measurement systems (metric or customary)</p>	<p>Understand how scale (ratios) is used to enlarge and reduce shapes</p> <p>Understand systems for describing position and direction</p> <p>Understand that 2D representations of 3D objects can be used to visualize and solve problems</p> <p>Understand that geometric ideas and relationships can be used to solve problems in other areas of mathematics and in real life</p>	<p>Understand that patterns can be represented, analyzed and generalized using tables, graphs, words and when possible, symbolic rules.</p>	<p>Simplify fractions using manipulatives</p> <p>Model decimal fractions to thousandths of beyond</p> <p>Model percentages</p> <p>Understand the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages</p>
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<p><i>When transferring meaning into symbols learners:</i></p>	<p>Collect, display and interpret data in circle graphs (pie charts) and line graphs</p> <p>Identify, describe and explain the range, mode, median and mean in a set of data</p> <p>Set up a spreadsheet using simple formulas to manipulate data and to create graphs</p> <p>Express probabilities using scale (0-1) or per cent (0% - 100%)</p>	<p>Develop and describe formulas for finding area, perimeter and volume</p> <p>Use decimal and fraction notation in measurement, for example, 3.2 cm, 1.47 kg, 11/2 miles</p> <p>Read and interpret scales on a range of measuring instruments</p> <p>Measure and construct angles in degrees using a protractor</p> <p>Carry out simple unit conversions within a system of measurement (metric or customary)</p>	<p>Analyze, describe, classify and visualize 2D (including circles, triangles and quadrilaterals) and 3D shapes, using geometric vocabulary</p> <p>Describe lines and angles using geometric vocabulary</p> <p>Identify and use scale (ratios) to enlarge and reduce shapes</p> <p>Identify and use the language and notation of bearing (compass) to describe direction and position</p> <p>Create and model how a 2D net converts into a 3D shape and vice versa</p> <p>Explore the use of geometric ideas and relationships to solve problems in other areas of mathematics.</p>	<p>Represent the rule of a pattern by using a function</p> <p>Analyze pattern and function using words, tables and graphs, and, when possible symbolic rules</p>	<p>Read, write, compare and order whole numbers up to millions or beyond</p> <p>Read and write ratios</p> <p>Read and write integers in appropriate contexts</p> <p>Read and write exponents and square roots</p> <p>Convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa</p> <p>Simplify fractions in mental and written form</p> <p>Read, write, compare and order decimal fractions to thousandths or beyond</p> <p>Read, write, compare and order decimal fractions to thousandths or beyond</p> <p>Read, write, compare and order percentages</p> <p>Convert between fractions, decimals and percentages</p>
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<p><i>When applying with understanding learners:</i></p>	<p>Design a survey and systematically collect, record, organize and display data in a bar graph, circle graph, line graph</p> <p>Identify, describe and explain the range, mode, median and mean in a set of data</p> <p>Create and manipulate an electronic database for their own purposes</p> <p>Determine the theoretical probability of an event and explain why it might differ from experimental probability</p>	<p>Select and use appropriate units of measurement and tools to solve problems in real-life situations</p> <p>Determine and justify the level of accuracy required to solve real-life problems involving measurement</p> <p>Use decimal and fractional notation in measurement, for example, 3.2 cm, 1.47kg, 1 1/2 miles</p> <p>Use timetables and schedules (12-hour and 24-hour clocks) in real-life situations</p> <p>Determine times worldwide</p>	<p>Understand that geometric ideas and relationships can be used to solve problems in other areas of mathematics and in real life</p> <p>Develop and describe formulas for finding area, perimeter and volume</p> <p>Use scale (ratios) to enlarge and reduce shapes</p> <p>Apply the language and notation of bearing to describe direction and position</p> <p>Use 2D representations of 3D objects to visualize and solve problems, for example using drawings or models</p>	<p>Select appropriate methods to analyze patterns and identify rules</p> <p>Use functions to solve problems</p> <p>Select and use an appropriate sequence of operations to solve word problems</p>	<p>Use whole numbers up to millions or beyond in real-life situations</p> <p>Use ratios and integers in real-life situations</p> <p>Convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa in real-life situations</p> <p>Simplify fractions in computation answers</p> <p>Use fractions, decimals and percentages interchangeably in real-life situations</p> <p>Select an efficient method for solving a problem: mental estimation, mental computation, written algorithms, a calculator</p> <p>Use strategies to evaluate the reasonableness of answers</p> <p>Use mental and written strategies for solving fraction and decimal problems in real-life situations</p> <p>Make estimations in real-life situations involving fractions, decimals and percentages.</p>
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English Language

English language learning includes the following strands: speaking and listening, viewing and presenting, reading and writing. Students participate in a wide range of activities using a variety of resources. English language learning occurs throughout the school day in all subjects, as well as during specific English language lessons.

Students begin learning the objectives below during year 6 with the expectation that most year 6 students are applying each skill by the end of the school year.

Listening & Speaking	Viewing & presenting	Reading	Writing
<p><i>Learners:</i></p> <p>participate appropriately as listener and speaker, in discussions, conversations, debates and group presentations</p> <p>generate, develop and modify ideas and opinions through discussion</p> <p>listen and respond appropriately to instructions, questions and explanations</p> <p>infer meanings, draw conclusions and make judgments about oral presentations</p> <p>argue persuasively and defend a point of view</p> <p>use an increasing vocabulary and more complex sentence structures with a high level of specificity</p>	<p><i>Learners:</i></p> <p>view and critically analyse a range of visual texts, communicating understanding through oral, written and visual methods</p> <p>identify factors that influence personal reactions to visual texts with the intention of influencing the way people think and feel</p> <p>analyse and interpret the ways in which visual effects are used to establish context</p> <p>Identify elements and techniques that make advertisements, logos, and symbols effective and draw on this knowledge to create their own visual effects</p> <p>show how body language, for example, facial expression, gesture and movement, posture and orientation, eye contact and touch, can</p>	<p><i>Learners:</i></p> <p>read a wide range of texts with increased confidence, independence and understanding</p> <p>work in cooperative groups to locate and select texts appropriate to purpose and audience</p> <p>participate in class, group or individual author studies, gaining an in-depth understanding of the work and style of a particular author and appreciating what it means to be an author</p> <p>identify genre (including fantasy, biography, science fiction, realistic fiction) and explain elements and literary forms that are associated with different genres</p> <p>appreciate structural and stylistic differences between fiction and non-fiction; begin to show</p>	<p><i>Learners:</i></p> <p>write independently and with confidence, demonstrating a personal voice as a writer</p> <p>write independently and with confidence, showing the development of their own voice and style</p> <p>write using a range of text types in order to communicate effectively, for example, narrative, instructional, persuasive</p> <p>adapt writing according to the audience and demonstrate the ability to engage and sustain the interest of the reader</p> <p>use appropriate paragraphing to organize ideas</p> <p>use a range of vocabulary and relevant supporting details to convey</p>

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<p>show open-minded attitudes when listening to other points of view</p> <p>paraphrase and summarize when communicating orally</p> <p>understand and use figurative language such as simile, personification and metaphor</p> <p>use oral language to formulate and communicate possibilities and theories</p> <p>use standard grammatical structures competently in appropriate situations</p> <p>use register, tone, voice level and intonation to enhance meaning</p> <p>appreciate that people speak and respond according to personal and cultural perspectives</p> <p>use speech responsibly to inform, entertain and influence others</p> <p>reflect on communication to monitor and assess their own learning.</p>	<p>be used to achieve effects and influence meaning</p> <p>knowledge of presentation techniques in original and innovative ways; explain their own ideas for achieving desired effects</p> <p>examine and analyse text and illustrations in reference material, including online text, explaining how visual and written information work together to reinforce each other and make meaning more explicit</p> <p>navigate the internet in response to verbal and visual prompts with confidence and familiarity; use ICT to prepare their own presentations</p> <p>use appropriate terminology to identify a range of visual effects/formats and critically analyse their effectiveness, for example, mood, media, juxtaposition, proportion</p> <p>analyse the selection and composition of visual presentations; select examples to explain how they achieve a particular impact, for example, dominant images and use of colour</p> <p>identify the intended audience and purpose of a visual presentation; identify overt and subliminal messages</p> <p>reflect on ways in which understanding the intention of a visual message can influence personal responses.</p>	<p>understanding of this distinction when structuring their own writing</p> <p>appreciate authors' use of language and interpret meaning beyond the literal</p> <p>understand that authors use words and literary devices to evoke mental images</p> <p>recognize and understand figurative language, for example, similes, metaphors, idioms</p> <p>make inferences and be able to justify them</p> <p>identify and describe elements of a story plot, setting, characters, theme - and explain how they contribute to its effectiveness</p> <p>compare and contrast the plots of two different but similar novels, commenting on effectiveness and impact</p> <p>distinguish between fact and opinion, and reach their own conclusions about what represents valid information</p> <p>use a range of strategies to solve comprehension problems and deepen their understanding of text (reference reading behaviors)</p> <p>consistently and confidently use a range of resources to find information and support their inquiries</p>	<p>meaning and create atmosphere and mood</p> <p>use planning, drafting, editing and reviewing processes independently and with increasing competence</p> <p>critique the writing of peers sensitively; offer constructive suggestions</p> <p>vary sentence structure and length</p> <p>demonstrate an increasing understanding of how grammar works</p> <p>use standard spelling for most words and use appropriate resources to check spelling</p> <p>use a dictionary, thesaurus, spellchecker confidently and effectively to check accuracy, broaden vocabulary and enrich their writing</p> <p>choose to publish written work in handwritten form or in digital format independently</p> <p>use written language as a means of reflecting on their own learning</p> <p>recognize and use figurative language to enhance writing, for example, similes, metaphors, idioms, alliteration</p> <p>identify and describe elements of a story—setting, plot, character, theme</p> <p>locate, organize, synthesize and present written information obtained from a variety of valid sources</p>
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		<p>participate in collaborative learning, considering multiple perspectives and working with peers to co-construct new understanding</p> <p>use the internet responsibly and knowledgeably, appreciating its uses and limitations</p> <p>locate, organize and synthesize information from a variety of sources including the library/media centre, the internet, and people in the community</p>	<p>use a range of tools and techniques to produce written work that is attractively and effectively presented.</p>
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Czech Language

Native Czech speakers will follow and study Czech language according to the expectations of the Czech Ministry of Education. The Czech teacher makes attempts to connect learning to the units of inquiry. During year 6, students participate in developing their writing skills, work on their ability to understand adequate written and oral instructions, and use various methods to build up their grammar skills (focusing on nouns, adjectives, pronouns and verbs). More details for the year 6 curriculum is available in the [Czech curriculum programme](#) of our partner school.

Czech Studies

Non-native Czech speakers have the opportunity to develop their understanding and appreciation of the people and culture of Czech Republic by studying its language and traditions. Students learn Czech language through activities linked to real life situations.

The Czech Studies teacher makes attempts to connect learning to the units of inquiry. During year 6, students will learn vocabulary and grammar related to school, celebrations and the human body. They will discuss their own experiences living as an expat in Czech Republic, research the famous science fiction author Karel Čapek and practice ordering and purchasing goods in Czech language.

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The Arts

Students learn to respond and create different forms of art: visual arts, music, dance and drama. Subject specialists teach visual arts and music once a week. Students engage in activities connected to the unit of inquiry as well as subject specific art lessons which allow students to explore concepts and techniques. Dance and drama is often integrated into visual arts and music lessons.

During year 6, students will learn to sing and play music in unison by creating their own class band, explore how migration has influenced music and learn songs and rhythmical movements related to topics and concepts in the units of inquiry. Students will be exposed to a variety of visual art forms and learn different techniques for creating their own works of art. They will further explore concepts from their units of inquiry by researching migrant artists and exploring the process and techniques for creating money.

Personal Social Physical Education (PSPE)

At ISB, we value the development of personal, social, and physical well-being. All teachers share responsibility for this. Class teachers dedicate time during the school day, often during circle time, to help students develop and understanding of their own identities and discover ways to foster and sustain positive interactions. The class teacher chooses activities which are developmentally appropriate and specific to strengthening the class and local community.

Physical education (PE) is taught once a week for two class periods. During PE students develop an understanding of the factors that contribute to developing a healthy lifestyle. Throughout year 6, students engage in physical activities including athletics, indoor and outdoor games, dance and gymnastics. Additionally, students visit an outside venue to learn ice skating and swimming as part of our PE program.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT learning is led by all teachers throughout the curriculum and responsible digital citizenship is emphasized when using ICT tools. ISB students are taught to use ICT as a tool for communication, creativity and collaboration.

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How can I stay informed/learn more about the curriculum?

There are several opportunities throughout the school year that will help build an understanding of the curriculum and the way in which we teach at ISB.

Coffee Hours are held once a month for parents and teachers to participate in workshops which focus on understanding one part of the curriculum. These workshops are organized and often lead by the PYP coordinator.

SeeSaw is an online portfolio where teachers post everything from pictures of daily learning experiences, homework, rubrics and assignments. You can download the SeeSaw App and stay informed about your child's learning at school.

Summative shares are an opportunity for students to share the final outcome of their learning after a unit of inquiry with the school community. These will occur at least two times during the school year.

Conferences provide an opportunity for teachers, parents and students to communicate about the learning process and identify next steps. Conferences will occur at least three times during the school year.

Classroom involvement is always welcome at ISB. We value parents as active members of the learning community and encourage parents to get involved as much as possible. With our open door policy, you are always welcome to visit the classroom. In addition, the classroom teacher will be in touch about volunteer opportunities, for instance, as a helper during trips, a guest speaker, or a surprise reader.

To learn more about the PYP curriculum you can reference the PYP page of the IB website: www.ibo.org or contact the PYP coordinator: jennifer.berry@isob.cz