



International Community School
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Elementary School Profile 2011-2012

The International Community School of Addis Ababa is an independent, coeducational school with an American-based curriculum. ICS Addis offers an educational program from early childhood through grade 12, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The school, located on a 15-acre campus, was founded in 1964 and currently serves 740 students representing 66 nationalities: 415 in the elementary, 151 in the middle school and 174 in the high school. The school serves children whose parents are employed in business, embassies, NGOs and multinational organizations.

ICS School Mission

The International Community School of Addis Ababa, accredited in the United States, develops the talents and intellects of a multicultural student body using learner-centered, holistic instructional methods, empowering each student to contribute in an evolving world.

ICS Faculty

The faculty consists of 82 professionally certified teachers from 14 countries: USA, UK, Canada, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Ethiopia, Philippines, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, South Africa and Spain. Eighty-two percent of our faculty have advanced degrees.

ICS Student Body: Country Diversity by Passport

Australia	1	Egypt	2	Japan	8	New Zealand	3	Tanzania	4
Austria	3	Ethiopia	66	Kenya	15	Nigeria	7	Tonga	1
Bangladesh	3	Fiji	3	Korea	1	Norway	3	Turkey	3
Belgium	5	Finland	8	Kuwait	5	Philippines	6	Uganda	11
Bosnia & Herz.	1	France	13	Lesotho	6	Rwanda	6	Ukraine	1
Botswana	4	Gambia	4	Libya	3	Sierra Leone	1	UK	51
Cameroon	3	Georgia	1	Lithuania	2	Somalia	3	USA	265
Canada	34	Germany	20	Malaysia	2	South Africa	22	Yemen	2
China	2	Ghana	3	Mali	4	South Korea	2	Zambia	2
Colombia	1	India	30	Mauritius	1	Spain	4	Zimbabwe	8
Congo	1	Ireland	3	Moldova	2	Sri Lanka	5		
Czech Republic	1	Israel	2	Mozambique	3	Sudan	5		
Denmark	3	Italy	6	Namibia	9	Sweden	9		
Dominican Rep.	2	Jamaica	1	Netherlands	26	Switzerland	3		
							<i>Total</i>	<i>740</i>	

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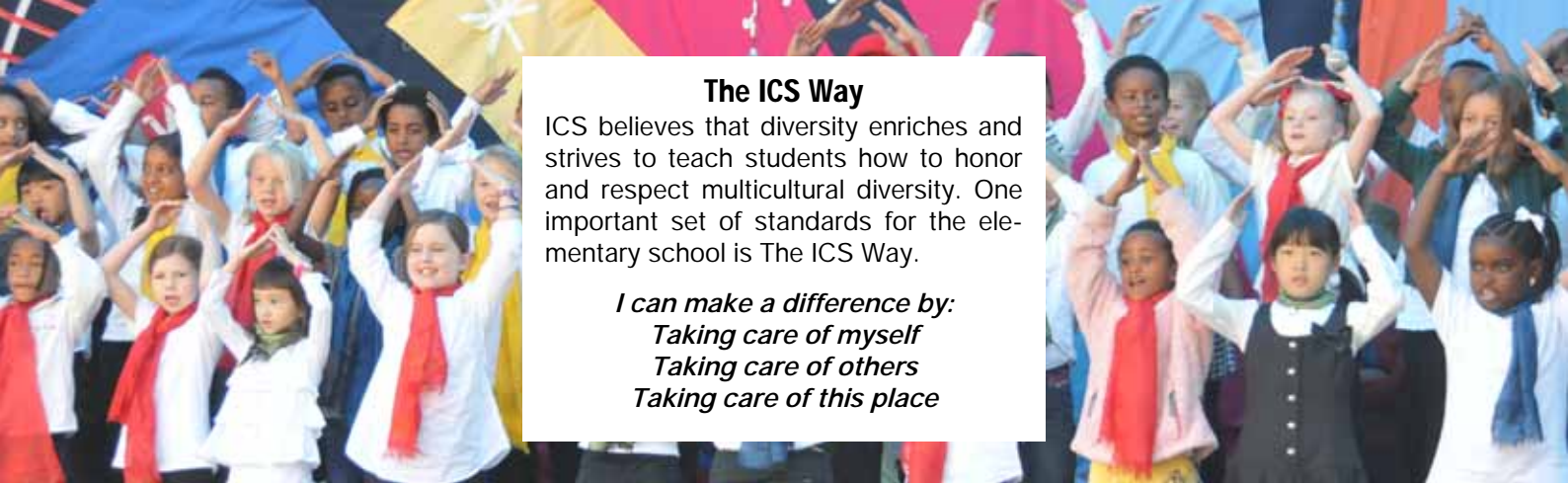
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ICS is an IB World School and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools



The ICS Way

ICS believes that diversity enriches and strives to teach students how to honor and respect multicultural diversity. One important set of standards for the elementary school is The ICS Way.

- I can make a difference by:*
- Taking care of myself*
- Taking care of others*
- Taking care of this place*

Admissions

The International Community School of Addis Ababa accepts students who can be successful in the regular academic program. ICS Addis does not discriminate on the basis of religion, ethnic or national origin or gender in its admissions and educational policies. Admission is based on the following criteria:

- *the potential of the applicant to benefit from the educational services available*
- *the capacity of the school to meet the educational needs of the applicant, including English as an Additional Language and learning support needs*
- *the ability of the school to meet the behavioral or emotional needs of the applicant*

Grade Placement:

ICS Addis groups children according to their developmental levels. Children entering the early childhood or kindergarten programs are placed based on age; no exceptions are made. Grade placement for grades 1 to 5 is determined by ICS based on age. Secondary factors that can affect placement are previous educational system and calendar, academic success within the previous system and any additional assessments required by ICS. Placement of children with birthdays in the summer months leading up to the August 31 cut-off is also considered on a case-by-case basis. ICS will not enroll students who are more than one year older or younger than the expected age for the grade in which they should be placed academically.

Communication

Communication between home and school is essential. All parents receive the weekly ICS newsletter, the *Yezare Samint*, via email. Many teachers communicate with parents via email and maintain websites with class information.

Teachers send home regular newsletters explaining classroom activities and notifying parents about ways they can support the children at home. The school provides "briefcases" for students in early childhood to grade 2 and "daily agendas" for students in grades 2 to 5. Parents are encouraged to check the briefcase and/or agenda of their child daily for valuable communication from the teacher. In the younger grades, teachers often use a communication book for teachers and parents to write questions, observations and comments.

Student-parent-teacher conferences are held in October and *student-led* conferences in June. Parents may request an appointment with the teacher at any time they wish.

School Calendar & Daily Schedule

The ICS elementary school employs a three trimester system. Classes run from mid-August to mid-June and include 182 student days.

School Day:

The school campus opens and students begin to arrive at 7:30 AM. Class begins for all students at 8:00 AM. Early childhood students attend school from 8:00 AM to 12 noon. Students in kindergarten finish at 2:50 PM. Students in grades 1 to 5 finish at 3:20 PM. All students in elementary have an early dismissal on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM.

All elementary students must be collected by 3:30 PM unless they are in a supervised after-school activity. Students in after-school activities must be collected by 4:30 PM. After 4:30 PM the campus is closed to elementary students, unless they are accompanied by a parent.

Responsible Students:

Developing responsible student behavior begins as soon as a child enters school whether s/he is 3 years old or 10 years old. One of the important behaviors for being successful in school is respecting time schedules and expectations. Tardiness and extended absences may teach your child that respecting expectations set by the school is not important. Please support your child in coming to school on a regular basis and in arriving at the expected time. Plan your holidays respecting the school calendar. Assessments and celebrations are often scheduled before a holiday break. Students who leave early miss these important events.





Elementary School Program: Ages 5–10

ICS offers a full day instructional program for students in kindergarten through grade 5. Classes are small and taught in English. Non-English-speaking children will find the environment accommodating.

The elementary curriculum is based on high educational standards and built upon internationally accepted best educational practices. The elementary core curriculum includes reading, writing, math, social studies and science. The use of technology is integrated throughout the curriculum.

Reading and Writing Curriculum

Literacy skills are taught using the *Reading/Writing Workshop* approach from Teachers College, which focuses on explicit instruction in reading and writing strategies as well as individual conferences. This approach integrates the best educational practices as determined from a 20-year study of the results of educational research.

Mathematics Curriculum

The ICS mathematics curriculum follows the *Everyday Mathematics* program developed by the University of Chicago, which integrates the most effective international instructional approaches as identified in The International Math and Science Study (TIMSS).

Science

ICS Addis employs a hands-on approach to science that uses the FOSS (Full Option Science System) science program. The FOSS instructional approach reflects current research on learning (i.e., collaborative learning, student discourse, and embedded assessment) correlated to the National Science Education Standards in the United States.. The goal of our science program is to increase scientific literacy across all grade levels, while exposing students to age-appropriate content and inquiry skills that will support future learning.

Specialist Classes

Students in kindergarten to grade 5 participate in art, music, library, computer and physical education specials, as part of the regular school day. Grades 1-5 also attend French class as a special. Early childhood students have specials in their regular classrooms. Grade 5 students participate in Beginning Band as part of their music specials program.

Social Studies/Host Country and Field Experiences

Our curriculum integrates the host country, Ethiopia, into a variety of activities and curricular areas. Field experiences related to the social studies curriculum and economics, basic Amharic, class presentations and host country programs are integrated into the curriculum.

In kindergarten to grade 2, students focus on families and communities, while grades 3 to 5 increase their focus to Ethiopia and Africa. Throughout the year, teachers plan field experiences for students to apply their learning outside the classroom. Some of these field experiences may be walking trips close to or on the ICS campus to apply the science process skills of observing recording and analyzing data. Grades 4 and 5 take overnight trips within Ethiopia. Parent permission is required for participation. Transportation is provided by school vehicles equipped with seat belts. Supervision of the school-sponsored field experiences is organized by the teachers.

Early Childhood Program: Ages 3–4

ICS Addis offers two separate half-day programs for children who have turned 3 on or before August 31 (EC3) and students who have turned 4 on or before August 31 (EC4). Students in early childhood must be toilet-trained.

The early childhood program is based on standards reflecting international best practices, including the High Scope curriculum. The standards are designed to develop socialization skills, problem solving skills, a positive self-image, large and small muscle coordination and cognitive/academic creativity. Children explore early literacy and numeracy concepts through play and small group learning. The atmosphere is friendly and warm in classrooms that are large, appealing, and equipped with materials appropriate for young children, including sinks and self-contained toilets. The early childhood outdoor play area is shared with kindergarten classes.



Student Support

ICS Addis is on the forefront of progressive education in international schools in Africa. The ICS administration and faculty support and encourage the education of all children, including those with varying disabilities, linguistic diversities and varied learning styles. We aim to provide the best quality inclusive education in Africa. ICS is fortunate to have a wide array of support available to students and parents.

ICS teachers assess a student's skills and adjust instruction for optimal learning to occur. Classroom teachers work with the Student Support Team to help meet each child's needs. The Student Support Team includes Learning Specialists, an English as an Additional Language (EAL) Specialist, a Speech & Language Specialist, a Reading Specialist, a Counselor, and consultants when possible.

Support is offered for students who have not yet learned the basic skills according to grade level standards. The Student Support Team works within classrooms, with small groups of students or with individuals on a specific skill or task. The Elementary Counselor works with whole classes and with individuals or small groups to develop and practice conflict resolution skills.

Some students require additional assistance throughout the day to ensure their success within the regular classrooms. These one-to-one assistants are paid for by individual families and support the children with their academic subjects, social skills, and/or provide positive behavior support.

An individualized classroom has been implemented this year in the elementary. This is a non-graded classroom for children with cognitive delays. The children work to increase their skills as outlined in their educational goals. These children are included with other children on the playground and in specials classes such as art, music and physical education.

Activities

Children in grades 1 through 5 are eligible to sign up for after-school activities (from 3:30–4:30 PM) during each of the three seasons. Activities may include sports, art, music, dance and game clubs.

Lunchtime intramural activities are scheduled for students in grades 3 through 5. Other activities in which elementary students may participate include elementary assemblies, art exhibitions, after school arts and crafts, drama productions, track and field day, International Day, music programs and various events and athletics activities.

Assessments & Progress Reports

Parents receive a written report card assessing the child's progress toward curricular standards at the end of each trimester, from kindergarten through grade 5. Assessments are standards-based and not based upon averages or class rankings. If a student is meeting end-of-year expectations, s/he receives a 3. Students who are developing skills and progressing as expected toward achieving the standard receive a 2. If a student receives a 1 in a given area, this indicates they are at a beginning level with respect to the standard.

Students must attend twenty school days in a trimester before they will be assessed on the report cards. If students are absent for extended periods of time, teachers may not be able to assess their performance, especially if they miss essential classroom assessments or activities.

Externally evaluated achievement tests are administered annually for students in grades 3 through 5. The International School Assessments (ISA) is used to compare ICS students' achievement in reading, mathematics and writing with students around the world. In addition, students' performance in reading, mathematics and writing is formally assessed at least twice a year using internally developed assessments.

