

English Language Learner (ELL) Programme

The English Language Learner (ELL) programme is designed to provide students with the skills reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking skills in order to become confident learners of English both academically and socially.

Primary

Primary ELL students in Grades 2-5 work in a small group with the Primary ELL Teacher both in the classroom or in a withdrawal class. The type of support that is provided will vary depending upon student needs.

When deemed necessary, students in Grade 1 are tested and receive support with an ELL specialist during language learning. At the end of the school year, an evaluation is completed to decide if the Grade 1 students will continue in the regular academic programme or enter into the ELL programme. There is no additional fee for ELL in Grade 1.

Secondary

Secondary ELL students in Grades 6-10 who join the school lacking the basic English working level, are asked to join our ELL program where they are taught by a qualified English Language Acquisition teacher. Students work in small groups on the basics of the English Language. The support takes place either as pull-out or push-in when the teacher supports ELL students in class while other subjects are taught. Students enrolled in the ELL programme may not study other foreign languages during the time they are in the program.

Our specialist ELL teachers confer regularly with classroom or subject teachers and with parents to discuss student progress. ELL teachers work collaboratively with classroom teachers to ensure that the individual needs of students are met. During the first weeks of school, students are tested using an internationally recognised assessment tool, and following this testing, benchmarks are set which define grade level goals.

ELL students from Grades 2 are charged an additional tuition fee to cover the cost of this ELL additional support.

Mother-Tongue Language

Students who study Language Acquisition: English will be required to study Mother-Tongue Language and Literature. Mother-Tongue Language and Literature comes as an additional cost to parents depending on the programme decided. Options could include: students may bring work to school from their language tutor and work independently on their mother tongue language. Other families may find an online course that is the most suitable option for them. Parents may choose to engage an outside teacher to teach a student their mother tongue during the school day. IST is able to provide space for these lessons to take place.

However, where there is more than one student enrolled in the same Mother-Tongue Language and Literature course of study, the cost of that class is shared by the families of those students. If five or more students from the same grade are enrolled in the same Mother-Tongue Language and Literature course, IST will bear that cost. IST financially supports the mother tongue language in Italian.