



Welcome to Kindergarten! 2021-22

REV. 2/27/2021





Welcome from the Head of School

Welcome to Kindergarten! While I realize next year seems far away, I assure you that it will be here before we know it! As your student prepares to complete their year in Pre-K, I want to share with you some of the exciting things that await them in Kindergarten.

The IB curriculum is dedicated to cultivating the skills of observation and inquiry in all students. I find that our sweet Kindergarten students are so good at this -- their open-mindedness and curiosity truly find fertile ground with the depth of the Kindergarten curriculum. I am most certainly biased, but I love our Kindergarten curriculum and am excited to share it with you.

As always, I am here if you have questions. Thank you for your dedication to IST and welcome to Kindergarten!

-- Tim Reilly, IST Head of School

what we learn

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English

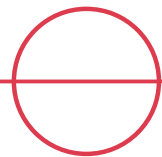
At IST, our Kindergarten students will embark on their lifelong journey as readers, thinkers, and communicators, and this journey informs our objectives for their study of English. Our teachers work with our students on the fundamentals of spoken language, written language, reading, and reading comprehension. But, this journey for our students also involves so much more!

Over the course of the year, our students learn to speak with confidence to their teachers and peers, discuss and share their ideas both verbally and in writing, and to discover the power of the written word as they learn to read. From phonics to fairy tales, our Kindergarten students will be prepared to progress to Grade 1 with reading and communication skills that have been honed with care.

English



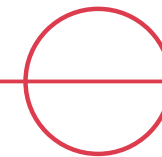
Spoken Language Objectives



Students will be able to:

- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- Use relevant strategies to build vocabulary
- Articulate and justify answers, arguments, and opinions
- Give well-structured descriptions and explanations
- Maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- Use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesizing, imagining, and exploring ideas
- Speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, and debates
- Gain, maintain, and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- Consider and evaluate different viewpoints
- Select and use appropriate registers for effective communication

Word Reading Objectives



- Apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words
- Respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all 40+ phonemes, including, where applicable, alternative sounds for graphemes
- Read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs that have been taught
- Read words containing taught GPCs and -s, -es, -ing, -ed, -er, and -est endings
- Read other words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs
- Read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound where these occur in the word
- Read books aloud, accurately, that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words
- Reread books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading

English



Reading Comprehension Objectives

Develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary, and understanding by:

- Listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories, and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which students can read independently
- Participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say
- Being encouraged to link what they read or hear to their own experiences
- Becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy stories, and traditional tales, retelling them, and considering their particular characteristics
- Recognizing and joining in with predictable phrases
- Learning to appreciate rhymes and poems, and to recite some by heart
- Discussing word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known

Understand both the books they can already read accurately and fluently and those they listen to by:

- Drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher
- Checking that the text makes sense to them as they read and correcting inaccurate reading
- Discussing the significance of the title and events
- Making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done
- Predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far
- Participate in discussion about books, poems, and other works that are read to them and those that they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say
- Explaining clearly their understanding of what is read to them

English



Writing & Transcription Objectives

Students will be taught to spell:

- The days of the week
- Learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including a few common homophones
- Learning to spell common exception words

Students will learn the alphabet:

- Naming the letters of the alphabet in order
- Using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound

Students will add prefixes and suffixes:

- Using the spelling rule for adding -s or -es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs

Students will learn to handwrite:

- Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- Form capital letters and digits 0-9

Writing, Composition Objectives

Students will progress in writing composition by:

- Writing sentences by saying out loud what they are going to write about
- Composing sentences orally before writing
- Writing sentences by sequencing sentences to form short narratives
- Discussing what they have written with the teacher and other students

Students will progress with vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation by:

- Leaving spaces between words
- Joining words and clauses using "and"
- Using capital letters for people, places, days of the week, and "I"
- Learning the grammar and grammatical terminology set forth by the teachers



Math

At IST, our Kindergarten students dive into math with enthusiasm! The objectives of our curriculum are both foundational and nuanced -- because as our students learn the foundational elements of math, from numbers and place value to addition and subtraction, they will also learn key concepts to inform their view of the world.

By learning about currency, time, and measurement, our Kindergarten students engage with their world in a meaningful way, using numbers and numerical concepts as yet another lens with which to experience their world.

Math



Number & Place Value Objectives

Students will:

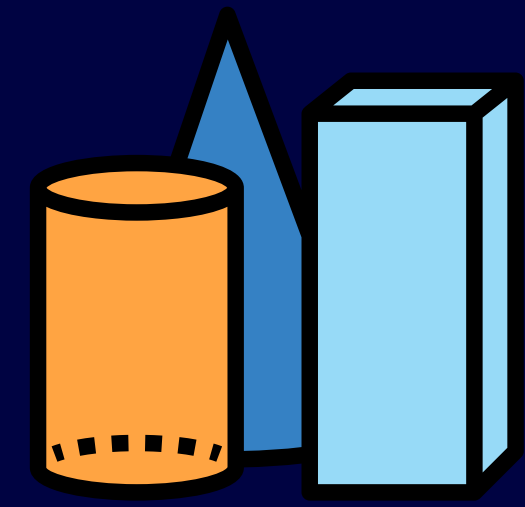
- Count to and across 100, forward and backward, beginning with 0 and 1, or from any given number
- Count, read, and write numbers to 100 in numerals; count in multiples of 2, 5, and 10
- Given a number, identify 1 more and 1 less
- Identify and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations, including the number line. Use the language of: equal to, more than, less than, most, least
- Read and write numbers from 1 to 20 in numerals and words
- Use place value and number facts to solve problems

Addition & Subtraction Objectives

Students will:

- Read, write, and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-), and equal (=) signs
- Represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20
- Solve one-step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems such as $7 = ? - 9$
- Add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, including 0

Math



Measurement Objectives

Compare, describe, and solve practical problems for:

- lengths and heights [for example, long/short, longer/shorter, tall/short, double/half]
- mass/weight [for example, heavy/light, heavier than, lighter than]
- capacity and volume [for example, full/empty, half full, quarter full]
- time [for example, quicker, slower, earlier, later]

Measure and begin to record:

- lengths and heights
- mass and weight
- capacity and volume
- time (hours, minutes, seconds)

Other Objectives

- Recognize and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes
- Sequence events in chronological order using language [for example, before and after, next, first, today, yesterday]
- Recognize and use language relating to dates, including days of the week, weeks, months, and years
- Tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times

Geometry and Properties of Shapes

- Recognize and name common 2-D shapes [for example, rectangles, squares, circles, and triangles]
- Recognize and name common 3-D shapes [for example, cuboids, pyramids, and spheres]



Science

At IST, we believe that every student is a scientist -- and we can't wait for them to get started! In Kindergarten, our budding scientists will develop their observational skills by using their senses to gather and record information, and they will use their observations to identify patterns, make predictions, and refine their ideas. They will explore the way objects and phenomena function, identify parts of a system, and gain an understanding of cause and effect relationships.

Students will examine change over varying time periods and will recognize that more than one variable may affect change. They will be aware of different perspectives and ways of organizing the world, and they will show care and respect for themselves, other living things, and the environment. Students will communicate their ideas or provide explanations using their own scientific experience. We can't wait to see what our Kindergarten scientists learn and discover!

Science



Science Strands

- **Living Things**
- **Earth and Space**
- **Materials and Matter**
- **Forces and Energy**

Science Skills & Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Observe carefully in order to gather data
- Use a variety of instruments and tools to measure data accurately
- Use scientific vocabulary to explain their observations and experiences
- Identify or generate a question or problem to be explored
- Plan and carry out systemic investigations, manipulating variables as necessary
- Make and test predictions
- Interpret and evaluate data gathered in order to draw conclusions

STEM & IT



STEM Concepts & Objectives

Students will learn by exploring:

- Patterns in Pixel Art & Legos
- Melting & Freezing
- Programming BeeBots & Lego WeDo 2.0
- Classifying Animals (build your own animal and try to animate with WeDo 2.0)
- Windmills and introduction in basic forces
- Life Cycles & Scientific Observation

Information Technology Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the parts of a computer
- Turn a computer on and off
- Open computer programs
- Identify the differences between using a touchscreen, trackpad, and mouse
- Begin typing by learning the home row keys

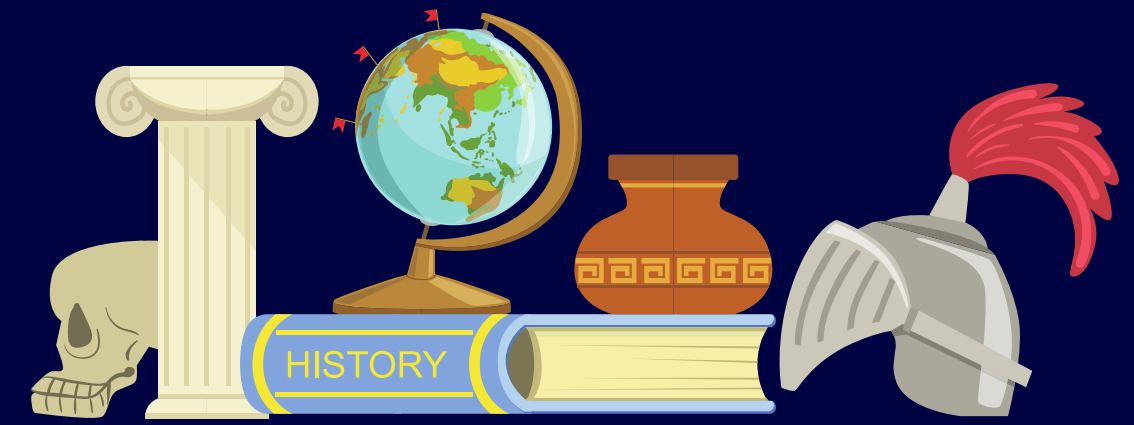


Social Studies

Children are natural explorers, and nowhere is this more apparent than in our social studies units and activities. At IST, Kindergarten students will increase their understanding of their world, focusing on themselves, their friends and families, and their environment. They will appreciate the reasons why people belong to groups, the roles they fulfill, and the different ways that people interact within groups. They will recognize connections within and between systems by which people organize themselves.

They will broaden their sense of place and the reasons why particular places are important to people, as well as how and why people's activities influence, and are influenced by, places in their environment. Students will start to develop an understanding of their relationship to their environment. They will gain a greater sense of time, recognizing important events in their own lives, and how time and change affect people. They will become increasingly aware of how advances in technology affect individuals and the environment.

Social Studies



Social Studies Strands

- **Social organization and culture**
- **Continuity and change through time**
- **Human and natural environments**
- **Resources and the environment**

Social Studies Skills

Students will be able to:

- Formulate and ask questions about the past, the future, places, and society
- Use and analyze evidence from a variety of historical, geographical, and societal sources
- Orientate in relation to place and time
- Identify roles, rights, and responsibilities in society



Art

Art stimulates young imaginations, challenges perceptions, and develops creative and analytical skills. Fostering the skills in the arts encourages students to make connections in the real world. The Art curriculum in IST Kindergarten seeks to inform our students' unlimited creativity by introducing them to the tools, techniques, forms, and history of art.

In keeping with this goal, our objectives in the exploration of Art are for students to:

- use a range of materials creatively to design or make products
- use drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences, and imagination
- develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using color, pattern, texture, line, shape, form, and space; and
- learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers, and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.



Language Acquisition

One of the cornerstones of an IB education is meaningful language acquisition. In order to truly prepare our students to be caring citizens of the world, we empower them with language acquisition. Children are intrinsically linguists -- their curious and nimble minds are eager to absorb new languages!

As such, IST continues to teach our Kindergarteners the Spanish language and also begins their study of Mandarin. Time and time again, our Kindergarten students tell us that they love their language classes, and it is a source of great joy to watch our students learn to love speaking languages in addition to their native tongue.

Spanish



Language Acquisition Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Listen in small or large groups to sentences, questions, and vocabulary
- Listen attentively and respond actively to read-aloud situations
- Memorize and join in with poems, rhymes, and songs
- Participate in short read-alouds and join in the refrains
- Follow classroom instructions, showing understanding by responding with gestures and words
- Listen to and enjoy stories read aloud, showing understanding by responding in oral, copied, or visual form
- Can repeat using the model- pronoun and a verb (yo soy, yo tengo, yo voy, yo veo)
- Can repeat and show action to demonstrate understanding of the language
- Interact with one another using simple questions and responses

Mandarin



Language Acquisition Objectives

Promoting multilingualism and intercultural understanding is central to IST's mission. Our Kindergarten students will begin to explore Chinese culture, celebrations, and traditions, as well as begin to explore vocabulary for a variety of concepts. We use songs as a teaching tool in Mandarin to help students with their tonal development in a fun way.

Students will learn vocabulary related to:

- Greetings, introducing themselves, family members, parts of the body
- Numbers, colors, food & drink
- Mid-Autumn Festival, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chinese New Year
- Farm animals, insects, ocean animals, nature
- Toys, hobbies & activities



Physical Education

At IST, we believe that healthy bodies and healthy minds are of paramount importance. In Kindergarten, we work with students on the fundamentals of physical fitness, active habits, teamwork, and communication, and conflict resolution.

Students enjoy learning the basics of soccer, lacrosse, basketball, kickball, track and field, tennis, frisbee, and disc golf. They learn the fundamentals of running, throwing, and catching to discover the incredible mechanics of their bodies. We also dive into how to form teams, communicate on teams, and resolve the conflicts that can arise in competitive sports and group activities. We believe that as our children learn to expand their minds, they are also learning mastery of their bodies and we want to instill in them a love of activity and health that will benefit them for years to come.

Physical Education



Physical Education and Sports

Students will learn about:

- How activity affects our bodies
- Soccer fundamentals
- Track and field
- Basketball fundamentals
- Tennis fundamentals
- Kickball basics
- Introduction to lacrosse
- Frisbee and disc golf
- Invasion-style games
- Offensive and defensive strategies
- Throwing and catching with a scoop

Communication and Teamwork Objectives

Students will learn about:

- Safety and expressing ourselves in the right way
- Playing games that build our teamwork and sportsmanship
- Organization and communication on a team
- Conflict resolution
- Creativity in athletics
- Staying active all summer



Music

Music is intrinsic to the development of creative skills, non-verbal expression, and aesthetic appreciation. At IST, we believe that music enables students to communicate in powerful ways that go beyond spoken language. Through music, students can begin to construct an understanding of their environment, to recognize patterns and structure, and to develop their cultural awareness.

And, did we mention that it's fun?

Music



Music Objectives

Students will engage in:

- Music and movement
- Reading solfege syllables using Curwin hand signs
- Reading rhythm patterns
- Singing solfege pitch names Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, Do on the xylophone
- Playing simple lullabies on the xylophone
- Reading music notation
- Identifying a quarter note, beamed eighth note, and quarter rest.

Students will engage in:

- Singing in high, medium, and low voices
- Finding a steady beat in music
- Playing percussion instruments in time and tempo
- Completing an instrument family tree
- Identifying and appreciating multicultural music



Social & Emotional Learning

One of the most important things that any school can foster in its students is a healthy foundation of social and emotional learning. At IST, we prioritize the mental and emotional well-being of our students, knowing that it is a great honor and responsibility to cultivate their bodies, hearts, and minds.

To that end, IST teachers at all grade levels strive to help our students develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success.

We also engage with our students to show them how to use social awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships. These goals go hand in hand with the IB Learner Attributes and imbue our students with poise and self-awareness that we believe will benefit them for years to come.

Scholastic Guided Reading Program



Program Objectives

Our Scholastic Guided Reading Program supports a comprehensive reading program by integrating small-group instruction, assessment, and independent practice into our classroom to foster independent learners. We get to tailor our instruction to meet a variety of interests while building the comprehension skills and confidence students need to read independently.

At the beginning of the school year, each child sits one-on-one with their teacher and reads from a benchmark book (one considered standard for the grade). Children may also be asked to answer questions about the text or retell the story. Their teacher may use a Reading Record to calculate any oral reading mistakes and to help determine a suitable guided reading level and books for your child. Under GRL, books run from A to Z, with A being easiest. Throughout the year, your child's teacher will gradually move your child step by step into more difficult text, providing guided instruction along the way. At home, you can support the reading in the classroom by providing books at the appropriate level for your child to read independently.

Here are great books for different Guided Reading Levels:

- **A-C: Bob Books Set 1: Beginning Readers**
- **D-E: A Diaper David Board Books Collection**
- **F-K: Fly Guy Pack (Books 1-14)**
- **L-M: Branches Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe Pack (Books 1-4)**
- **M-O: Branches Kung Pow Chicken Pack (Books 1-4)**
- **P-S: Dog Man: The Supa Epic Collection (Books 1-6)**
- **P-U: American Girl Series Starter Bundle (Pack of 5)**
- **V-W: Harry Potter Illustrated Collection (Pack of 4)**

Can parents participate? Absolutely! You are key team players on your child's journey to reading. Continue to read to them every day and expose them to the language of books. Have them read to you. If they make a mistake, simply tell them the correct word and let them move on. This increases enjoyment and fluency. To increase comprehension, talk about the story after you've read it.

we can't wait to get started!

Kindergarten at IST is a special grade,
filled with curious questions, exciting
adventures, creative stories and tales,
and a deepening awareness of what it
means to learn, to grow, and to be a
Trailblazer. We look forward to this
journey with your student!

-- **Mrs. Garza and Mrs. Gale**



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