

The International School of Luxembourg

The International School of Luxembourg is filled to capacity, having opened its doors on the 30th of August with a record enrollment of 730 students, an 8% increase over the closing figure at the end of June. The Ministry of Education has supported the construction of six new classrooms, slated for completion in mid-September 2006. Despite the additional space, nearly all of the fifteen age levels (Pre-school through Grade 12) represented in the school are full and a waiting list of some 40 names continues to grow.

A number of confluent factors have contributed to this trend, which is now a few years old and shows no signs of subsiding. International school communities are often quite transient by nature. It is not unusual to enroll large numbers of new applicants at the beginning of the school year, with spaces for new students becoming available due to departing families. What has changed at ISL is that far fewer families are leaving the school, creating a need for additional classes.

ISL Director Clayton Lewis explains that in addition, it also seems that more and more families in Luxembourg, expatriates as well as local residents, desire to enroll their children in an English language program. "While the majority of our students come from expatriate families, about a third of them from the USA and the UK, Luxembourg and its neighbors Belgium, France and Germany, account for almost 20% of our total enrollment."

In addition to the construction of the new classrooms, the ISL Board of Governors has responded to the increased enrollment by adding new staff positions to accommodate the higher numbers. The Board has also regulated the number of students assigned in most classes, thus insuring the integrity of the educational program.

The school's mission is "to provide a challenging internationally accepted education in an environment designed to stimulate learning and to encourage full social and personal development." Lewis explains: "As an international school, ISL is not tied to formal comparisons with any national system. However, the school recognizes the need to formally benchmark its program against other schools using widely accepted standards. ISL has adopted the International Schools' Assessment program, developed by the Australian Council of International Schools and based on the internationally endorsed reading, writing and mathematical frameworks of the OCED's broadly accepted PISA standards."

The International School offers a standard high school diploma as well as the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) which is recognized and respected by universities the world over. Analysis of the school's IB results reveals a positive trend, both in the number of candidates attempting and receiving the diploma as well as in the strength of their scores. IB Coordinator Peter Jenks also reports that "for the first time in ISL's history, and much to our delight, one of this year's students earned the maximum possible score of 45 points!"

Mainstream by 2008," explains Tony Jones, Assistant Principal in charge of Curriculum and Instruction.

The future looks bright as ISL responds to the needs of its diverse student body and explores possibilities for future expansion in order to accommodate the increasing demand for international style English language education in Luxembourg. The Board of Governors is continuing to develop a long-term vision and strategic plan in consultation with those who have a stake in the school's future: families,

Graduates 2006



staff, employers, community leaders, and the Luxembourg government.

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