



## GIBS School Profile

### Bilingual Teaching and Languages

GIBS is a bilingual (German-English) secondary school for students aged 10 to 18. The language of instruction is English in the form of “flexible monolingualism”. The first three months of Year 1 take the form of an intensive phase of language acquisition after which the students have reached a level of language competence which enables them to participate in lessons conducted in the target language. Following the intensive phase, linguistic support for other subjects is provided in English classes by native English-speaking Co-teachers. In Year 3 students can choose between French and Spanish as a second modern language. In Year 7 History is taught in French/Spanish/English.

In addition to this wide range of foreign languages, we offer our international students extensive course programs in the mornings and afternoons at the GER<sup>1</sup> levels A1 - C1 (assessment according to § 18/12 SCHUG).

### Pilot Projects

GIBS is currently running the following pilot projects:

- Further choice of Latin, Spanish, French or Russian starting in Year 5
- Course system in Years 6 – 8
- IBDP in Years 7 – 8

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<sup>1</sup> Gemeinsamer Europäischer Referenzrahmen für Sprachen

## Course System

Beginning in the school year 1999/2000, we have been offering the New Learning Structures Program (Course System) at GIBS for Years 6-8. While staying true to the principle of an all-rounded education, which is fundamental to the Austrian school system, the Course System allows students more scope for in-depth study in areas of special interest. Instead of a conventional general course of studies, students take obligatory **core courses** and select **elective courses**, giving them the opportunity to focus on what might be relevant for their future academic and professional careers. Students are advised by tutors on their choice of courses.



## International Baccalaureate (Diploma Programme IBDP)

GIBS is committed to the maxim of learning for life in an international context. Students in Years 7-8 now have the option of taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), the philosophy of which is very much in keeping with GIBS' guiding principles. As the only school in Styria offering the IBDP, GIBS is making a valuable contribution to the spectrum of educational options available in Styria.

The IBDP is an internationally-recognized qualification conducted in the English language. Students are required to take a range of subjects from six different subject groups as well as the three IB core topics: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (similar to the Austrian "Vorwissenschaftliche Arbeit") and Community, Action, Service (CAS).

Home students who take the IBDP have the advantage of an international qualification in addition to their Austrian school-leaving qualification ("Matura"). The IBDP is, however, particularly attractive for international students who have come to the Austrian school system too late to reach the level of German required to pass the standardized Austrian school-leaving examinations. For example, students who move to Graz at the age of 15 or 16 now have the option of taking the IBDP in English, thus acquiring a school-leaving qualification that is accepted for university entrance worldwide.

Today it is more important than ever before for Styria and the city of Graz as international centres of business and industry to be able to offer newcomers to the area the opportunity to take the IBDP. GIBS is proud to be the school that after three years of intensive preparation, was officially declared an IB World School on 6th May, 2017.

## **Natural Sciences, Music and Arts**

In our refurbished school building in Eggenberg we have attractive, well-equipped facilities for the Science, Music, Arts and Crafts departments, providing excellent conditions for a dynamic teaching and learning environment. Since 2018 we are happy to offer an additional science lab at GIBS.

## **Physical Education**

In addition to our own full-size gym, we have easy access to excellent public facilities nearby, specifically the AUSTER swimming pool and the ASKÖ sports complex.

## **Trips Abroad**

Language trips abroad take place in Years 5, 6 and 7. Our aim is to establish links with schools in countries where English, French, Spanish, or Russian are spoken and to maintain long-term exchange partnerships. If it ever proves impossible to organize a home-to-home exchange, a trip abroad with instruction at a language school and accommodation with host families is offered.

## **Teaching Methods**

At GIBS we use a wide range of teaching methods. In accordance with the Austrian national curriculum, projects and cross-curricular teaching feature largely; further methods include workshops, portfolios and response journals. Methods are discussed, ideas are shared, and new or young members of staff receive support from more experienced colleagues.

## **Career Guidance**

Career advice is integrated in teaching in Years 3 and 4, in particular in German, Religion, English and Geography classes. In the upper school there are elective courses dealing with the working and professional world which can help students decide on their future careers. These courses offer practical work experience in line with students' personal interests. Group and individual activities help students to become aware of and foster their individual skills and talents.

## Key Skills

The acquisition of key skills such as teamwork competency, time management, conflict-solving strategies, presentation techniques and use of new media is practised at all levels but is given special emphasis in such courses as Public Speaking, Academic Writing, Presentation Techniques and Computing and Business.

## Optional Classes

These are extra afternoon classes, mainly for lower school students. The following classes are currently on offer:

- Choir/Typing/Drama/Debate Club/Soccer/Basketball etc.

## After-School Care and Education (ACE)

After-School Care and Education is available daily until 4:25 pm. Members of the GIBS team offer individual support in Maths and languages, homework supervision as well as a variety of activities in the yard or the gym. The Augustinum provides us with healthy, organic and regional food with one vegetarian option every day.

## Publications and Events

### Yearbook

All activities, achievements and important events and occasions are recorded in the GIBS Yearbook. The editorial team is a group of teachers who collect interesting contributions from students, parents, staff and friends of GIBS in the course of the year.

### Homepage

All current information about GIBS can be found on our homepage: [www.gibs.at](http://www.gibs.at)