



Bishkek International School - Middle School Profile

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CEEB Code: 666002
IB Code: 049262
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VISION AND MISSION

- BIS' Vision is to be the best international school in Central Asia providing inspirational education in a happy environment for globally minded students who are the leaders of the future.
 - Our Mission is to enable our students to:
 - Develop their intellectual curiosity and achieve their academic, sporting and creative potential;
 - Be confident in their abilities and respectful of others;
 - Learn about local and global issues and prepare to tackle common challenges.
- In a school which:
- Delivers and celebrates excellent teaching for internationally accredited education;
 - Values diversity and inclusivity;
 - Promotes the well-being of the whole school community;
 - Contributes positively to the development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

- Bishkek International School (BIS) is a liberal secular non-profit community school, founded in 2010 and opened in September 2011.
- Current enrolment is 265 students, with a Middle School comprising around 60 students.
- BIS employs 60 full-time and part-time teachers. This provides the learning community with over 5-1 student-teacher ratio.
- BIS' student body includes representatives of over 30 nationalities, with 45% Kyrgyz Citizens and 55% from countries worldwide.
- There are 33 different mother tongue languages amongst our school's student body, with English as the main language of communication in the school.
- Students are offered 7 language choices across the entire school, with French and Russian offered K-12, and options for Spanish, German, Mandarin, Japanese, and Kyrgyz languages in certain grades and levels.

- Purpose built, secure, campus, with 3 fully equipped Science laboratories, drama hall, indoor sports court, Computer laboratory, 12,000+ book library, outdoor football field and basketball court, wi-fi accessible campus, common areas, etc.

CURRICULUM AND ACCREDITATION

- BIS is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on International Education (CIE).
- BIS' middle school is inclusive, diverse and internationally minded and fully authorized to offer IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). All students are full participants in the MYP.
- The MYP consists of 8 subject groups, some of which are subdivided into different strands. These subject groups are:
 - Mathematics
 - Sciences
 - Individuals and Societies
 - Language and Literature (English is offered to all students; Russian is also offered to student with a high level of proficiency in Russian)
 - Language Acquisition (languages currently offered are Russian, French, Mandarin, English and Spanish at varying levels)
 - Arts (divided into Art, Music and Drama)
 - Design
 - Physical and Health Education
- In addition, the school offers Host Country Studies (mandatory) and Kyrgyz language (optional) classes to prepare students for state exams in the future. These lessons do not follow the MYP model.
- The inquiry-based nature of the MYP is central to enabling students to develop their intellectual curiosity and make interdisciplinary connections. Students have multiple opportunities both in and outside of the curriculum to participate in sport and the arts, including as part of the Extra-Curricular Activities programme.
- The MYP curriculum is designed by teachers according to the framework provided by the IB. Teaching is divided into units structured around concepts, Global Contexts, skills,



content and inquiry. The curriculum for each subject is summarized in a 'Subject Group Overview' document.

- Learning through Global Contexts enables students to explore topics through a global lens and understand the real-life applications of their knowledge and skills.
- Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills, which are embedded in planning and teaching, focus on the 'how' of learning. Skills are taught explicitly, improved with practice and developed incrementally to give students the tools they need to become independent, collaborative and reflective lifelong learners
- All MYP students engage in service learning in the community through the Service as Action programme. In the third year of the programme, students are required to complete a substantial 'Community Project', which culminates in a presentation and reflection on their work.
- Students in MYP represent a diverse range of nationalities and cultures, which are celebrated in lessons, visually throughout the school and as part of whole-school cultural events.

ASSESSMENT

- Summative tasks use prescribed criteria, strands and grade descriptors published by the IB to assess and grade students. Teachers assess students against each prescribed strand at least twice each academic year.
- Criteria and strands are graded on a scale of 0-8, with 8 being the maximum possible grade awarded. Overall student grades are awarded on a 0-7 scale, using conversion rates prescribed by the IB.
- There is no external assessment of the MYP curriculum at BIS. Students in the Middle School complete International Schools Assessment (ISA) tests twice a year in Mathematics and English. The results of these tests are used for school benchmarking and curriculum review.

ADMISSIONS AGE REQUIREMENTS

- MYP 1 – Age by 1 September: 11 years
- MYP 2 – Age by 1 September: 12 years
- MYP 3 – Age by 1 September: 13 years

Enrolment over the last 3 years (2015-2018)

- Middle School as of Jan. 1, 2016 - 22 students
- Middle School as of Jan. 1, 2017 - 29 students
- Middle School as of Jan. 1, 2018 - 50 students
- Middle School as of Oct. 1, 2018 - 56 students

STUDENT BODY

The Middle School student body is multicultural and diverse, with a wide range of nationalities and mother tongues represented among 56 students.

- Female: 59%; Male: 41%
- 21 local students, 35 international students
- Number of nationalities: 18

CLASS SIZE

A maximum of 20 students in a class group, with the last 2 spaces (19, 20) being reserved for children who have siblings joining the school. Common enrolment stops at 18 children. Other children join a waiting list and are offered places when they are free.

- The current breakdown of class sizes in the 2018/19 academic year is as follows (these numbers fluctuate throughout the year):
 - MYP1 – 19 students
 - MYP2 – 19 students
 - MYP3 – 18 students
- Students are taught in these groups for most subjects, but are divided into two ability groups for English Language and Literature and are divided into language acquisition groups according to the language chosen and language proficiency.

FACULTY

- As reflected in the diversity of the student body, our teachers also represent many different cultures and nationalities.
- Middle School teachers come from the Kyrgyz Republic, Australia, USA, South Africa, France, UK, South Korea, Spain, Japan and Canada.
- There are 25 full-time and part-time teaching staff in the Middle School. This creates a student/faculty ratio of 2.2:1 in the middle school.

SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Students in the Middle School are able to participate in sports as extra-curricular activities (ECAs), as well as join school sports teams. Junior Varsity sports are offered to both male and female teams in Soccer, Basketball, Cross Country, and Volleyball.
- BIS is a member of both the Central Asia Federation of Activities, Athletics and Art and Bishkek International Schools Association. As members of these organization, our sports teams enjoy national and international tournaments and competition.
- Middle School students participate in a number of educational visits a year, including at least one residential trip for every year group.
- Students are encouraged to participate in daily ECAs which cover a wide range of interests; these include Anniversary Show (theatre), dance, debate, art, badminton, coding club, guitar, jazz band, woodwork, story writing, chess, video-making and rock climbing.