



Communication

The home-school connection is of vital importance to a student's success. Parents are welcome to contact their child's teachers or the elementary office at any time to set up an appointment.

The following publications will provide parents with information about what is happening at ISK:

- The Link: A monthly school wide publication outlining all the major events on campus. Link Lite is also schoolwide and goes out weekly.
- ES Handbook: The handbook outlines all of the policies and procedures related to life in the elementary school (e.g. bus service, canteen service, behaviour expectations, absence policies, etc.)
- Curriculum OnLine: Access to curriculum documents is available on the ISK website (Homepage - Learning - Academics - Curriculum OnLine)
- Home-School agenda: Homework is written in the agenda and the student carries it back and forth to school. There is room for teacher and parent comments/notes.
- Grade 4 Blog: Important dates, birthdays and specific activities by subject are communicated through the whole grade level monthly blog

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ES Counselor:	Extension 191
Registrar:	Extension 323
Director of Teaching and learning:	Extension 322

International School of Kenya



Parent Guide
to the
ISK Curriculum

GRADE 4
“CHANGE”

International School of Kenya

ISK Mission:

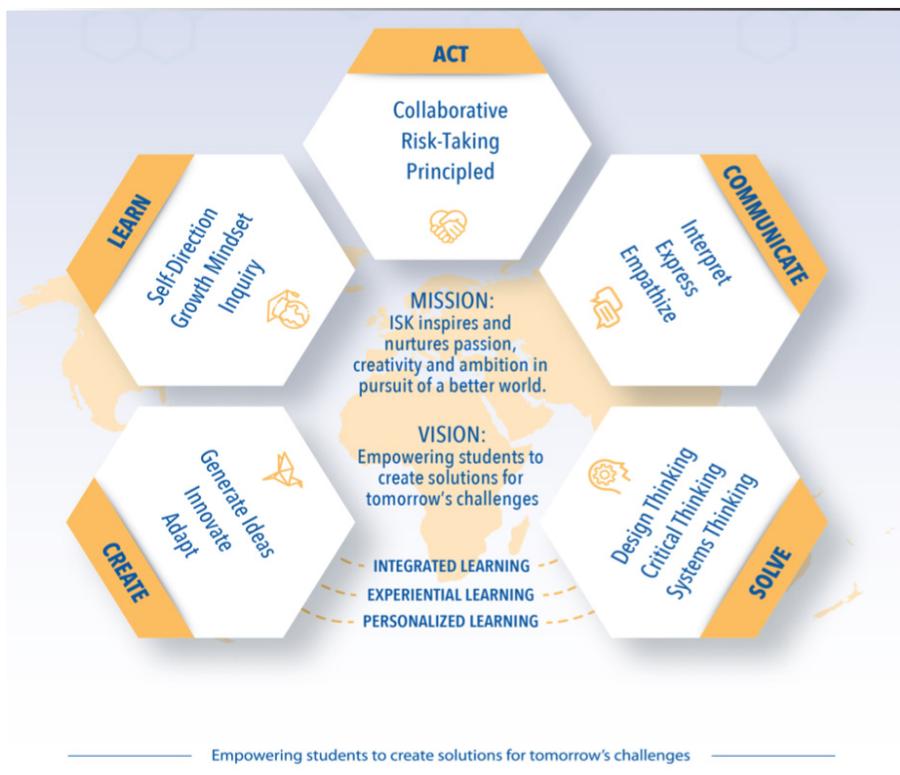
ISK inspires and nurtures passion, creativity and ambition in pursuit of a better world.

ISK Vision:

“Empowering students to create solutions for tomorrow’s challenges”

Educational AIMS:

We strive to develop globally minded students who actively learn, create, solve and engage in the world.



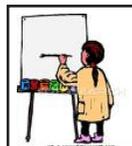
Special Classes



Modern Language Students attend either Spanish or French classes. The primary objective is to develop speaking and listening skills while building a lasting love for language learning. The classroom environment is culture-rich and the learning space allows for students to work collaboratively with each other and the teacher.



Physical Education PE classes focus on age appropriate activities, games, skills, and sports in order to enhance students' physical, social, and emotional development. Good sportsmanship, fair play, doing one's best, and respect for self and others are key components of the program. The swimming program focuses on comfort and safety in the water and stroke development. Students attend two classes of PE and one class of swimming each week. Students need: a PE uniform, sport shoes, hat, water bottle, swimsuit, towel, swim bag, and goggles.



Art The ES Art program focuses on four areas: art history and artists, art elements and principles, art production, art criticism. Disciplines include drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, printmaking, collage, crafts, design and mixed media. There are aprons provided for students to wear during art class. Students attend art class one double block per week.



Music The ES Music program provides students with many opportunities to become involved in music-making. In addition to two full concerts each year, the students have hands-on experience with playing Orff xylophones and percussion instruments throughout the year. Singing, creative movement, playing, listening, and learning how to play recorders are important components of music. Students attend music classes twice a week.



Technology Technology is regularly integrated into the curriculum as well as the learning process. Classroom teachers and the Tech Integration Facilitator plan ways to develop students' skills in using technology while also challenging their design thinking capacity and supporting their passions and creativity.



Library The goal in the library is to enable students to become lifelong readers and learners. In addition to choosing books, students practice research skills, listen to a variety of types of literature and learn to use a library effectively. Students attend library class once a week and need to bring a library bag, as well as their books, each time.



Guidance The ES counselor works with teachers, students and parents to address academic, social and behavioural needs of the students. The counselor works with individuals, small groups and entire classes. Guidance lessons take place twice per month for students of all grade levels.

Assessment in special classes based on individual grade level curricula. Students receive an effort and an achievement grade in these classes.

Language Arts



The Language Arts program challenges students to read, write, listen, and speak effectively in order to communicate with others. There is a strong literacy connection that is embedded in all areas of the curriculum. Students develop reading, writing, and communication skills within all areas of study. The Language Arts program at ISK focuses on a balanced approach to literacy, including:

- **Reading**
(guided reading, shared reading, read alouds, and independent reading)
- **Writing**
(genre-based writing instruction, writer's workshop, and author study)
- **Word Study**
(word structure, vocabulary, grammar, handwriting)
- **Listening and Speaking**

Assessment of student progress includes:

- School wide reading assessment (twice a year)
- Regular running records to assess reading growth
- School wide writing prompt (twice a year)
- Writing projects (based on grade level genre studies)
- Oral presentations

Features of the Grade 4 Language Arts program:

- **Guided reading groups:** Reading instruction based on individual student needs, focusing on reading strategies for fluency and comprehension.
- **Reading to Learn:** Students in grade 4 are applying their reading skills to learn independently in all areas, including science, social studies and math.
- **Writing Workshop:** Students work through the writing process to develop their writing skills in a variety of genres and forms.

Areas of Focus:

Genres of writing: Narrative, Persuasive and Research essays,
Poetry, Author study (Roald Dahl)

Traits of Good Writing:

- ideas
- organization
- voice
- sentence fluency
- word choice
- conventions

Writing Process

- planning
- first draft
- Revising
- Final Copy
- Editing

Mathematics



The focus in the primary grades is on building a strong mathematical foundation for all students. The ISK mathematics program requires students to persevere as they engage in rich, authentic tasks where they must reason, make sense of, and apply mathematical concepts.

The major **mathematical content strands** embedded in the program are:

- * *Numbers in the Base Ten System*
- * *Geometry*
- * *Numbers & Operations: Fractions*
- * *Measurement and Data*
- * *Operations & Algebraic Thinking*

Equally important are **the mathematical practices** that are part of every unit and lesson:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

The critical areas in grade four are:

- (1) fluently adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers using standard algorithm.
- (2) developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends;
- (3) developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers;
- (4) understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry.

Parent letters, online resources, and additional activities can be found on the 4th grade common Moodle page.

Assessment of student progress includes:

- Daily work, exit cards, thinking tasks
- Unit assessments

Social Studies and Science

Units in Social Studies and Science are designed to engage students' natural curiosity. Teachers begin by laying a foundation of knowledge, and then students' own interests and curiosity help guide the learning. Many units integrate both social studies and science concepts as well as library skills, art, music and technology. Units of inquiry in both Social Studies and Science foster students' ability to create their own learning and solutions. All units are centered around an "enduring understanding" or "big idea."



Social Studies units are designed to help children understand cultural diversity and their place in the global community. Units are centered around five general strands: *Social Organization, Culture and Heritage, Place and Environment, Time/Continuity and Change, and Resources and Economics*. Each grade level has a unit focusing on Kenya. The Intercultural Trip is linked to both social studies and science concepts.



Science is best learned when students are engaged in practicing science through investigations and hands-on experiments. Units are designed around the major strands: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth and Space, and Environmental Science.

Fourth Grade Enduring Understandings:

- Different maps exist for different purposes.
- Diverse and unique cultures make up one Kenya.
- The exchange of goods and services impacts the way a community operates.
- The surface of the earth continues to change.
- The structure of plants and animals helps them to survive in their environments.
- Energy is necessary for the change in matter. Energy can be stored, transferred or transformed but cannot be destroyed. Waves carry energy and more through matter.

Assessment in Social Studies and Science includes:

- Use of the ISK Research Process
- Projects
- Self-assessments
- Cooperative group work



Elementary School Curriculum Overview

ISK's Elementary School is dedicated to providing a challenging learning environment which is child-centered and well-balanced in order to develop the whole child. Our school is a center of inquiry, creativity and joyful learning.

The **curriculum** consists of core subjects (Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science) combined with a specialist program (Modern Language, PE, Art, Music, Technology Integration, Guidance and Library.) Students with limited English may be enrolled in the ELL (English Language for Learners) program, and students with learning needs may receive additional assistance from Learning Support (LS). Field trips are scheduled to coordinate with the curricular area being studied. Students in grades 3-5 also participate in an overnight intercultural trip in line with their units of study.

Assessment of student learning is a continuous process involving students, teachers and parents. Teachers and students work together to set learning goals. Teachers provide frequent, specific feedback in order to help students meet those goals.

Students in grades 3-5 will take the MAP Assessment (Measures of Academic Progress) in reading, mathematics and language usage in September and April.

Each child receives a **homework** agenda; grade level guidelines and expectations are clearly outlined.

Student progress is reported to parents regularly throughout the year. Semester reports are sent to parents and scheduled parent/teacher conferences take place in the first semester. Student-led conferences occur in the second semester and your child will share his/her progress towards the learning goals through their portfolios. Each component of assessment should be viewed as part of a whole, which provides comprehensive information about your child's academic progress, personal and social skills and work/study habits.

The **ES Co-Curricular** program features quarterly sessions of after school activities centered around creativity, culture, leadership and action(sport). The elementary school also features a growing **service learning program**. The aim of this program is to develop students who are confident and competent in contributing to and learning from their community. The program provides meaningful opportunities for students to cultivate both personal and community growth, while building recognition of human interdependence.

At ISK, parents join with caring, experienced professionals in forming a strong partnership that makes each child's learning – academic and social – the focus of everything that we do.