

Frequently Asked Questions - Children Living Inside Israel

Does WBAIS give priority enrollment and does it help to apply early or pay the deposit in advance?

The school's mission is to give preferential enrollment to U.S. government employees and families who have relocated to Israel for work and have no other schooling alternative for their children. Early application or payment of the application deposit does not provide a seat reservation. Due to limited space in some grade levels, it is possible that your child's application could be waitlisted. Read the Admissions Policy for further information.

My child has a learning disability. Would enrolling him/her at WBAIS be advisable?

Significant issues typically arise when children change their language of instruction if coupled with learning disabilities. To this end, the school may require a psycho-educational evaluation for all students considering transferring from local schools who will be changing their language of instruction.

Is there a special tuition fee schedule or discount for siblings or for families living in Israel?

The school has one fee schedule for all students and does not offer sibling discounts.

Is it common for an Israeli child to attend your school from elementary school through high school graduation?

There are very few students who have remained in the school from a young age all the way through graduation.

Do the students get a Bagrut diploma?

No Bagrut diploma is offered as part of the learning program; the curriculum is American and students graduate with a U.S. High School Diploma.

What percentage of WBAIS students are Israeli?

Approximately 10% of WBAIS students hold only an Israeli passport, and another approximately 10-15% hold an Israeli passport along with a passport of another country.

Does WBAIS celebrate the Israeli holidays?

WBAIS shares the culture of Israel for the international community to understand and appreciate the local language and customs. Local holidays are not part of the learning program at WBAIS.

How is the WBAIS school calendar different from the Israeli School Calendar?

The WBAIS calendar is very different from the Israeli school calendar ([click here to see WBAIS calendar](#)). The school week is Monday through Friday and the school day ends at 3:00 every day.

Can my child be accepted to WBAIS if he/she has studied all his/her learning years in Hebrew?

It depends upon the child's educational background and age. The high school at AIS is a college preparatory program that requires students to be able to meet high academic standards with a high degree of English proficiency. The high school does not accept students who are at the beginning level of English.

Do you provide religious education?

No, WBAIS is a secular school. There are some school events that occur on Friday night or Saturday, however, their attendance is optional.

Do you provide Hebrew instruction?

All courses are taught in English with the exception of Modern Language courses (Hebrew, Spanish, or French) beginning in grade three which typically take place two to three hours a week. Please be aware that your child is unlikely to achieve the same proficiency level in Hebrew that he/she would by studying in the Israeli system. This may have ramifications for your child's army service and continued education in an Israeli university. Also, please note that your child will not have the same army preparation as he/she would receive in the Israeli system.

If I apply am I guaranteed a space?

WBAIS often has limited space available in various grade levels, especially in the preschool and elementary school programs, and your child may be waitlisted. It is recommended to make sure your child has another educational option, in case he/she is not accepted to WBAIS.

Does WBAIS accept mid-year transfers?

It is strongly recommend that all children start at the beginning of the school year.

How is grade level placement determined?

The August 31 cutoff date is consistently adhered to for students entering Kindergarten and Grade 1, as this provides a good fit for the student both socially and emotionally. Appropriate age level placement supports a student's confidence in taking the necessary risks involved in learning and socially among peers. From Grades 2 and up, consideration is given to the student's age in relation to their completed grade level for proper grade level placement. In most cases, the student would advance to the next grade level; however, there are cases where placement without advancement may be offered, based on the results of the admission screening appointment.

Does my child need to know English fluently in order to apply?

Students who are new to English will be provided English language learning support (ELL) as one of their courses in elementary and middle school. High school students will need to have a certain level of academic English proficiency and must be able to participate in regular high school courses across subject areas in order to join WBAIS and succeed. By Grade 11, students should be able to take all courses in the mainstream program and will no longer be receiving ELL instruction. You are encouraged to contact WBAIS and inquire if a high school transfer is possible. Each application is carefully reviewed.

Can my child join a classroom for a few hours or half day to see if he/she would like to join WBAIS?

For insurance purposes and disturbance to classroom learning, WBAIS does not allow this request. The child is welcome to visit our campus for a tour.

What are the school hours and days of instruction?

The school hours are 8:00 to 15:00 Monday through Friday from Preschool to Grade 12. Review the school's calendar at calendar.wbais.net to view vacations and holidays.

Do you have programs or extended care after the school day ends at 15:00?

From 15:00 - 17:30 there is an array of after-school activities available for students. For Preschool students the school day ends at 15:00.

Does the school provide breakfast and lunch?

Breakfast and lunch is not included in the tuition cost. Students (including preschool) can purchase food in our cafeteria, which provides a wide variety of healthy meals, snacks, and vegetarian choices, or they can bring food from home. Only Preschool students are provided a healthy morning snack, which is included in the tuition cost (lunch not included).

Does the school have bus transportation?

Approximately 75% of our students use WBAIS bus transportation, which is provided at an additional cost. The location of the pick-up / drop-off is usually at a location very near your home address, but is not door-to-door service.

Where do most students live?

Most students live in the Herzliya area and suburbs of northern Tel Aviv.

What is the dress code?

The dress code is a school-issued T-shirt and appropriate pants, skirt or shorts. Students are provided 5 T-shirts, 2 sport uniforms, and a sweatshirt along with the tuition. Additional shirts can be purchase at a low cost from our store on-campus.

How many students are enrolled?

Approximately 600 students are enrolled from Preschool - Grade 12 (Preschool - 36; Elementary School - 240; Middle School - 140; High School - 200 students).

How much homework do students receive?

With the exception of Kindergarten, students will have homework at least 4 days of the week:

Grades 1 - 3: 30 minutes per night

Grades 4 - 5: 45 minutes

Grades 6 - 8: 1-2 hours per night

Grades 9 - 12: 2-3 hours per night

If an elementary student has currently been in a gifted program, what options does WBAIS have available for them?

WBAIS does not have a gifted program, however, content is presented through the Workshop Model and instruction is differentiated, providing opportunities for children who may excel beyond grade level standards in Mathematics and Literacy. In addition, there are many project-centered long-term assignments, whereby children have opportunities to work in partnerships and/or groups, to investigate and explore a problem/challenge, utilizing research and critical thinking skills.

What is the process for high school seniors when applying to college?

The college counselor works closely with every student and his/her family to assist them with the process of applying to university. Students learn about the process of applying to universities throughout Grades 11 and 12 during advisory meetings, individual meetings, visits from college representatives, and college informational meetings. Topics that are discussed as part of this process include: Conducting a College Search; What Colleges look for; College Admissions Testing; Financial Aid; Using Naviance Family Connection; Applying to the U.S., U.K., Canada, and Israel; Admissions Process Timetable; and How WBAIS students can stand out. WBAIS is a test center for the SAT and ACT

Can we meet with the school counselors, principals, and teachers when we visit the campus?

The school visit will be facilitated by the Registrar for general information and a tour. If there are questions that the Admissions Office cannot answer, the Registrar will seek out information from other administrators or staff members.

Does WBAIS have part-time students or online courses?

WBAIS does not admit part-time students or offer online/offsite courses.