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School Profile: International School of Los Angeles

5 Reasons You'll Love This School

Bilingual & Cultural Immersion

Diverse Curriculum Options

Unique STRETCH Electives



International School Los Angeles Lycée International

A Note From Our Head of School

It is my real pleasure to welcome you to the International School of Los Angeles — fondly known as LILA or le Lycée International de Los Angeles. Whether you are a longtime member of our community or discovering us for the first time, I'm so glad you're here.

From the moment you step onto one of our campuses, you'll feel something special in the air — a sense of joy, openness, curiosity and belonging. You might hear children switching seamlessly between French and English on the playground or see students collaborating across cultures and grade levels on a project that blends art, science and global awareness. This is LILA in action.

Our educational philosophy rests on three powerful pillars: immersive bilingualism, social-emotional learning and global citizenship.

Our bilingual French immersion program goes far beyond learning vocabulary and grammar — it's about living the language. From preschool up to 12th grade, students don't just study in French, they think, create and problem-solve in it. Whether they pursue the French Baccalauréat until they graduate or enter the International Baccalaureate in English, every LILA student benefits from a uniquely multilingual environment that mirrors the global world in which they are growing up, nurturing the lifeworthy competencies of cognitive flexibility, empathy, skilled communication and, ultimately, confidence.

Equally important is our commitment to social-emotional learning (SEL). Students learn best when they feel supported, valued and safe to take risks. SEL at LILA is not a separate program; it's woven into the very fabric of our classrooms. It's in the way teachers greet students each morning, the way peers collaborate respectfully and the way we celebrate both effort and achievement. Our goal is to nurture resilient, thoughtful young people who lead with kindness and integrity.

With 50 student nationalities in our student body, we are the only international school in Los Angeles. Our exceptional, internationally diverse faculty and staff work every day to challenge, inspire, and support our learners as they grow into global citizens who are curious, compassionate, and ready to make a difference. Far beyond graduation, LILA learners carry with them the lifelong benefits of a truly international education, a marvelous gift for life.

I invite you to explore our website, learn more about our programs and, more importantly, get a sense of the vibrant, multilingual community that defines LILA. I hope that as you discover who we are, you'll feel the same warmth, purpose, and joy that make this school so remarkable.



Warmly,



Dr. Conrad Hughes
Head of School

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Cover Photo Image by Doug Pilburn

5 Reasons Your Family Will Love Our School

1 Your child benefits from French rigor and American nurture

LILA balances high academic expectations with an encouraging environment, coupling structured, teacher-led guidance with personal care to bring out every child's full potential. Established in values of peace, caring and community, we nurture emotionally intelligent and resilient learners. Our graduates emerge poised, articulate and grounded — equipped with both high achievement and the confidence to navigate complex cultural settings anywhere on our planet, while maintaining a lifelong love of learning.

2 Your child learns how to think, not what to memorize

In the age of AI, success demands more than repeating information. Our approach remains rooted in a classical human tradition that values deep reasoning over quick output. Through LILA-specific initiatives like our 11th-grade Theory of Knowledge pilot, Architecture of Truth seminars, world affairs talks and our Mediascope media-literacy program, we teach students how and why to think — instilling deep research skills, nuanced debate and university-level milestones like the Extended Essay and la dissertation. Rather than resorting to total bans or unguided adoption, we model a balanced relationship with technology, training students to use digital tools as discerning, original thinkers who prioritize research integrity and human connection.

3 Your child is immersed in a global, diverse community

Whether your family speaks several languages or just one, LILA offers a genuinely diverse global community far richer than standard local options. Our students build authentic cultural fluency and empathy through multi-perspective history lessons — like analyzing World War II through both American and non-Western lenses — alongside transformative experiences like performing Shakespeare in French in 5th grade and navigating immersive global trips to France, Montreal and more. They learn firsthand that language and cultural perspective are doorways to understanding others and becoming socially adept.

> Along the way, students form lifelong friendships and join an active alumni community, giving them a supportive network of friends that spans the globe.

4 Highly trained teachers guide your child's way

Your child benefits from world-class educators who hold specialized credentials to teach either the French national curriculum or the International Baccalaureate. Our faculty act as strong, grounded mentors in the classroom. They maintain a balanced, teacher-led environment that combines structured discipline with dedicated individual attention. Across every grade and subject, our skilled teachers differentiate instruction to meet students where they are, providing the right balance of support and challenge to help each learner reach their full potential. In secondary school, that personalized approach extends to STRETCH electives, where students can pursue individual interests through specialized offerings such as Financial Literacy, Robotics, Advanced Math competitions and Film Scoring.

5 Your family gets a seamless educational experience

Your family gains a warm, welcoming environment where everyone finds their place, no matter what grade they join. From foundational early-years traditions like the cahier de vie to senior graduation, our continuous path provides a seamless journey. Along the way, students form lifelong friendships and join an active alumni community, giving them a supportive network of friends that spans the globe. Families choose LILA to give their children an extraordinary, lifelong foundation that opens doors to top-tier universities, rewarding careers and a variety of opportunities anywhere in the world.

Say Magnifique

Immersion in a multicultural environment is a cornerstone of the LILA experience, fostering not only academic excellence but also a deep understanding of cultural diversity and global interconnectedness.



The International School of Los Angeles, often referred to as LILA, was established in 1978 as a non-profit organization by a group of visionaries from diverse cultural backgrounds. These founders recognized a growing need in the Los Angeles community for a school that could prepare children for life in an increasingly interconnected and international environment. From its humble beginnings in a small house in Van Nuys with just seven students, LILA has grown into a distinguished institution, now recognized as one of the most academically challenging private high schools in the United States. This growth reflects the school's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and its mission of fostering globally minded citizens.

Today, LILA operates four campuses across the greater Los Angeles area, serving more than 1,000 students from preschool through 12th grade. Its three elementary campuses are located in Los Feliz, West Valley (Tarzana) and Pasadena, ensuring accessibility for families from various parts of the city. As students progress into their secondary education years, they converge at the Burbank campus, creating a unified sense of community and continuity that prepares them for the next stage of their academic journey.

At the heart of LILA's educational philosophy is its promise to prepare students for a future filled with possibilities and opportunities. The school achieves this by nurturing bilingual, critical thinkers equipped with one of the world's most prestigious academic credentials: either the French Baccalauréat or the International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme. This preschool-to-12th-grade bilingual education is delivered in an intimate, nurturing, and diverse environment, where students are encouraged to become caring global citizens who thrive in an ever-changing world.

Immersion in a multicultural environment is a cornerstone of the LILA experience, fostering not only academic excellence but also a deep understanding of cultural diversity and global interconnectedness. Through daily interactions with people from varied backgrounds, students develop an enhanced ability to appreciate their own culture and recognize both its uniqueness and its similarities to others. This global perspective is a defining characteristic of LILA graduates, setting them apart as empathetic and adaptable individuals ready to navigate a complex world.

The school's diversity is rooted in its French origins, American location and the multinational, multiethnic and multilingual makeup of its community members. At LILA, diversity is not just an aspect of the student body; it is a fundamental component of the school's mission and pedagogical approach. Bilingualism, one of the pillars of the LILA experience, is woven into the very fabric of the curriculum. Research consistently shows that bilingualism enhances cognitive flexibility, problem-solving abilities and creativity, all of which contribute to academic excellence. Moreover, LILA students gain firsthand experiece

At Our Core

- Academic Excellence
- Cultural Diversity
- Global Perspective
- Community & Collaboration

- Preschool-12th grade
- Small Class Size
- Four Campuses in L.A.
- Bilingual Immersion

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in navigating the complexities of identity as they toggle between languages and cultural frameworks, becoming adept at expressing themselves in different contexts.

The curriculum at LILA is carefully designed to balance academic rigor with cultural richness. The preschool and elementary programs are based on the French Ministry of Education's official curriculum but are adapted to the bicultural context of the school. This approach ensures that students benefit from the strengths of both the French and American educational systems while growing in a happy and nurturing environment. The goal is not only to impart knowledge but also to inspire a lifelong love of learning and curiosity about the world.

In addition to English and French, students begin studying Spanish as a third language starting in 6th grade. This multilingual foundation equips students with linguistic skills that are increasingly valuable in today's globalized economy. In 6th grade, students have the option to choose between two rigorous academic pathways: the French Baccalauréat track, which combines French and American coursework, or the International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme. The International Baccalaureate® is taught in English and requires no previous French. Both programs are designed to meet the needs of highly motivated students and prepare them for success in top universities worldwide. LILA's dual accreditation ensures that its graduates are equipped with credentials that open doors to opportunities across the globe.

LILA's impact extends far beyond academics. The school is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, artists, and changemakers. By fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration, LILA instills in its students the values of empathy, resilience, and responsibility. The



school's vibrant community reflects the rich tapestry of Los Angeles, embracing a multitude of languages, beliefs, and traditions. This diversity is celebrated through a variety of cultural events and programs, such as the French Holiday Bazaar, Fête à la Maison, and integrated school trips to destinations like France, Costa Rica and Greece. These experiences help students build meaningful connections and broaden their understanding of the world.

Student life at LILA is dynamic and enriching, offering a wide range of opportunities for personal growth and development. Small class sizes create a supportive environment where students receive individualized attention and are encouraged to excel academically and socially. Beyond the classroom, LILA offers a plethora of extracurricular activities, including clubs, athletics, and leadership opportunities. Whether it's joining a robotics team, participating in Model United Nations or competing in sports, students are empowered to explore their interests, develop new skills and take on leadership roles. These experiences not only enhance their education but also prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Unique Programs

Integrated school trips to destinations like France, Costa Rica and Greece.

Cultural events and programs, such as the French Holiday Bazaar, Fête à la Maison.

Option to choose between two rigorous academic pathways: The French Baccalauréat track, which combines French and American coursework, or the International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme.

A hallmark of the LILA experience is the school's commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and community among its students, families and staff. From the earliest years of preschool to the culminating experiences of high school, LILA emphasizes collaboration, communication and mutual respect. This strong sense of community is reinforced by the school's values of caring, respect and global citizenship, which are woven into every aspect of campus life.

As LILA continues to grow and evolve, it remains steadfast in its mission to provide a world-class education that prepares students for success in an increasingly interconnected world. The school's alumni, who go on to excel in fields ranging from business and technology to the arts and public service, are a testament to the power of a LILA education. They carry with them not only the academic skills and credentials needed to thrive but also the cultural awareness and global perspective that define true leaders and innovators.

The International School of Los Angeles stands as a beacon of academic excellence, cultural richness and global citizenship. From its origins in a small house in Van Nuys to its current status as one of the most respected private schools in the United States, LILA has remained true to its vision of preparing students for a future filled with possibilities.



By combining rigorous academics with a nurturing and diverse environment, LILA empowers its students to become bilingual, critical thinkers and caring global citizens ready to make a positive impact on the world. Whether through its innovative curriculum, vibrant student life or strong sense of community, LILA continues to shape the leaders, innovators and changemakers of tomorrow.

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