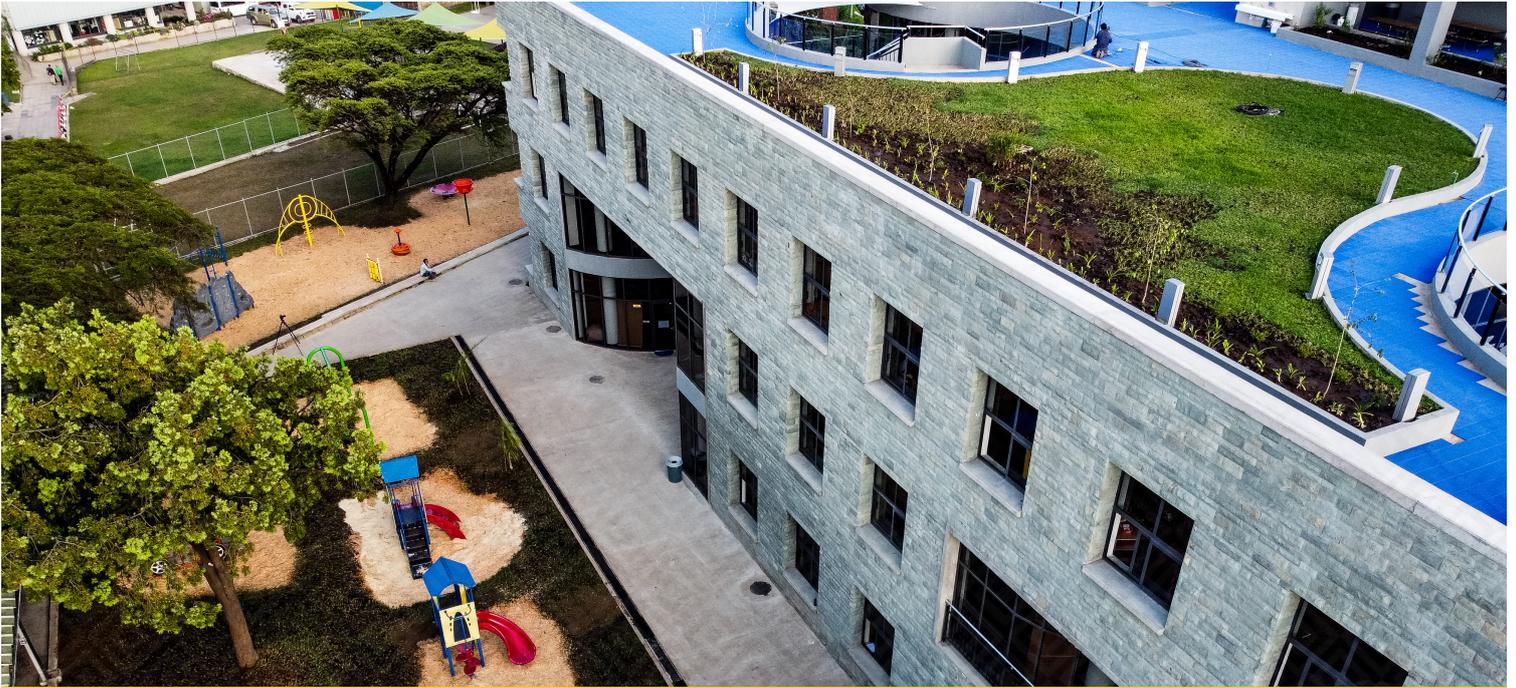


# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



This 2020-21 is the first year in our brand new, purpose built Elementary School building. The building, two years in construction, was designed to create the ideal environment for personalized learning. By creating flexible learning spaces that provide a wide variety of student learning environments; from quiet reading areas to areas for student collaboration and performance, students find themselves in a safe, comfortable and aesthetically pleasing environment when they arrive at school everyday.

Within the learning communities each grade is supported by a team of eight or more educators who work together to provide

students with the GUIDANCE they need to maximise their growth.

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment. A strong partnership between home and school is one of the most important components in ensuring the success of our students, and that has never been more important than this year after months of being isolated from one another.

We have passionate and committed faculty and staff at ICS who care about our students and are dedicated to their learning.

## WELCOME TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT ICS

The elementary school program at ICS Addis is built upon a strong commitment to student agency in learning. The school community works toward the development, facilitation, and practice of the ICS Learner Profile. Instructional pedagogy is based on inquiry and concept based teaching and learning.

Elementary school encompasses six years of schooling, from early years 5 (EY5) to grade 5. EY5 is the equivalent to an American kindergarten. At the end of elementary school, students move to middle school (grades 6-8).

Students in the learning communities are able to find or construct learning spaces that practically support their learning and the learning of their peers while at the same time creating a feeling of comfort, safety and beauty.

As a responsibly inclusive community school, ICS Addis values the contributions of each student to the learning environment. ICS is fortunate to have a wide array of support available to students, including English as an Additional Language and learning specialists, speech and language support and counseling, through a Response to Intervention (RTI) tiered support model.

# PHILOSOPHY

The ICS Addis elementary school is authorized as an IB Primary Years Program (PYP) school, integrating subject areas to support inquiry and learning in meaningful contexts. The transdisciplinary nature of the curriculum enables students to experience how subject knowledge and understanding work together in the real world towards sustainable action.

We promote the ICS Learner Profile Traits in all we do, so our elementary students are Thinkers, Inquirers, and Communicators, as well as Balanced and Knowledgeable learners. The ICS Learner Profile Traits are more than just words to us. They are embedded in our mission, vision, and in our day to day interactions and REFLECTIONS.

# CURRICULUM/OFFERINGS

The PYP units of inquiry are organized into six themes: Who We Are, Where We Are in Place and Time, How We Express Ourselves, How the World Works, How We Organize Ourselves and Sharing the Planet. Each of the units of inquiry provides opportunities for students to develop the essential elements of the PYP: Knowledge, Skills, Concepts, Attitudes, and Action.

Within each unit, we embed a personalized learning experience (PLEx) in which students are given extended time and

personal agency to focus on something they feel passionate about or want to learn more about within the conceptual focus of the unit.

High academic expectations at ICS Addis are based on the Common Core standards for literacy and math. Academic instruction is balanced with a belief in the development of the whole child, which is a prominent feature of our PYP curricular framework, and students participate in specialist classes including music, physical education, French and art.

# LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Our teaching teams will continue to grow and utilize Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to improve student learning. A PLC is a group of educators that meets regularly, shares expertise, and works collaboratively to improve the learning experience and the academic performance of each student.

We know that students learn best when their learning is significant, relevant,

engaging, and challenging. We provide a rigorous and differentiated learning experience based on the very best instructional practices, all designed to tap into each individual student's passion and creativity. Students in the learning communities are able to find or construct learning spaces that practically support their learning and the learning of their peers while at the same time creating a feeling of comfort, safety and beauty.

# SPECIALS

Students participate in French, art or Design Creativity Innovation (DCI), music, and physical education specials as part of the regular school day. There is also the

option of learning the Amharic language for those who are interested. Grade 5 students participate in the beginning band as part of their music program.

# PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Personalized learning allows students to inquire and apply their learning in authentic and meaningful ways thriving in any environment they find themselves in. This is essentially what we call "being our best with Africa and our world".

All our students at ICS engage in personalized learning experiences throughout the school year.

As part of the ICS Addis personalized learning journey, our classrooms are learning hubs in which teams of teachers work together to support individual students' needs and choices in their learning experiences. At the same time, this format also allows a higher level of flexibility and collaboration among students.



## More information

For more information please visit our website [Elementary School](#).