Academic Courses Offered in Grades 9 & 10

"The International School of Latvia (ISL) is an English-language IB world school serving the international community. ISL strives for academic excellence; and to prepare its students for successful life-long learning, to think critically and creatively, to act with integrity and responsibility, and to appreciate human diversity."

Below are short descriptions of the courses offered at ISL

**English Language and Literature**
English Language and Literature extends the range of reading, writing, viewing, oral communication and critical-thinking skills that students need for future success. Students will study and interpret challenging texts from contemporary and historical periods, including novels, poems, plays and opinion pieces, and will analyse and create effective media works. An important focus is the thoughtful use of spoken and written language.

*Teacher: Mrs. Dace Smits*
*Email: dsmits@isl.edu.lv*

**English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**
This course is designed for students whose language spoken at home is not English. It has a strong emphasis on oral expression as well as academic reading and writing. Writing will focus on paragraph and multi-paragraph essays and assignments in a variety of styles. The students will expand their vocabulary through readings dealing with different literary forms and terms as well as in-class presentations and discussions. Emphasis will also be put on mathematics and science vocabulary as well as roots and affixes to help students comprehend the content in a variety of subjects at ISL.

*Teacher: Mr. Reid Pierce*
*Email: rpierce@isl.edu.lv*

**Our High School Language Acquisition courses:**
- encourage students to gain competence in an additional language with the long-term goal of multilingualism
- enable students to develop lifelong learning skills
- encourage students to develop an awareness and understanding of the perspectives of people from other cultures.

Each course aims to develop a respect for, and understanding of, other languages and cultures, and is equally designed to equip the student with a skills base to facilitate further language learning. Language learning is recognized as a developmental process in which students have opportunities to build on prior knowledge and skills.
in order to help them progress to the next phase of language development. Students studying a second language in Grades 9 & 10 will transition into the Diploma Program Language B courses.

We currently offer:

French Language
Teacher: Ms. Erin Leonka
Email: eleonka@isl.edu.lv

German Language
Teacher: Ms. Ulrike Haefner
Email: uhaefner@isl.edu.lv

Russian Language
Teacher: Ms. Jekaterina Pavlova
Email: jpavlova@isl.edu.lv

Individuals and Societies - Humanities

The 9th grade humanities course focuses on world history from the high Renaissance to World War I. The course enables students to have a deeper understanding of the past from a historical perspective and further develop the skills needed in the study of humanities.

The 10th grade humanities course provides a bridge to the Diploma Program humanities subjects. Students will further develop their conceptual understanding in humanities, and explore the causality and consequences of World War I. Students will also gain foundational knowledge in psychology and economics to prepare them for DP course selection.

Teacher: Ms. Elizabeth Phillips
Email: ephillips@isl.edu.lv

Science

Grade 9 Science focuses on the four main sciences starting with cell theory including a study of cells including bacteria as well as non-cellular structures of viruses, a study of the 4 classes of macromolecules that make up the bodies of all living organisms. The challenging syllabus then moves on to chemical processes, reaction types and rates of reactions. Motion, acceleration due to gravity, projectile motion will be discussed in physics and aspects of weather will be addressed to finish the year.

Grade 10 Science is considered the year of intensive preparation for DP level science. Year is split in three major units, each concerning with a particular science and its applications. Those units are: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Each of the units is going to begin with a short review of the previously studied material and then will build new skills and knowledge based on the previously acquired ones. Students are pushed to develop hard critical thinking skills and scientific literacy by writing formal essays and laboratory reports.

Teacher: Mr. Scott Simon
Email: ssimon@isl.edu.lv

Mathematics Geometry - Grade 9

The main goal of The Grade 9 Geometry curriculum is to provide students with a clear understanding of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures and the relationships among them. Algebra is integrated throughout this course which coincides with the belief that students will have a better grasp on geometric concepts when they are taught in relation to algebraic skills previously learned. Transformations provide practice with function rotation and composites of functions. Students learn to use algebra to derive properties of figures using the coordinate plane. Work with proof writing follows a carefully-sequenced development of the logical and conceptual precursors
to proof. Graphing calculators are implemented for class and home use. Successful Algebra course completion is a prerequisite for this Geometry course.

**Teacher:** Mrs. Leigh Simon  
**Email:** lsimon@isl.edu.lv

### Mathematics (Pre-Diploma Programme) - Grade 10

Grade 10 Mathematics serves two important purposes. Firstly, it is the culmination of a five year MYP Mathematics program, and secondly, it is the transition to Standard or Higher Level Mathematics in the IB Diploma Program. Grade 10 Mathematics emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students will study logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations through the areas of interaction.

**Teacher:** Mrs. Leigh Simon  
**Email:** lsimon@isl.edu.lv

### Performing Arts

**Drama**  
**Mr. David Martin**  
**Email:** dmartin@isl.edu.lv

Drama in the Middle Years Program engages students in an active relationship with theatre and encourages autonomous learning and exploration. It encourages the growth of creative, reflective and communication skills through practical work. Emphasis is placed on the artistic process and the students’ understanding of this process as an essential component to their artistic development through continuous investigation, planning, goal setting, rehearsing, performing, reflection and evaluation.

### Instrumental Band

**Mr. David Martin**  
**Email:** dmartin@isl.edu.lv

The Middle Years Program Beginner Instrumental Music course is designed to help students establish and then advance their level of technical and musical performance. Students will learn a series of sequential etudes designed to develop increasing levels of technical proficiency. The ensemble will use scales, rhythm studies, and chorales to develop and refine various aspects of instrumental performance.

### Visual Arts

The visual art course is a four quarter course and is designed to expand the student’s knowledge, abilities, and critical judgment; Students are introduced to more complex techniques and processes enabling them to further their artistic development as they examine the many creative solutions to a particular problem; and to emphasize art history. Topics: • Printmaking, • Art for Charity/ Fund Raising project, • Drawing/ by Observation/ Imagination, • Textile Painting/ Batik, • Art Styles/ Movement/ Periods

### Design Technology

This class is mainly a project based course where students acquire and further develop knowledge and skills in hands-on and digital technology projects. Over the five years of the course, along the specific knowledge and skills, there is a focus and balance of the following areas - information, materials, and systems; design elements and principles; variety of tools, equipment, materials and media; drawing, drafting and other means of idea presentation, work with a client, individual and group work; areas of interaction.

**Mr. Eric Olive**
Email: eolive@isl.edu.lv

Physical and Health Education
Mr Baltmanis - sbaltmanis@isl.edu.lv
Ms Brinke - dbrinke@isl.edu.lv

In accordance with the objectives of the IB MYP and the values of ISL. Physical Education (P.E.) is concerned with more than just sports and games. Its clear goal is to contribute to the students' physical, intellectual, emotional and social maturity. The aim is to help students cultivate an active, healthy lifestyle through activities that are enjoyable, at the same time as developing the teamwork, cooperation and personal engagement that are vital in the modern society. The syllabus is intended to be wide ranging in an attempt to meet different interests. It covers basic fitness, team sports and movement composition. It is synchronized with the CEESA tournament schedule and the ISL after school sports and activities.