

Frequently Asked Questions - Children Living Outside Israel

Can my child have his admission screening appointment by Skype or at another international school abroad?

Regrettably, WBAIS cannot perform the screening while the student is abroad. The admission screening is onsite and lasts 2-3 hours for middle and high school students and 45 minutes-1 hour for preschool and elementary school students. There is no need to study special material for this test, as it is a test with general content in order to determine that the WBAIS learning program is a good fit for the student. Make sure that your child has had a restful sleep the evening before and comes to the school relaxed. The school counselors are kind and caring and will do their very best to make the student feel comfortable and enjoy the screening.

Does WBAIS have a waitlist? If I apply am I guaranteed a space?

WBAIS may have a waitlist or limited spaces available in many grade levels, especially in the preschool and elementary school programs. Due to the nature of international families having last minute changes in their plans, space availability is often not known until the middle of June, or at the latest just prior to the new school year beginning. This situation can be difficult when you are choosing to relocate. Unfortunately, submitting your application does not guarantee a space reservation. Read the Admissions Policy for further information,

Does WBAIS accept mid-year transfers?

Midyear postings/relocations for families coming to work in Israel can be considered; however, it is possible that certain grade levels could be full and have a waiting list. High school students are encouraged to transfer at the start of the school year in August, or mid-January at the beginning of semester 2. Please note, a January transfer to the high school requires careful consideration due to graduation credits, so you are encouraged to inquire as soon as you are aware of the transfer prior to moving to 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.

How is grade level placement determined?

For the majority of applicants coming from U.S. curriculum schools, there is no adjustment in the grade level when joining our school. Applicants coming from countries where the academic calendar year differs from WBAIS' August to June calendar often find themselves remaining an additional semester in their current grade level due to this calendar difference. The Admissions Committee will review the student's placement testing results and then provide a grade level offer.

Does WBAIS make exceptions to the August 31 cutoff?

The August 31 cutoff date 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 be able 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. It is not advisable to seek enrollment if the student is applying to high school and has never learned in a challenging, academic, English language school environment. You are encouraged to reach out and inquire to determine if a high school transfer is possible. Each application is carefully reviewed.

What services does WBAIS provide for students with special needs?

Special education services are provided for students with mild learning disabilities. Because of the rigorous nature of the program, WBAIS does not offer a program for students who have come from self-contained special education programs at another school or who are in need of significant pullout special education assistance or shadows. If a student has a learning disability, the family should contact WBAIS ahead of time and provide all documentation (psychoeducational evaluation, IEP's, 504 Plans, etc.) as soon as possible. In keeping with the philosophy of the school, students with diagnosed special learning needs participate maximally in the mainstream program and may be eligible to receive Resource Center support.

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 boarding facilities?

WBAIS does not offer boarding facilities. All students are required to reside with their parent or a legal guardian while attending WBAIS. Guardianship arrangements require special conditions. Inquire to see if your situation would be acceptable to school administration.

Does WBAIS have part-time students or online courses?

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

Do you have any age limits?

Students must be under twenty at the time of graduation.

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