



JIS

elementary curriculum highlights
2010 - 2011

Composite flowers represent the best backyard flowers of childhood with imaginative names like dandelion, sunflower, Spanish needle, fleabane, goldenrod, sneezeweed, cosmos and black-eyed Susan. You will find them in bucketfuls at flower stands across Jakarta along with plentiful Indonesian exotics. The unique composite flower contains miniature versions of different types of flowers within its structure. The fruit produced by composites are small and known as achene. So, technically speaking, sunflower “seeds” are actually the fruit of the composite sunflower, each one containing just a single seed.

Cover photo, Composite flower by: Brenda Starr

Introduction

Elementary School Curriculum Overview Grades K-5

Our Early Childhood program at JIS immerses children in an atmosphere of wonder, care, exploration, and growth, and it isn't long until their love of learning grows from the inside out. The Elementary Program further builds each child to become a competent learner in a caring community– a thinker, creator, feeler, problem solver and doer.

All curricular programs at JIS aim to fulfill the vision and values expressed in our JIS Charter for Learning. As we care for students and collaborate to continuously strengthen their learning, all of us – our youngest learners, our teachers and our parents – will be equipped to thoughtfully engage the world with skills, knowledge, deep and enduring understandings, and clearer purpose. To us, this is what it means for each student to “achieve personal excellence to be the best *for* the world.”



The Learner

We believe that elementary education must foster the intellectual, social, physical and emotional development of each child.

We encourage each child to reach his or her full potential within a challenging curriculum based on high expectations.

We recognize that children have individual needs, and that their learning styles and rates of development vary.

We encourage each child to think critically and independently and to develop a love of learning and self-motivation, by attaining academic and personal goals.



The Program

We believe that the most effective program is a well defined, balanced curriculum that involves students in purposeful, relevant, and challenging activities.

We place strong emphasis on language arts and mathematics. To ensure a balanced curriculum, we provide programs in science and technology, social studies, modern language, fine arts and physical development.

We believe that children must be prepared to function successfully in a changing world.

We believe that instructional programs and processes should be based on widely accepted research about how and what children learn.

We believe that there must be clearly stated goals and objectives established collaboratively and supported by teachers, administrators and parents.

We believe in the ongoing assessment of students and evaluations of programs.

Essential Qualities

The Essential Qualities of a JIS Learner describe dispositions that are fostered through interactions among members of the entire JIS Community. In essence, the Essential Qualities are the life skills that define our international community and global perspective.

Students at every age learn to contribute as they develop into:

- Responsible World Citizens, who are
- Effective Communicators,
- Collaborative Workers,
- Problem Solvers,
- Creative Individuals, and
- Self-directed Positive and Adaptable Learners.

The Curriculum

Literacy

What are the Standards and Expectations for Reading and Writing?

JIS adopts curricular models that demonstrate the best international standards. The school currently draws its overarching standards for English Language Arts from the Ontario, Canada curriculum. The strands of oral communication, reading, writing and media literacy have within them the requirement to reflect on learning and to use this reflection to enhance further learning.

Ten stages of development describe the journey children undergo as they become independent readers and writers. Since children grow and develop at differing rates, we have developed clear targets and milestones as well as multiple assessments along the way to better monitor and support each child's progress.

While literacy instruction is direct and explicit within the English Language Arts program, it is essential that the skills and understandings gained through it will empower understandings, habits of mind, and communication skills in all content areas.

On a practical level, daily explicit instruction occurs within a workshop model that entails:

- large group lessons that may include shared reading and writing, interactive read aloud and focus lessons;
- small group instruction that may include guided reading and writing, strategy lessons, and literature circles or reading clubs; and
- independent reading and writing.

Large group lessons center around Units of Study, modeled after those from Teachers College at Columbia University, New York.

Mathematics

What are the Standards and Expectations for Mathematics?

The elementary mathematics curriculum is based upon the standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) from the United States. The standards describe the mathematical understanding, knowledge, and skills that students should acquire from pre-kindergarten (early childhood) through grade 12.

The mathematics program uses Everyday Math as its primary instructional resource. Distinctively, Everyday Math:

- focuses on real-life problem solving,
- balances whole-class and self-directed learning,
- emphasizes communication,
- facilitates collaboration between school and family, and
- introduces appropriate technology for learning.

Underlying the Everyday Math program are six conceptual strands: Number and Numeration; Operations and Computation; Data and Chance; Measurement and Reference Frames; Geometry; Patterns, Functions and Algebra.



Through this structured and sequential approach to mathematics, students make progress toward meeting the grade level expectations within developmentally appropriate instructional practices. Daily practice and learning offer them the best opportunity to become confident, competent young mathematicians. At each grade level, learning targets are identified for each of the six strands. Although primarily a US based program, children learn both Imperial and Metric measurements and this program is increasingly being adopted in leading international schools around the world. This assists student with transitions to a variety of other schools beyond JIS.

Social Studies, Science and Health

Through a process of inquiry, students explore social studies, science and health concepts and understandings. At each grade level, Inquiry Units of Study provide the opportunity for students to learn more about their world by posing questions, exploring concepts, and engaging in developmentally appropriate research and projects. Where it is relevant and appropriate, direct connections and actions are linked to issues of global significance.



Specialist Classes

Committed to educating the whole child, alongside core subjects JIS provides instruction by subject area professionals in the arts, physical education, and world languages within the school day.

Visual and Performing Arts

The Arts are essential to each child's development as a whole person and we embrace each expression from early scribbles to skilled artistic performances. Through the arts, students express themselves verbally, visually, kinesthetically and musically. Within our visual and performing arts educational environment, learning activities provide students with a first-hand opportunity to grow through participation in creative experiences and expressions.

Within Art classes, students explore the sequential themes of Learning to See; Building Ideas; Ideas for Expression and Art in Everyday Life.

The Elementary Music program is developmental in sequence and instills a love of musical appreciation and participation. The strands of the general elementary music program comprise Movement & Dance; Singing; Tuned and Untuned Percussion; Indonesian Gamelan; Recorder.

An elective, after school Strings Program broadens the opportunities for students to pursue their musical talents by participating in a string ensemble from beginning to intermediate levels.

Physical Education

Physical Education provides opportunities for students to learn about, and practice ways of, adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active lifestyle. The PE program is designed to promote physical skills and strategies as well as develop habits leading to a healthy lifestyle.

Swimming pools, grass and covered play areas, gymnasiums, as well as court sports and soccer fields are all used within the PE program. They provide places for elementary students to become healthy, fit and skillful in their approach to physical health and wellness.

Technology / Library Media Services

At JIS, technology and print media play an important role in our dynamic learning community. At every grade, we aim to expand learning opportunities that empower students to be critical consumers and creative producers of knowledge and media in both digital and print form. Our Library and Technology Integration Specialists play a key supportive role at each campus.



Modern Language - Bahasa Indonesia

Beginning in grade 1, all students in the elementary school take lessons in the host country language of Bahasa Indonesia, which is an accessible language for beginners to learn at any age. Proficiency levels are established and the students access the language through speaking, listening, reading and writing. As a school, we believe that learning the host country language promotes international mindedness and opens children's minds to other perspectives. By learning the host language in the context of living in Indonesia students are able to use the language in real life situations; this creates a sound foundational base on which to build additional languages in Middle School.

Student Support Services

English as an Additional Language

JIS offers English as an Additional Language (EAL) support for English language learners in grades 1-5. The goal is to help each learner acquire English language proficiency in order to become successful in all areas of the curriculum. Admission to the EAL program is based upon fulfillment of JIS admissions requirements that include a review of previous school records.

Learning Support

Students with mild learning needs will find a caring, individualized approach and support structure that helps them access the JIS Curriculum. Services available to students include Learning Support, Speech and Language Therapy and Intervention.

Counseling

Each elementary campus has on-site counseling to assist students, parents and teachers in support of the social and emotional needs of our young learners.



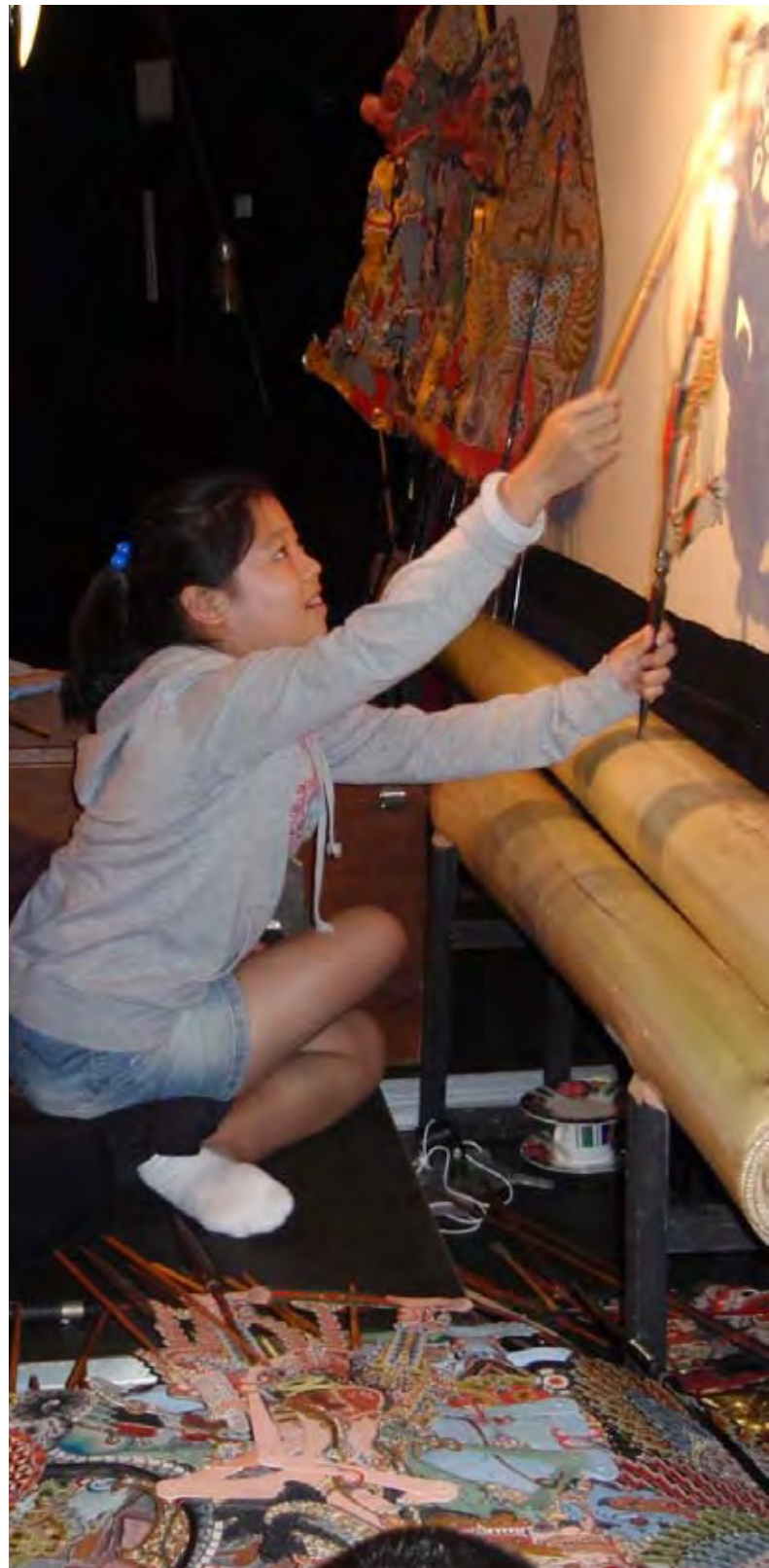
Co-Curricular Program

Care for the whole child inspires JIS to offer a variety of activities that appeal to a child's sense of adventure, fun, competition, learning and exploration. We see these opportunities as an essential part of a holistic education which allows children to understand unique aspects of their personalities, aptitudes and interests. They also offer diverse social experiences through which children learn to work, share, plan, collaborate, make friends, solve differences and pursue goals alongside others with common passions and interests.

In childhood, time spent doing what one wants to do – playing, thinking and dreaming – can be time well spent. At JIS, a broad range of school sponsored activities are available after school for students in grades 1-5 to enjoy. Children can explore interests and sharpen skills through elementary choirs, other music activities, sports, dance, art, swimming instruction and strings (for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades). In addition, parent and community sponsored activities offer variety throughout the afternoons, and on weekends. Recent activities include Scouts, gymnastics, and various team sports activities such as soccer, basketball, T-ball, softball and AquaDragons (our JIS competitive swim team).

Offerings in our After School Activity (ASA) Program vary from year to year, depending on student interest and the giftings of instructors.

We feel strongly that adult guidance is necessary in the planning of after school activities in order to give the appropriate balance for your child's overall development. At times, children's days are filled with structured activities, allowing them little or no time remaining to amuse themselves productively. Childhood is a special time of life. We suggest that families carefully look at the time commitments required for interests and routines, homework, recreational reading and adequate rest, when making commitments to any other activities.

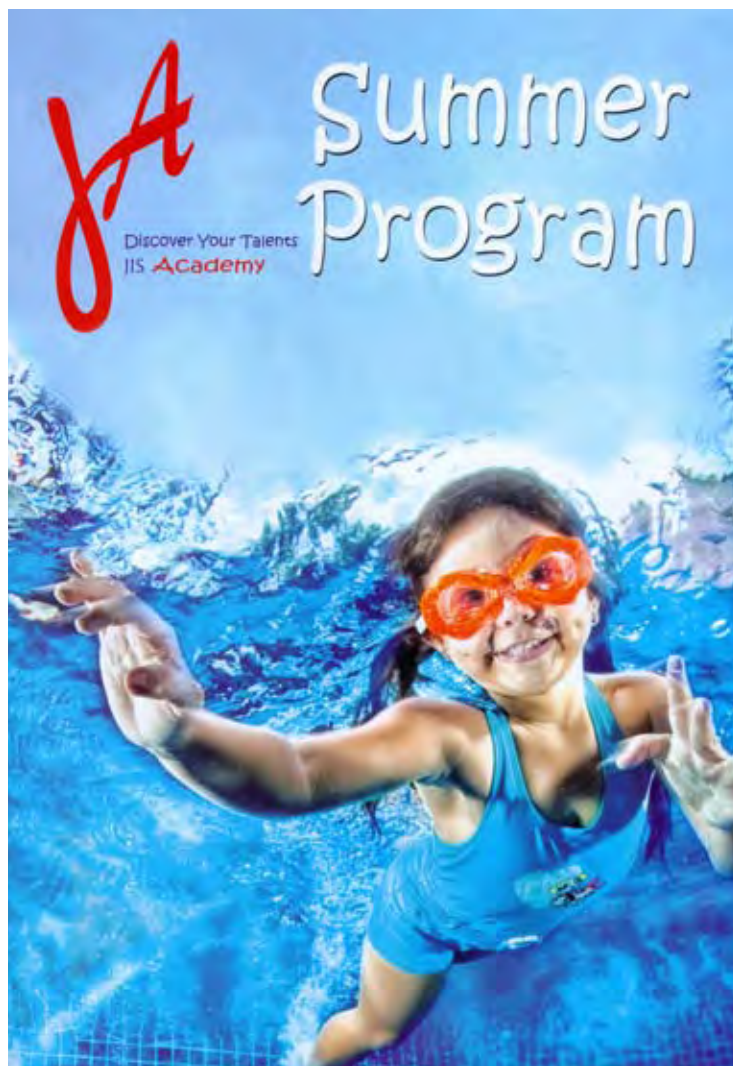


JIS Academy

JIS Academy provides high quality, extra-curricular programs outside of the school day, with fun, exciting and rewarding options year round for all ages.

The Elementary Program is designed for students ages 7-12. Educational programs run after school, during holidays and the summer break.

The Stepping Stones Program is designed from birth to 6 years and provides a safe and caring learning environment that focuses on the needs of each child with a range of activities that further enhance the cognitive, social and developmental growth of our younger students. Year-round programs are available.





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