

ISU produces well-rounded students

To offer an education that produces a well-rounded student, a school has to have facilities to cater for different activities outside the dedicated classrooms for all subject areas. At International School of Uganda (ISU), the facilities foster academic excellence, sports and extra-curricular activities.

Science building

ISU has a state of the art science building, with purpose built laboratories for physics, chemistry, and biology. It has a large apparatus lab, experienced teachers and two science assistants to help with the experiments and develop a strong understanding of science concepts.

When painting the laboratories the school took into account latest research on how colours can affect student learning. "I discovered that the young ones are stimulated by primary colours while older students need strong, but subdued colours for their learning experience," Lynda Schuurs a science teacher explains.

Information technology

The school has three IT rooms and one of them is a Mac computer room with 24 Mac computers. Each student in Grades 4-12 use a laptop as part of their daily classwork and homework. Consequently, to prepare them for this they are taught to use



Pupils participating in a swimming lesson at International School of Uganda. Photo by Mark Dudley

technology tools and develop IT skills from an early age.

ISU also has a double-storeyed library and resource centre which houses a junior school and secondary school library and a section dedicated to a collection of books written by Ugandan authors. It also features the multi media centre that comprises computers, audio books and three dedicated librarians.

Specialist centre

ISU has students from over 60 nationalities. This diversity helps students to develop an understanding

and appreciation of a wide variety of cultures, as well as strong relationships with peers from all over the world.

In addition to a mother tongue programme, the school provides support for students whose first language is not English. The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers work alongside classroom teachers and teaching assistants to provide this support. ISU has a specialist centre for teaching ESOL and an Optimal Learning Center (OLC) for those students who require learning

support in particular classes; faculty and staff work with students individually or in small groups. Both centres serve students of all ages.

Sports

The school has four tennis courts, two basketball courts, a large sports field with a running track, football pitches and two swimming pools; one for the children and the other for the older ones. Even when there are rains, the games go on in the covered gym.

Lesley Peacock, the senior school principal, says ISU is part of

International Schools of Southern and Eastern Africa (ISSEA) and participates with seven schools in Southern and Eastern Africa in sports and art competitions.

"The competition allows students who love basketball, volleyball or swimming to reach their highest standards, because they are motivated and passionate about the school," she says.

It sees them compete with students from local schools, meet students of different nationalities and socialise. Back at home, ISU is a member of the International School's Sports Association Kampala (ISSAK).

Early learning centre

The younger children learn in the self-contained early childhood centre in spacious and well-resourced classrooms, surrounded by excellent outdoor learning and play facilities. ISU has qualified and experienced teachers with the ratio of teachers to students being one to four.

Visual and performing arts

There are two music rooms; one for junior school and one for senior school, and two art rooms for visual arts which comprise of painting, sculpture and ceramics.

Currently work is underway for an Arts Centre which will include state of the art music, drama and visual arts classrooms along with a 400 seat auditorium.

As told to Jacqueline Emodek