



International Spanish Language Academy

www.islacad.org

A K-6 Public Education Choice located in the Hopkins School District

Nurturing Leaders for Tomorrow's World

Our Program

ISLA is a public school choice for elementary students living in Minnesota. We opened with grades K-4 in September of 2007 and are building to K-6 over the next two years. During the first year, grades K-2 will receive an immersion experience, with grades 3 & 4 receiving a less-intensive Spanish language experience. Combining Spanish immersion and the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, ISLA offers a challenging elementary program for all learners.

ISLA as an Innovative Choice in Education

- **Spanish Immersion.** Total immersion programs, like ISLA, have the greatest success in terms of foreign language development. Students in immersion programs become functionally proficient in a second language at a level appropriate to their age and grade in school. Immersion students not only become bilingual, but master the subject content of the regular elementary school curriculum that is taught in a second language.
- **International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.** The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) integrates global-mindedness into the ISLA curriculum.

Why Support Minnesota Charter Schools?

- **Choice.** Our Minnesota public schools have earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence. Even so, our large school districts are just not designed to provide unique curriculum choices for smaller groups of students. When standards-based education seems to require that curriculum be the same across an entire district, this does not allow parents to pursue an option that may better suit the needs of their unique child. We need to ask ourselves if we want to be a culture of no educational choice. We are all about choice in every other aspect of our culture—just look at the choice we have in grocery stores, theatres, vehicles, housing, and on and on. Why would we not also want choice in our education system?
- **Innovation.** There is much to be said for the innovative aspect—even a *requirement* of innovation—in a charter school. The “No Child Left Behind” act calls for accountability and change. We as a state have moved toward standards-based education. This, in and of itself is not a bad thing. An indirect result of standards, however, is that it creates an educational system where everyone is doing it all the same, thus precluding change, really. This doesn't allow us to try something different, and see if it works better for kids. Charter schools provide the playground for innovation.
- **Richness.** The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Our children need a challenging education that is as rich and diverse as the demands they will face in the years to come as global citizens. Charter schools, with their diversity of curriculum choices, provide increased richness and appropriate challenges for students. ISLA is proud to provide a K-6 education that gives children a foundation of critical thinking and an international perspective that will serve them well as they grow.



International Spanish Language Academy

- Spanish Immersion
- International perspective
- Small class sizes
- Tuition-free charter school
- Located in Hopkins district

Openings in grades K-5 for 2008-2009

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ISLA is working toward International Baccalaureate (IB) program certification.

—Family Times, December, 2007