



OVERVIEW  
2020-2021





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## WELCOME

I am thrilled to welcome you to Danube International School Vienna. At Danube, an IB world school, we offer a challenging curriculum for approximately 590 students from early years (3 year olds) to pre-university levels with the IB Diploma programme. In the past number of years our International Baccalaureate Diploma pass rate results are between 95% and 100%. In fact, four of the last six years have shown 100% pass rate results in the IB Diploma program, with all students sitting for the Diploma. With students coming to Danube International School Vienna from over 60 countries, we embrace our diversity and celebrate our uniqueness as we strive for excellence in all our programmes and encourage personal excellence from each of our students.

Danube International School Vienna is an inclusive IB World School located in an elegant, spacious and self-contained building, close to the centre of Vienna and beside famous Prater Park. This is an ideal location that enables students to learn outside school walls. Our goal is to engage learners at a very young age to be problem solvers, inquirers and risk takers. We do this by providing opportunities for all students to challenge themselves in an environment where learning is student-centered and each individual is celebrated for their talent, effort and accomplishments. We have a highly qualified and experienced faculty representing a variety of cultures and nationalities, all well versed in teaching a diverse student body. A culture of experiential and problem-based learning permeates the classroom, as students make meaning from their discoveries.

At Danube, we have a supportive and caring culture that encourages students to work together and inspire those around them. We feel it is our responsibility to nurture and guide each individual in a healthy and loving community to strive for personal best. The school's warm and friendly family atmosphere is grounded in respect, trust, compassion and the ideal of service. We hope to raise children to be adults that exhibit empathy and, in so doing, make a difference for others.

In addition to high academic standards, the international education that we offer focuses on four core components of emotional intelligence, cultural understanding, communication and collaboration. We aim to develop students to be independent learners and leaders in the global community. We provide a wide range of activities and experiences that will not only prepare our children for the future, but also make their school and personal life more enjoyable and rewarding.

Focusing on the principles of 'Engagement, Excellence, Excitement, Ethics and Empathy' DISV is passionate about fulfilling its demanding vision to be a world leader in international education. Our aim is to nurture happy, well-rounded students with healthy self-esteem, as we continually set high expectations, recognize individuality, offer genuine leadership opportunities, celebrate successes, and develop a reflective culture that enables students to learn from their experiences.

We invite you to explore our website and visit our school to experience the difference a DISV education can make in the life of your child.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Michelle Purghart  
Director



## VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND AIMS

### OUR VISION

- ◆ Be a **world leader** in **international education**

### OUR MISSION

- ◆ Provide a **high quality** international education for children of all nationalities from Early Years to Grade 12 with English as the language of instruction.
- ◆ Prepare students to become **global citizens** through a commitment to the development of the whole child, both as an individual and as a member of the community.

### OUR VALUES

- ◆ We place students' well-being, happiness and engagement at the core of our learning environment.
- ◆ We act with integrity, honesty, empathy, transparency and respect.
- ◆ We take responsibility for our words and actions.
- ◆ We focus on improvement and aspire to make a positive impact on ourselves, our school and the world around us.

### OUR AIMS

- ◆ To strive for excellence by engaging minds, exciting learners, acting ethically and showing empathy.
- ◆ To nurture happy, well-rounded students with healthy self-esteem, we will set high expectations, recognize individuality, offer genuine leadership opportunities, celebrate successes and develop a reflective culture that enables students to learn from their experiences.

## IB GUIDING PRINCIPALS

The guiding principles of the International Baccalaureate programmes used at Danube International School Vienna are:

- ◆ students should develop a holistic attitude to knowledge; they should see the subjects they learn as an integrated whole.
- ◆ students' own cultural experiences and backgrounds, and those of our diverse teaching staff, are a valuable learning resource; we encourage understanding through intercultural awareness.
- ◆ the ability to express ideas both reflects and deepens understanding; students' communication skills are central to their learning.



The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. The programmes seek to develop the characteristics of the IB Learner Profile in students from the age of 3 to 19.

## THE IB LEARNER PROFILE

The IB learner profile is the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century. The learner profile provides a long-term vision of education. It is a set of ideals that can inspire, motivate and focus the work of schools and teachers, uniting them in a common purpose. IB learners strive to be:

### **INQUIRERS.**

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

### **KNOWLEDGEABLE.**

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

### **COMMUNICATORS.**

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

**THINKERS.**

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

**PRINCIPLED.**

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

**OPEN-MINDED.**

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

**CARING.**

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

**RISK-TAKERS.**

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

**BALANCED.**

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

**REFLECTIVE.**

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.



## OVERVIEW

Danube International School Vienna (DISV) was founded in 1992 by a group of parents and businessmen interested in developing a high quality international school with a family atmosphere. DISV serves the needs of the international and local communities and it has grown to provide a quality international education for children from age 3 to age 19. With approximately 590 students from 60 different nationalities, we are able to provide a broad range of educational offerings whilst maintaining a high standard of individual care.

The school is fully authorised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) to deliver all 3 of their IB curriculum programmes (at the time of writing one of only two schools in Austria to do so). Within Vienna, DISV has good professional relations with other international and local schools.

The elementary phase of the school delivers the IB Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) for Early Years to Grade 5. The secondary phase uses the IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) for Grade 6 to Grade 10 and in Grades 11 and 12 the secondary phase delivers the prestigious IB Diploma Programme (IB DP) that prepares students for university entry worldwide.

Formal tuition in the mornings and afternoons is followed by a full and varied extra-curricular programme that includes cultural activities, community service, performing arts, sport, academically challenging activities and academic electives.

Many students also supplement the academic and activities programme through private instrumental music and mother tongue languages taught physically in the school buildings.

Students take their work seriously, seek guidance as necessary and are fully engaged in the life of the school. We are proud of our students and their results, and we continually strive for excellence within an improvement culture.

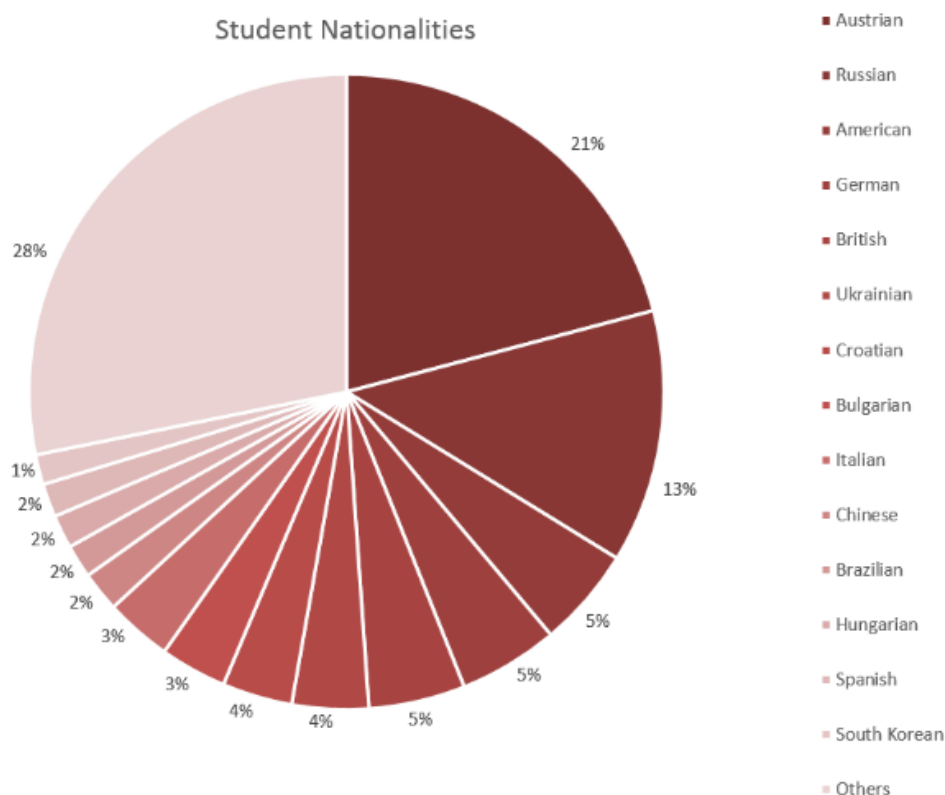
## QUALITY ASSURANCE

In order to offer the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) and IB Diploma Programmes (DP) and attain IB World School status, all schools must first go through a verification process. The process is designed to ensure schools are well prepared to implement and deliver the programmes successfully. Once authorised every school will be fully evaluated on a five-year cycle to ensure that the quality of the programmes offered meet IB expectations. The IBO also analyses IB Diploma examination results, internal assessments in both the IB MYP and IB DP, the Extended Essays, Personal Projects and send *ad hoc* visitors to inspect the schools examinations and Creativity, Activity and Service programmes.

## STUDENT AND PARENT BODY

We currently have 2 homeroom classes per grade level from Grade 1 to grade 9 and three from grade 10 to 12. As of April 2020, the school has over 590 students who hold nationalities from 60 countries. The maximum class size is usually 24 from Foundation until Grade 10 and usually 18 in Grades 11 & 12.

Our parent body is made up of diplomats working at the various consulates, embassies or UN mission, as well as those working for Inter-governmental international organization, international businesses, national businesses and a variety of other backgrounds.



### PADIS Parents Association Danube International School Vienna

#### The Interface Between School and Family

Parental involvement is a great resource for any school. PADIS is an active parent's association. Organized in 1993, PADIS' mission is to support a quality education programme and enhance the community spirit of the school. PADIS is committed to international education as it provides our children with a high educational standard, opportunities for personal development and an international point of view. We seek to accomplish this mission by offering:

#### A Voice for Parents

We act as a channel through which parents may express their opinions and voice their ideas, wishes and concerns related to the education, growth and development of our children. We facilitate communication among parents and within the broader school community.

### An Information Platform for Parents

We provide information on the structure and organisation of DISV and the international curriculum for old and new families of DISV; this is especially important for parents of newly enrolled students as the school has a completely different structure from Austrian and other Public or Private National Schools. We do this by organising 'Parents meet PADIS' meetings on a regular basis, informal meetings for new parents (held twice a year), and specific meetings to relay items of particular interest to parents (e.g., the IB PYP, IB MYP, IB Diploma).

### Help and Support for Parents

We try to encourage all parents to get involved in the social activities surrounding school life, in extra-curricular activities and, generally, in anything that concerns the well-being of our students.

### Financial and Community Support for the School

PADIS provides a sense of community through school-based activities and supports school projects with funds raised, e.g., bake-sales, bazaars, carnival parties and summer parties. We also contribute to a wide variety of school activities, e.g., DISV Ski Team, International Maths Competition, Model United Nations, our Library, traditional festivals, etc.

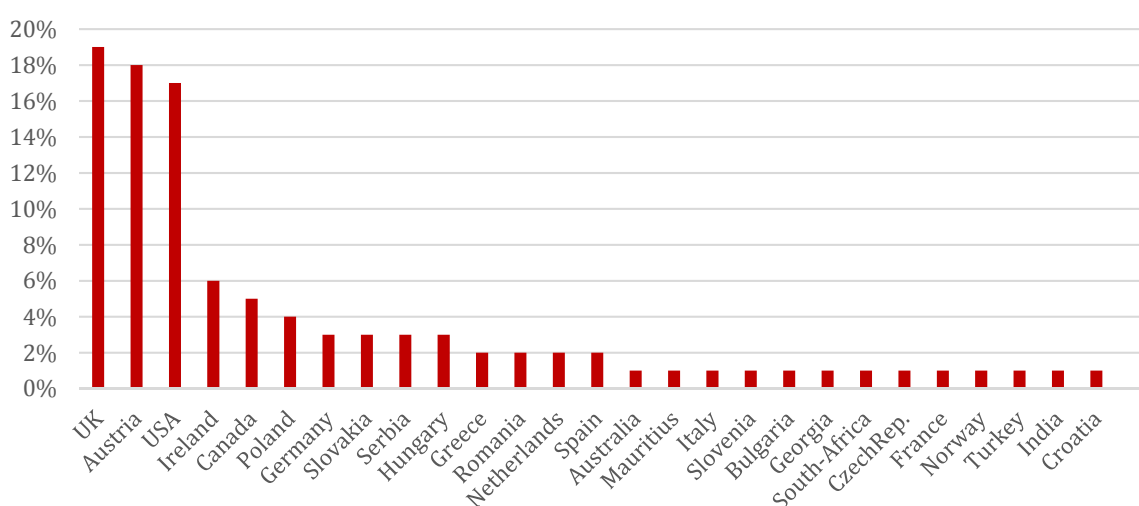
All parents and guardians of students are encouraged to be active in the organization. Everyone is extremely welcome to join in and work for the good of the school!

### The PADIS Team

## STAFF BODY

We currently have 100 staff members representing 27 different nationalities.

### Teacher Nationalities



Many teachers have post-graduate qualifications (Doctorate or Masters).

## FACILITIES

DISV is housed in an elegant building situated in a pleasant district of Vienna overlooking the Danube Canal next to Prater Park. The building has been renovated and comprises a good range of classrooms and other facilities that include three laboratories, a computer lab, a technology studio, a sports hall, a theatre, art studio, performing arts spaces, lower elementary indoor play area, library and a cafeteria. The school also uses a nearby all-weather sports facility, additional space for IB Diploma use and an external gymnasium for grades 9 & 10.



## FIELD TRIPS

All students from Grades 2 until 12 will undertake a whole grade overnight field trip during the course of the year. In addition, each class also makes frequent outings to museums, galleries and other events in Vienna and the surrounding areas in connection with their subject curriculum.

Additional overnight field trips take place for those students interested in languages (England, France, Germany and Spain), Model United Nations (Munich and Prague), Waluka Primary School (Kenya), Project Centipede Orphanages (Romania) and sports teams - skiing, soccer, basketball, volleyball in Austria or neighbouring countries.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The objective of the 'Activities' programme is to teach students commitment through involvement and participation and to show them that there is "life" after school. The activities are primarily teacher led. Students can choose from one up to a maximum of nine different activities each year with each session running for ten weeks on average. Below are some examples of activities that we have offered in recent years:

- ◆ Performances by our student body included - Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Roald Dahl, Little Shop of Horrors, Chicago and Lion King.
- ◆ An active elementary choir, student bands across the age groups, recorder classes and a range of privately taught music taking place at the school.
- ◆ Our students move to Zumba and Salsa, stretch like ballet stars and Yoga masters, enjoy Irish Dancing.
- ◆ Film club, photography club, art and crafts club, create 'pop' art.
- ◆ We have Model United Nations, journalism club, a student yearbook, theatre visits and critical reviews, community service programmes and a film club.
- ◆ DISV competes in the Danube Valley Athletic Conference as Danube Dragons with teams in Soccer, Basketball and Volleyball, and with individuals in Tennis, Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. The Dragons compete against international schools from Salzburg, Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest through individual games, festivals and full tournaments at both Middle and High School Level.
- ◆ We also compete in two separate competitions with our own ski-team.
- ◆ Our after-school programme offers a variety of other sports and opportunities for younger students, with Baseball, Soccer, Gymnastics, Chess, Musical Theatre, Film, Judo and Karate.
- ◆ Individuals compete in National Showjumping and International Karting events.

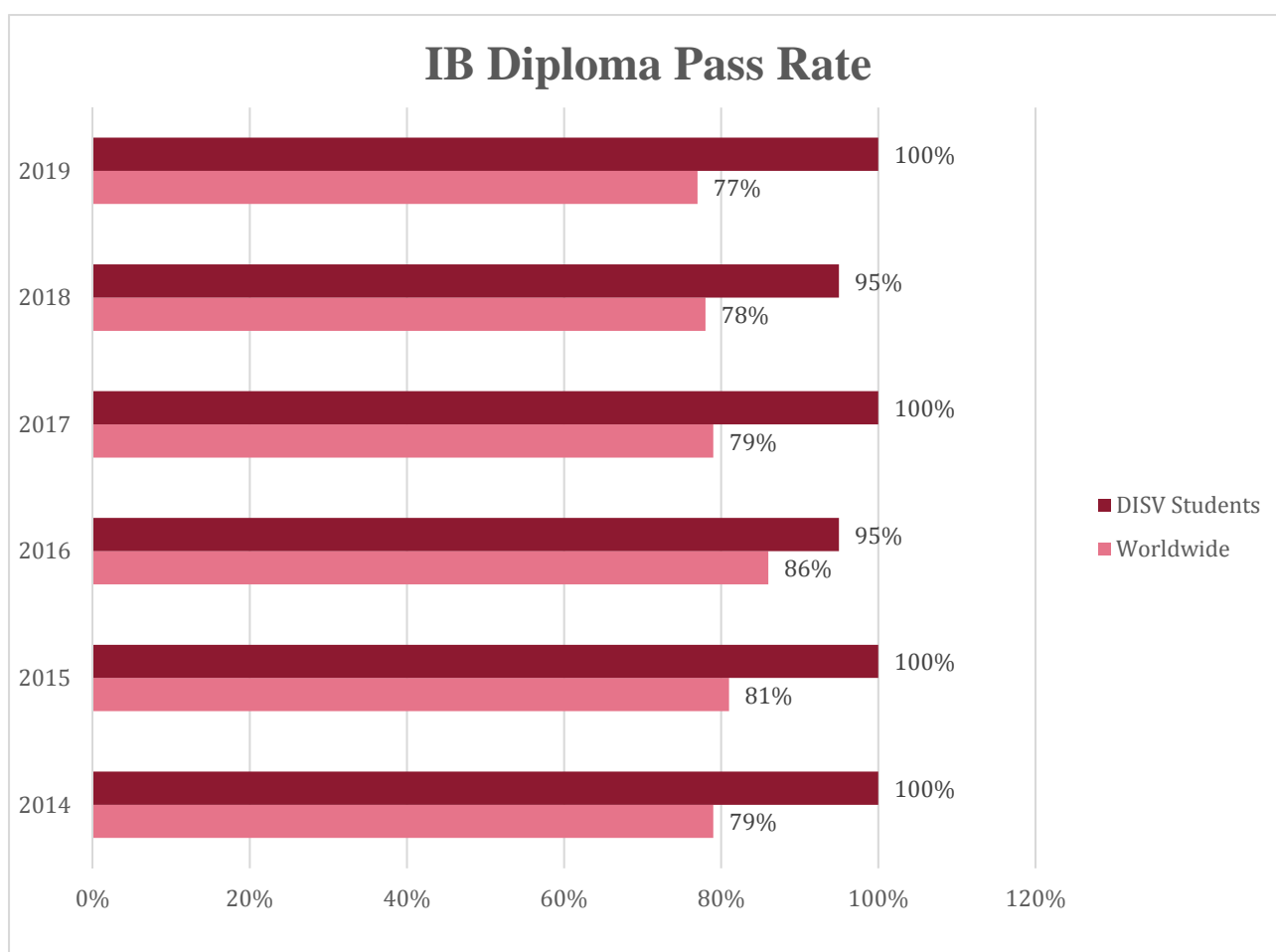


## SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

We are used to welcoming students from many different educational systems and due to our family orientated approach, we ensure that students can quickly focus on their learning. We have additional support available for those students who have not yet mastered English.

On leaving the school, students again may move to another international location or back to their home country. The knowledge, understanding, skills and values that they will have gained at Danube should enable the next transition to go smoothly.

**End of School:** Our students have been successful in the IB Diploma examinations.



After completing the IB Diploma, most of our Austrian students obtain Matura equivalence and are able to attend Austrian universities, while our international students go to some of the very best universities or colleges across the world. These have included: Loyola Marymount University and NYU (USA); St Andrews and Edinburgh University (Scotland); Cambridge, Oxford University, East Anglia, Reading, University of Sheffield and Durham (UK); St Martins, Royal Holloway, SOAS, Queen Mary, UCL, LSE and Imperial College, (London); McGill, Carleton, UBC, (Canada); National University of Singapore (Singapore), Bocconi

University (Italy), Hong Kong University (China), Sciences Po (France), University Wien (Austria).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The school also produces Elementary and Secondary Handbooks that include information about the organization of the school in terms of daily routines/general information, communication/academic information and student well-being.

There are also separate overall summary guides on the IB Primary Years, IB Middle Years and IB Diploma programmes.





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