

TES offers English, German bilingual program



Courtesy of the Taipei European School

Schoolchildren from the German Section at the Taipei European School display the German national flag or hold balls in their hands while they pose in front of a soccer goal in the school yard in this undated picture.

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The Taipei European School German Section now offers a bilingual program in both German and English for its secondary school students. In grades nine and 10, the percentage of German used in classes drops to 25 percent so that the students are ready by the age of 16 to take the International General Certificate of Secondary Education examinations provided by the University of Cambridge, in addition to their German exams.

The German Section strives to provide excellent and universal education to its students, beginning with its bilingual program that takes effect from grade five. Three subjects — Arts, Music and Physical Education — are first taught in English by native speakers in integrated lessons.

During their last two years at Taipei European School, German students study in the bilingual International Baccalaureate Diploma program. The language of instruction is English, but German students generally choose the German language as their A1-Language Option. With the IB-Diploma the graduates can enter most universities around the world. The IB Diploma is recognized for entry into German universities.

Children at the age of 3 can be admitted into the German Kindergarten even without any knowledge of German. They learn German over the course of a three-year educational program in mixed age groups according to German kindergarten standards that follow the preschool curriculum of Thuringia. By the age of 6, they have built up all the language skills and competencies required to cope with the German Section's attractive bilingual educational program.

Coming into effect from August 2011 the German Kindergarten will extend its day and offer an after school program from 2:20 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. following the regular program which starts at 7:30 a.m.