



I • P • S

INTERNATIONAL  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL PROFILE

## Vision

*'Inspiring our learners to thrive in a world of change'.*

## Mission

*Inspire, Empower, Lead*

*We will inspire our learning community through an inquiry curriculum and commitment to on-going improvement.*

*We will empower our learning community to find solutions to real life challenges through creative and critical thinking.*

*We will lead our learning community to promote a spirit of internationalism by thinking globally and acting locally.*

## Welcome to the International Preparatory School

The International Preparatory School (IPS) is a private English medium pre-primary and primary school situated on spacious grounds in Labourdonnais Village, a rural sugar growing area in the north of Mauritius.

The school was founded in 1989 to meet the needs of the many expatriate and Mauritian families living in this rapidly developing region. We are conveniently located just off the main highway which links Grand Bay, a sought after coastal resort, to the island's international airport, via Port Louis the country's federal and economic capital. The school draws its current population from an area stretching from Port Louis in the northwest to Trou d'Eau Douce in the east.



## Our Curriculum

At IPS teaching and learning takes place within a constructivist context where students build new knowledge upon previous knowledge. Teachers use inquiry to lead students to ask questions, investigate themes, draw conclusions, and, as exploration continues, to revisit those conclusions. A cycle of exploration of questions leads to more questions and deeper understanding. Teachers follow Scope and Sequence learning documents based on the British National Curriculum in Languages, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies laid out in learning phases that seek conceptual understandings, learning outcomes, and benchmarks. Specialist teachers in Music, PE, Art and Design Technology and ICT teach to specific curriculums for their subject areas.

## Our Special features

- ❖ IPS follows a constructivist inquiry approach to teaching and learning.
- ❖ IPS uses Scope and Sequence learning documents based on the British National Curriculum in Languages, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies that are laid out in learning phases, and seek conceptual understandings, learning outcomes, and benchmarks.
- ❖ IPS uses a balanced approach to assessment.
- ❖ IPS offers single subject specialist teachers for French, Music, PE, Art and Design Technology and ICT.
- ❖ IPS is fully accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS).
- ❖ IPS begins the school year in late August and continues through to the end of June.
- ❖ IPS uses the Australian Centre for Educational Research (ACER) International School Assessments (ISA) in Years 4 to 6.
- ❖ IPS offers a half and full day Nursery program.
- ❖ IPS Offers two levels of French language in Years 1&2 and three levels in Years 3-Y6.

## Units of Inquiry

The Units of Inquiry are structured around important concepts and provide a context in which students can gain understanding, and at the same time, acquire essential knowledge, skills and attitudes.

**Units of Inquiry:** (organized around five themes)

**Exploring places and time.**

**Organising myself.**

**Exploring my world**

**Understanding my rights and responsibilities**

**Exploring oneself**

A further unit, **‘Expressing myself’** runs alongside all other units and covers the wide ranging literacy aspects of the curriculum.

## Assessment

IPS uses a balanced approach to assessment that includes in class assessments, year level assessments, external benchmarks such as PUMA in mathematics, and the Developmental Reading Assessment. In Years 4-6 students sit an annual standardized assessment known as the International Schools Assessment.



## The School and Its Students

Our student body of approximately 360 children from Nursery (3yrs) to Year 6 (11yrs) come from cultural and social backgrounds.

English is the teaching language of the school. Those students who start school at IPS with little or no English will require support in learning English. Those identified will be given English as a Second or Other Language teaching support (ESOL).

At IPS we recognise that children may experience some form of learning challenge or learning difficulty at some stage during their time in primary school. We provide learning support support for children with mild needs

❖ IPS provides support for students with mild learning needs through our Learning Support Department.

❖ IPS provides support for students with little or no English.

❖ IPS brings its curriculum to life through field trips so students are able to experience local sights and sounds, meet local people, experience local history and culture and experience the geography of the island first hand.

❖ IPS offers Extra Curricula Activities from 3:00pm to 4:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 12:15 pm until 1:15 pm on Wednesdays.

❖ IPS employs a fulltime, qualified and experienced school nurse who is present at school during regular school hours.

❖ IPS campus and parking areas are monitored by CCTV and a security guard mans the main entrance when school is in session.

❖ IPS does not offer a bus service.

❖ IPS does not have a canteen though students can order a packed lunch the Northfields International High School which is just across the road from IPS. Orders are collected by IPS support staff and distributed at IPS.

based on a teacher referral through our Special educational Needs (SEN) dept. We encourage our students to develop and practice leadership skills as well as empathy and respect for all others. Each year, children in Classes 3 to 6 elect class representatives who together form the *IPS Student Council*

Selected senior students in Class 6 take on the roles of *Prefects and Monitors*. These students are supported in developing their leadership skills throughout their final year at IPS.



A variety of Extra-Curricular Activities are organised by the Parent Association secretary. Activities are offered from 3:00pm to 4:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 12:15pm until 1:15pm on Wednesdays.

The majority of our students live in the north of the island and the school is well connected to the major road systems in the north. Many of our students are brought to school and collected at the end of the day by their parents or by family drivers. We have a parking lot for parent use conveniently situated next to the campus.

Our facilities include

- ❑ Two purpose-built classroom blocks,
- ❑ Three computer labs,
- ❑ Two libraries,
- ❑ An art studio,
- ❑ French language classrooms,
- ❑ A learning support teaching centre,
- ❑ A gymnasium,
- ❑ Sports fields and playgrounds,
- ❑ Northfields International High School's (NIHS) swimming pool
- ❑ An outdoor amphitheatre
- ❑ A medical room.
- ❑ WiFi internet access.



*'Inspiring our learners to thrive in a world of change'.*

## In Brief

### Early Years

Nursery	3-4 years old
Reception	4-5 years old

**Coordinator: Mrs. N Bigaignon**

### Key Stage 1

Year 1	5-6 years old
Year 2	6-7 years old

**Coordinator: Mrs. H Ashton**

### Key Stage 2

Year 3	7-8 Years old
Year 4	8-9 Years old
Year 5	9-10 Years old
Year 6	10-11 Years old

**Coordinator: Mrs. L Ramgolam**

## Contact Us

*Mrs Vanessa Juliette*

### School Secretary

[admin@ips-mu.com](mailto:admin@ips-mu.com)

*Mr. Bruce Ashton*

### Head of School

[headofschool@ips-mu.com](mailto:headofschool@ips-mu.com)

*Mrs. Nicky Bigaignon*

### Deputy Head of School

[dhos@ips-mu.com](mailto:dhos@ips-mu.com)

*Mrs. Catherine Legrand*

### Admission Manager

[admissions@ips-mu.com](mailto:admissions@ips-mu.com)

*Mrs. Hemlata Seesurn*

### Bursar / Business Manager

[bursar@ips-mu.com](mailto:bursar@ips-mu.com)

[WWW.IPS-MU.COM](http://WWW.IPS-MU.COM)

## Communication

At IPS we communicate with our community in a variety of ways that include the:

- IPS Parent Handbook
- Weekly Infobyte to families.
- IPS Facebook
- Emergency SMS
- Monthly Parent Coffee Mornings
- Year Level Newsletters (at the beginning and end of a Unit)
- IPS Website
- Parent meetings
- Parent surveys
- Student Communication Books
- Class teachers email
- Goal Setting and Settling In Conferences (Oct)
- Student report card (Dec, April, June)
- Student Led Conferences (Mar)
- Annual Board of Governors AGM

## The Parent Association at IPS

The PA Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and a number of supporting members. In addition, the PA encourages parents to come forward as PA Class Representatives.

The members of the Parent Association elect a PA Committee each year. This committee is very active in organising a number of community events through the year.

## Board of Governors

The IPS Association is administered by a Board of Governors, elected from the membership of the IPS Association. The term of office for Governors is 24 months and re-election is possible. Currently, the IPS Board of Governors consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 6 additional Board Members. The Head of School and Parent Association President are invited members. The Board meets once a month when school is in session. Board operations are governed by the IPS Bylaws and by the policies contained in the Board Policy Manual. Governance of the School is exercised by the Board of Governors who delegate the authority for the execution of school policies and the day to day management of the School to the Head of School.



