

British School of Chicago

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL
Individual. International. Exceptional.



High Performance Education for Children Ages 3 to 18



About Our School

“ Although all the private schools I visited said they could customize their curriculum to meet a child’s specific needs, the only school that had a complete system in place to allow each child to move at their own pace was BSC. ”

– BSC Parent

The British School of Chicago is a vibrant international school that offers a high-performance education for children ages 3 to 18. Acclaimed international curricula, energetic teachers, and a student community from Chicago and around the world ensure that a global perspective is at the heart of each student’s experience.

At the British School of Chicago, we are committed to equipping our students for success with the skills, knowledge and understanding they will need for an exciting and ever-changing world.

Our truly personalized approach and unique focus on learning enables our students to make remarkable personal progress, and our focus on learning, supported by internationally acclaimed curricula culminating in the IB Diploma Program, ensures that our students are well-prepared for university and beyond.





What Makes the British School of Chicago Different?

“ While our two children are very different from each another, the school and its amazing staff have expertly nurtured our kids to help them both achieve their own definitions of academic excellence, social confidence and artistic distinction. ”

– BSC Parent

Truly International

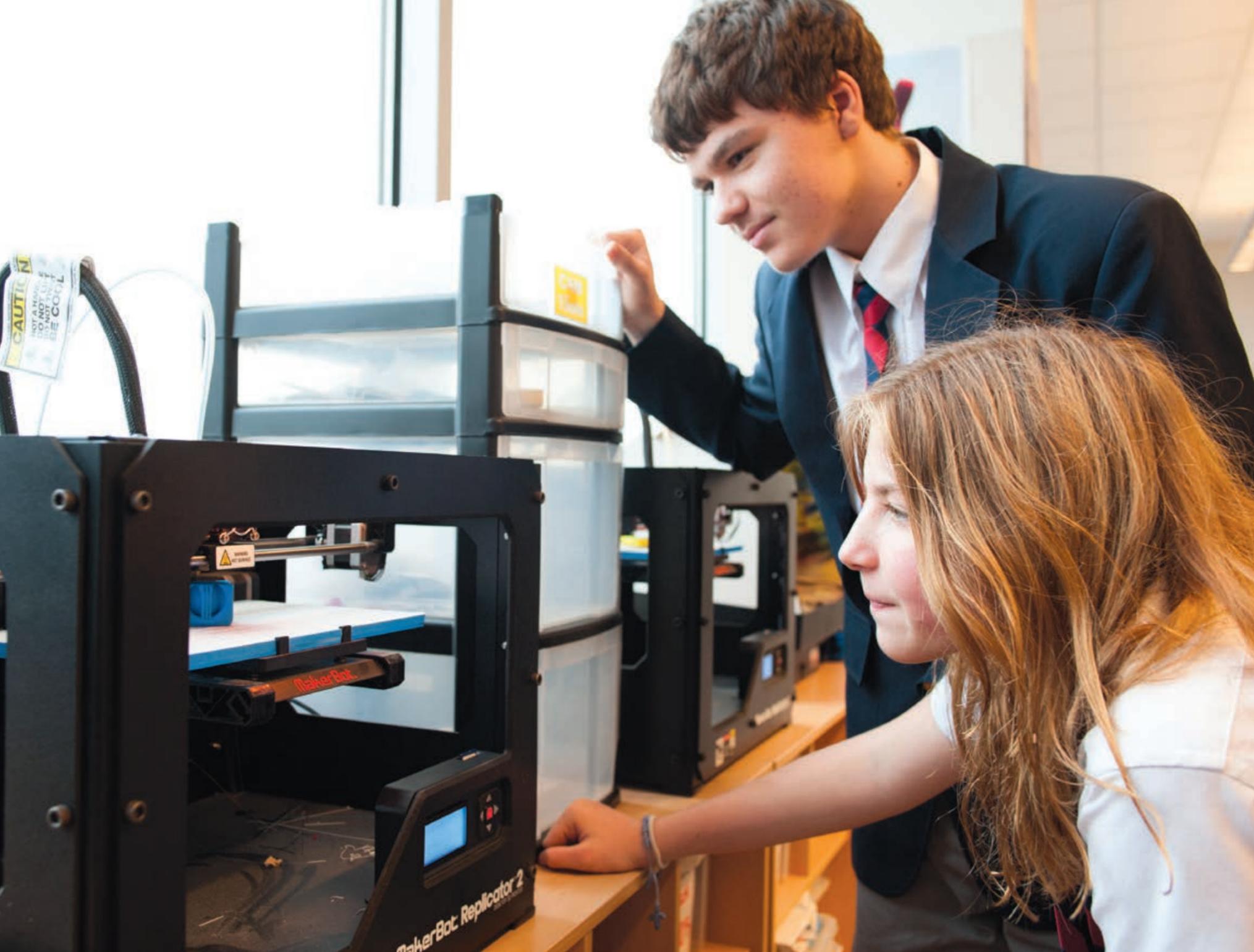
The British School of Chicago offers an authentic international education where a world-wide perspective is explored and celebrated. Our families come from over 50 different countries and our teachers share the experience and expertise they have gained from around the world. We embrace the various traditions and cultures that are prevalent across our community.

Through the Primary School curriculum, our younger students learn about the wider world through thematic-based lessons that connect concepts, places, people and things. In addition to the curricula, we offer a range of opportunities for students in middle school and above to develop international mindedness – from community service projects to networking with other schools, environmental programs and so much more.

Our curriculum is based on high-performance learning and incorporates the National Curriculum for England; the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), which prepares students for high school; and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, which is offered in Years 12-13 (Grades 11-12), and is recognized as a qualification of excellence by leading universities and colleges around the world.

Our students also enjoy access to the Global Classroom, a Nord Anglia Education program that allows them to interact with children from around the world. The online learning space, project challenges and once-in-a-lifetime international trips enable them to learn alongside children from our family of 31 schools serving over 18,000 students.





Understanding the Curriculum

“ The British School of Chicago is building a strong well rounded curriculum, and where other schools have pulled budgets and time away from PE, art, music and general learning, BSC strengthened these areas. ”

– BSC Parent

At the British School of Chicago, our differentiated instruction brings together the strengths of some of the best curricula in the world to engage and challenge your child, create global citizens, and prepare them for higher education.

Personalized Learning Goals

Our teachers are trained and experienced in using differentiated strategies to optimize the learning potential of each child and to support them in pursuit of their goals. Even the very youngest students are aware of their personal learning goals and what they need to do to achieve them.

Age 3-5

Our preschool curriculum for ages 3-5 (Nursery and Reception), based on principles of learning through play, not only acts as a transition between home and school, but also starts your child off with the learning habits necessary to become a successful lifelong learner.

Age 5-11

To help your child become an able, confident and inspired learner, our curriculum approaches learning with a clear progression in skill development.

Age 11-14

Our curriculum provides a balanced program of subjects that promotes the emotional, cultural, mental and physical development of your child, both at school and within society.

Age 14-16

The high school curriculum begins with the international version of the British GCSE qualification, known as the IGCSE.

Age 16-18

As students approach the end of their high school curriculum, our school offers a number of routes to college, including the IB program.

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate Diploma is an internationally recognized qualification, respected throughout the US and the world's top colleges and universities.

Arts and Physical Education

Our curriculum includes a wide range of school activities from sports to music and the arts. Interest in these areas of the curriculum is also supported by our extracurricular activities program.



Early Years

“The early year education is exceptional so far and there is an advancement in learning beyond constituents of the same age.”

– BSC Parent

Our preschool curriculum for ages 3-5 (Nursery and Reception), based on principles of learning through play, not only acts as a transition between home and school, but also starts your child off with the learning habits necessary to become a successful lifelong learner.

Our topic-based, cross-curricular approach to learning underpins all the foundation stage learning at the British School of Chicago. Topic-based learning is taught through the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) in Nursery and Reception. The IPC is a challenging and fun curriculum focused explicitly on developing children’s learning based around related themes of real interest to children so they are engaged and enthusiastic.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The curriculum’s play-based structure focuses on subject, personal and internationally-minded learning goals. These unique units of work help children acquire knowledge, skills and understanding in active, exciting and motivating classroom environments.





Primary Years

“ My boys love going to school and are learning amazing things for their age. They are fully engaged, comprehending and applying their knowledge. ”

– BSC Parent

To help your child become an able, confident and inspired learner, our curriculum approaches learning with a clear progression in skill development.

In the primary school, your child will consider topics from multiple perspectives and make meaningful connections between what he or she learns in the subjects studied. The core curriculum from ages 5-11 (Year 1 - Year 6) includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Design Technology
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- PACE (Personal and Citizenship Education)
- American Studies, ages 7-11 (Year 3 - Year 6)
- Modern Foreign Language (French and Spanish)

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and the National Curriculum for England provide the framework for educating students in Years 1 to 6 (ages 5 to 11). The IPC is a cross-curricular teaching program integrating History, Geography, Science, Art, Information Communication Technology and Design Technology into thematic units and provides links to National Curriculum guidelines for English, Mathematics, Music and Physical Education.

Children spend three to six weeks on units of work that are based around interdisciplinary themes of real interest to children so they are engaged and enthusiastic; examples of themes include “Circus” and “Active Planet.” Internationalism is embedded into every topic-based unit to ensure our children grow up with a very clear global understanding. Focusing on three standards – academic, personal development and international mindedness – our curriculum provides a creative system that prepares children, wherever they may live in the future, for the world of tomorrow.



Middle Years

“ The school excels at educating our children; the curriculum is challenging, well taught and progressive. ”

– BSC Student

Our curriculum provides a balanced program of subjects that promotes the emotional, cultural, mental and physical development of your child, both at school and within society.

Upon entering the secondary school, your child will take courses based upon the National Curriculum for England with highly qualified specialist teachers. It will prepare your child for high school, and also the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The middle school curriculum is designed for your child to become a:

- Successful learner who enjoys learning, makes progress and achieves
- Confident individual who is able to live a safe, healthy and fulfilling life
- Responsible citizen who makes a positive contribution to society

The core curriculum for ages 11-14 (Year 7 - Year 9) includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)
- PACE (Personal and Citizenship Education)
- Art and Design
- Music
- Design Technology
- Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)
- Physical Education





Preparing for the IB Diploma Program

“Over the years at BSC, we have come to truly appreciate the international climate of the school. Our children have many multi-cultural friends and every culture is celebrated at BSC.”

– BSC Parent

The rigorous two-year program in Years 10-11 (Grades 9-10) prepares students for the challenges of the IB Diploma Program and provides students with an education qualification that is recognized around the world. Work during these two years includes theory, investigation and elements of practical work.

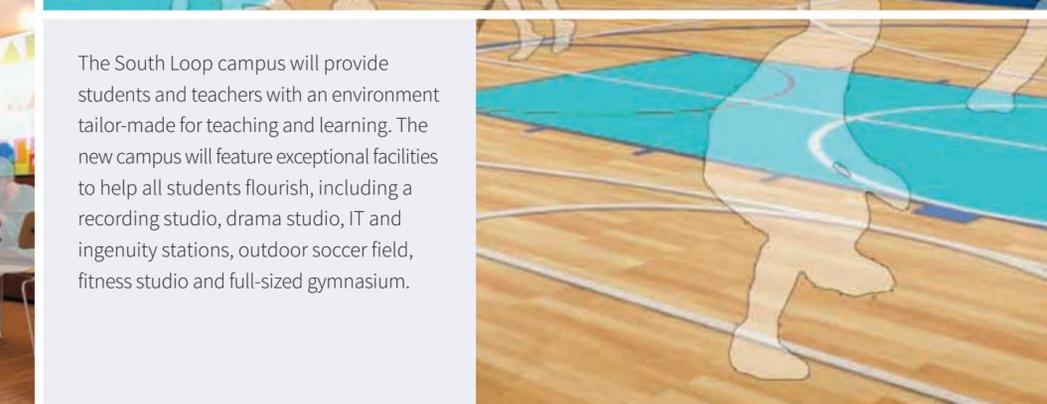
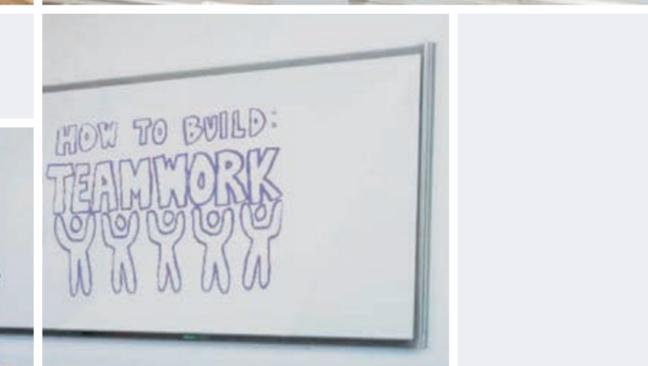
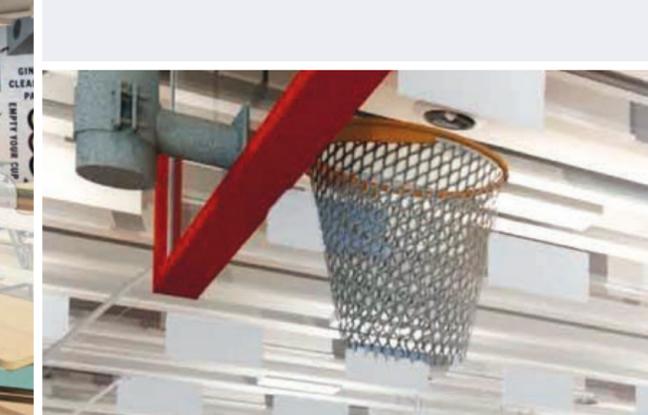
At the end of this two year accelerated academic program students are assessed through standardized exams, marked by examining boards based in England, and are awarded individual subject IGCSE certificates. A good set of eight IGCSEs at C grade or above is considered, internationally, to be worth the equivalent of a standard US High School Diploma.

The program includes compulsory study of English Literature and Language, Math, Three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and at least one language (French, Spanish or German). Students also select another three subjects from a list that includes Geography, History, Art, Design Technology, Music, Media Studies, Business Studies, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and Physical Education (PE).





A World Class Campus for Students Aged 3-18



The South Loop campus will provide students and teachers with an environment tailor-made for teaching and learning. The new campus will feature exceptional facilities to help all students flourish, including a recording studio, drama studio, IT and ingenuity stations, outdoor soccer field, fitness studio and full-sized gymnasium.

British School of Chicago's

Second Campus

161 W. 9th Street

South Loop

98,000 square foot purpose built school campus • 9,000 square foot gymnasium
Interactive technology in all classrooms • Access to classroom computers and iPads for all students
Personal iPads given to all high school students • Well-equipped student libraries
State-of-the-art computer lab • Industrial arts workshop • Fitness studio and weight room
Fine arts studio • Dance studio • Private music rehearsal rooms and recording studio
Fully cooking kitchen and cafeteria • Outdoor soccer field
Science laboratories for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics



Beyond the Classroom

“Through friendships, daily lessons and special celebrations, our children are growing up with a world view. We have found the children and parents to be wonderfully friendly.”

– BSC Parent

Extracurricular Activities

The British School of Chicago offers a wide and exciting range of opportunities for students to develop interests, skills and become involved with the wider community. An interesting selection of after-school and extracurricular options are available throughout the year; these change each term. Extracurricular activities range from sports, games, musical instruments, the arts, technology, English, Math, Science, Foreign Languages and a myriad of other options such as Model UN and Science Olympiad.

Clubs and Camps

We offer a range of clubs and activities run by our teachers and outside specialists after school hours. Examples include Mini-Mozarts, Art Attack, Mind Lab, Taekwondo, Ballet, and Fencing; a new variety of choices is offered each term. For middle and high school students, we offer Middle and High School homework clubs that allow in-depth work on specific subjects with a specialist teacher. During holiday breaks, we offer day camps that encourage social, physical, and personal development through many different activities.

Sports

The BSC Bulldogs participate in regular competition in a variety of sports against schools and teams from the surrounding area. Starting in primary school, we have boys and girls soccer teams; at the middle school level, we also have boys and girls basketball, volleyball and rowing teams. Our high school athletes are exposed to regular competition with other local schools in basketball, tennis, volleyball and rowing.

Educational Visits

Field trips give children at British School of Chicago an exciting hands-on, real-life experience that cannot be duplicated in the classroom. They support children's learning and are linked carefully to one or more subjects from our broad curriculum. As students move up in the school, their trips evolve from short visits to overnight camps to longer international trips, carefully planned to complement their studies and development.



The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

“ I am incredibly impressed with everything. I feel the teachers, all studies and clubs are wonderful. ”

– BSC Parent

The renowned International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a challenging two-year curriculum that prepares students for success in higher education, leading to a highly-regarded qualification that is accepted and recognized by the world’s leading universities and colleges. The program encourages students to ask challenging questions, develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture, and develop the ability to understand and communicate with people from other countries and cultures.

Students study six subjects selected from the subject groups. Three subjects are studied at higher level (courses representing a minimum of 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (courses representing a minimum of 150 teaching hours). Students study subjects from the following groups: a literature-based language course, a conversational-based second language course, a social science, a physical/biological science, a math course, and an elective course.

In addition to these subjects above, students are also responsible for completing three additional core requirements that broaden the education experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge:

The Extended Essay

Independent research and in-depth study of one of the diploma program subjects studied.

Theory of Knowledge

In this course on critical thinking, students inquire into the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)

Students are encouraged to become involved in a range of activities alongside their academic studies to promote personal development.





Teachers and Academics

“ We love learning here because it’s challenging and we do so many different activities! The teachers are always happy and fair and that helps us to learn. ”

– BSC Student

Exceptional Teachers

Our team of outstanding teachers and educational professionals are committed to ensuring that learning, not teaching, is at the very heart of all student experiences. Trained and skilled in differentiated and personalized learning strategies, teachers tailor learning goals and plans for each individual student and support them along the way in their learning journey.

Teachers at the British School of Chicago share extensive international experience. Ongoing professional development and mentoring programs ensure that our teachers are at the forefront in learning and educational developments, and they are supported in these endeavors by the internal Nord Anglia University program.

Achievement

In addition to excellent personal progress, student outcomes on standardized assessment exceed national and international averages significantly and in some instances are amongst the highest in the world. Students who participate in SATs have scored within the top 10%, and some students who took IGCSEs earned amongst the highest marks in the US.





The Power of 31

“ Our family loves the British School of Chicago because of the wonderfully balanced and exciting school experience it delivers to our children. ”

– BSC Parent

The British School of Chicago is located in the popular Lincoln Park neighborhood, easily accessible by I-90/94, the CTA Red Line and several bus lines. Our second campus, located in the thriving South Loop area, will open in the fall of 2015 and will enjoy easy access to numerous museums and other downtown attractions.

The Nord Anglia Education Family of Schools

The British School of Chicago is part of Nord Anglia Education, the world's leading premium school organization. Founded in 1972, the Nord Anglia Education family of 31 schools extends to 13 countries, providing opportunities for our students to collaborate with their peers around the world. We understand the importance of great teachers and work to attract and retain the world's best education professionals to inspire our students to greatness. We do this through High Performance Learning, our approach that is centered around a combination of guided learning challenges and collaborative study in and outside the classroom. In everything we do, we are committed to ensuring that our students thrive and are equipped to make the most of every opportunity. At Nord Anglia Education, we are committed to helping others to be the best they can be.





Student Voice

“ BSC offers an internationally minded, global education that many other schools in the area do not. BSC also offers a strong academic opportunity. ”

– BSC Parent

One of the school's aims is that all students have the opportunity to be leaders and this can be seen by the many opportunities students have both within their classroom and in the school in general.

Primary Years

“In Years Three to Six, the British School of Chicago (BSC) Student Council is a powerful tool to not only raise student voice in our school but it also teaches children how to speak publicly, think outside the box for ways to further improve their environment, and gives them an opportunity to lead their peers. One example of developing their leadership skills comes from the whole school charity events organized and lead by the Student Council representatives. Here they work together to plan, promote and think of strategies to raise the event profiles as much as possible. By far the most successful event organized by the Student Council thus far is the BSC ‘Bulldogs Steps-A-Lot’ team for the Aon stair Climb, in which we have been the leading team taking part since 2012!”

– Danielle Stone, Primary Student Council Leader

“We run a House System, whereby all children ages 5-11 are divided into four Houses namely Paris, London, Athens and Washington. Each of these Houses is headed up by four Captains and twelve Vice Captains, as voted for by the students at the start of each academic year. During the year and as part of the House System children take part in charity initiatives, social events, competitions and buddying programs, through which they learn to develop their leadership skills, social awareness and a healthy sense of competition and team spirit!”

– Eleanor Davis, Primary House Leader

Secondary Years

In the secondary school there are many opportunities to contribute to the development of the school. One area is the student council where students meet with staff representatives, including the Principal, to discuss various topics.

In the middle and high school there is the opportunity to elect a student leader who leads all of the students and the house captains. The head student represents the school and the students and many events including the graduation ceremony at the end of the year and also meets with the headmaster to discuss student priorities.

The middle and high school have houses which contain all of the students and these have house captains who meet and lead their members in competitions and school spirit events.

All high school students participate in creativity, action and service hours that are necessary for graduation. The activities are initiated by the students and supported by the school. There is also a charity board formed which consists of parents, staff and student representatives.

The school has a national honors society for students who meet the requirements. This year the national honors society students are leading on the organization of the collection of school supplies for CPS schools.

Each year there is an opportunity for students to travel internationally and last year seven of our students travelled to Tanzania. The fundraising for the trip to Tanzania was student led, again with support and guidance from the school.

Students have started clubs and activities for other students in the school. Some examples of clubs are the school newspaper club, a running club, anime club, empower club...

High school students started a peer mentoring scheme where high school students met with small groups of middle school students once a week.



Parent Involvement

“ My daughter started only 3 weeks ago and she’s already started to read and write. So very proud of her and of her teachers. ”

– BSC Parent

Parent Links, our parent classroom representatives, serve as important liaisons between the administration, the faculty and the parent body. Their primary role is to work with the classroom teacher in order to coordinate and organize volunteers that assist with classroom projects, parties and community service. By carrying out this role successfully, they aim to establish a community spirit throughout the school that fosters an understanding between the home and school leading to a successful, happy trusting and secure learning environment where all opinions are valued.

The Parent Advocacy Group is a volunteer group of parents combined with the school leadership team and staff representatives. The objective of the Parent Advocacy Group is to support the school in developing partnerships with parents, teachers, staff and the local and international community. Working in conjunction with the school, the Parent Advocacy Group provides long-term vision and works on specific projects for growth and development.

Parent Forums are held periodically throughout the year, and parents are welcome to attend these forums to meet with the Senior Leadership team to get an update on school activities. Each year group has an opportunity to ask questions and address the issues that matter the most to them.

We also invite our parents into the school to participate in a lesson, which provides an opportunity to see your child’s learning environment first-hand. One favorite activity of our parents is being a “Mystery Reader,” during which parents come to the school and surprise their son/daughter’s classroom by coming in and reading their favorite book. Field trips are another fun way for you to take part in school life, and we encourage you to chaperone these trips when possible.

Consultations are held four times a year with the teachers, enabling you and your child to review the learning which has taken place and to discuss his or her upcoming targets for development. Two shortened reports and two longer narrative reports keep you informed of progress during the year. If you wish to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss any aspect of their learning, teachers are available to meet before and after school by appointment.



The British School of Chicago has earned a well deserved reputation for high academic standards, exceptional standards of learning and teaching and a rich and varied extra-curricular program which enables students to explore their interests, develop talents and expand their horizons. The school's program provides an excellent foundation for University and beyond, preparing students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life so that each student is given the opportunities to develop his or her own abilities and potential to their fullest.

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Second campus opening September 2015
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