

INTENTIONALLY GREAT ACADEMY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BASIC INFORMATION

What are the school hours?

Our school hours are from 8:30am - 3:30pm. However, students may arrive as early as 6:30am and be picked up by 3:45pm without incurring additional before and after care fees.

What grades do you serve?

We currently serve students from preschool through 5th grade in a multi-age, level-based setting.

What does a typical day look like?

Mornings are dedicated to direct instruction in reading, math, and writing through small group and level-based learning. Afternoons are centered around science and social studies based collaborative projects, critical thinking, and applied learning through our PBL framework.

Are students required to wear a uniform?

Students wear khaki bottoms and a blue or grey polo shirt embroidered with the IGLC logo. On Wonder Wednesdays and field trip days, students wear a designated track suit or warm-weather uniform ensemble.

Is there before and after care?

Yes, we have both before and after care at an additional cost.

Is breakfast and lunch included in the tuition?

Breakfast and lunch are included for Pre-K3 and Pre-K4. For elementary aged students, breakfast is \$2 per day and lunch is \$4 per day. Parents do have the option to provide lunch for their children. Please note that families will be able to change their meal selection **only** on a monthly basis.

Is there early dismissal on any school day?

Yes, on Wednesdays our academic day will end at 2:30pm to allow for staff meetings and continued professional development. Students must be picked up by 2:45pm on Wednesdays or parents can choose after school care for coverage. Afterschool will begin at 2:45pm.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

What curriculum do you use?

At IGLC, we use a variety of curriculums based on student's needs, education research, and best practices. For example, we use the Horizons curriculum for reading and Math Mammoth.

What is level-based learning? Level-based learning means students are taught based on their current skill level rather than age or grade. Students progress by mastering specific academic skills, ensuring instruction is targeted, meaningful, and effective.

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How are students placed in their levels?

Student placement is determined through a combination of diagnostic assessments, ongoing formative data, and teacher observations. Students move fluidly between levels as mastery is demonstrated.

Is there homework?

IGLC thoughtfully assigns homework to reinforce and extend the learning principles introduced throughout the school day. Homework is typically distributed on a weekly basis and is intentionally designed to align with each student's individual learning needs. This approach allows students to practice essential skills, deepen their understanding, and build confidence as they continue their academic growth beyond the classroom.

What subjects are taught?

We focus on the Big Three: Reading, Math, and ELA. Instruction is delivered through structured literacy practices, concept-based math instruction, and skill-specific writing development. In the afternoons, students engage in project-based learning across science and social studies content.

What is project-based learning (PBL)?

PBL is an interdisciplinary instructional approach that helps students explore meaningful questions and real-world topics through extended learning projects. Each unit culminates in a performance-based showcase.

What are Wonder Wednesdays?

Wonder Wednesdays are weekly field-based learning days where students explore museums, nature, businesses, and community organizations that deepen their academic inquiry and cultural understanding. Students will engage in outdoor learning at least 2-4 times per month.

How do you measure student progress?

Progress is monitored through formal and informal assessments, portfolio work, and teacher-designed benchmarks. Family progress reports are shared regularly, and student growth conferences are held throughout the year.

Do you conduct standardized tests?

Yes. Students at IGA take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) each spring as part of our annual assessment process. The ITBS provides a national benchmark to help monitor academic progress across core subjects. Results are used alongside internal assessments to inform instruction and evaluate growth. Testing is administered in a low-stress environment and does not drive our instructional model.

STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT

How do you support students with diverse learning needs?

We maintain a flexible, responsive approach to instruction. Supports include small group instruction, accommodations, and access to specialized staff for academic, behavioral, or developmental needs. We work closely with families and outside providers as needed.

Are families included?

Families are valued partners in learning. We expect active communication, participation in student learning, and collaboration with staff to support student growth and wellbeing. Each family will also be required to participate in four (4) volunteer activities throughout the school year, as well as required



fundraisers. Parents are also encouraged to join the Parents' Association for opportunities to volunteer and partner with the school.

How does the school communicate with families? IGA communicates with families through the Playground app, which provides real-time updates, announcements, attendance tracking, and direct messaging with staff. We also send regular newsletters, email updates, and calendar reminders. Families are invited to curriculum nights, student showcases, and conferences throughout the year to stay engaged and informed. Open, ongoing communication is a core part of our school culture.