



## FAQ ISBerne Online

ISBerne Online is accredited through the **New England Association of Schools and Colleges** (NEASC), which is indicative of the high-quality education and rigorous standards that are met. Full courses are offered from Kindergarten through 12th grade, and an American High School Diploma is awarded upon graduation. High school students could also participate in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and requisite exams that can be used to apply for college credit at US institutions. We offer support from qualified and experienced licensed teachers based across America, Europe, and other parts of the world. ISBerne Online offers teacher-led virtual classes, using our platform.

### How do students study online?

Students need to log in to our online platform and are assigned their teachers along with a Homeroom teacher for KG- Grade 5 and an Academic Advisor for Grade 6 through to grade 12.

The teacher will contact you on the first day of school and will work closely with the student to ensure that they are fully supported and on track with their coursework. We have 2 terms per year (each is 5 months) and the end date depends on your start date. Both the students and parents will have their login access details.

### Do you provide me with a timetable?

Teachers do not send schedules; students follow a pacing guide/calendar. Live classes are recorded and can be replayed on our platform. Your Canvas Calendar can be used to manage work due; it is recommended that you use the agenda view so that you can see all outstanding tasks. For **High School students**, the teachers are required to hold Live-Mid Term and Semester Final review which are held once every term. For **Math, English, Science and History**, teachers do hold live sessions which are recorded but this would be every two weeks

### What time do live classes take place?

These are scheduled within Gulf Standard Time. All classes are recorded in case of absence and can be played back at your leisure. Teacher/student ratio is maintained at 1:15 to ensure engagement, students can contact the teacher directly via google chat for further support.

**Will you send me textbooks?**

All our material is digital and can be accessed through our online platform. Students are required to submit their online coursework, quizzes, essays, and exams.

**How many courses can I take at a time?**

A full-time student can take up to 6 courses at a time. A part-time student can take no more than 3 courses at a time. Since a part-time student is normally following a full schoolwork load at their local school, we urge students to consider how much time they must dedicate to the required work before enrolling in multiple online courses in a single term.

**How are the studies assessed and graded?**

ISBerne Online uses several types of assessments including practice quizzes, short answer and essay questions, objective multiple-choice exams, and oral examinations (when appropriate). This mix provides the independent learner with checkpoints to monitor his or her progress through each course.

**Can students talk to their teachers?**

Yes, students are assigned a teacher for each course. The Learning Coach/Parent and oversees the student's entire schedule, offers advice and answers questions. For specific course questions, teachers have "office hours" when they are available online and they respond to emails within 24 hours.

**Where are the instructors based?**

Currently, many of our course instructors are based in the United States with a few residing in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

**Where are the exams held?**

Exams are taken at home online; the date and time are set by our school. The platform is secured to ensure that students cannot open any other webpages.

**How many hours am I required to study per day?**

Students in KG through to Grade 8 are required to study between 4-6 hours per day, 5 days a week. Students in grades 9-12 are required to study around 6 hours per day, 5x a week.



## Are the courses self-paced?

- In **Lower School**, the online curriculum includes courses in the four core subjects— language arts, math, science, and social studies. Students also have access to elective courses at each grade level, plus world language options from Grade 3 onward.
- Every course offers flexible pacing, allowing students to move at the speed that best suits their needs. Those who are ready to move on to the next lesson or unit can do so, while those who need just a little more time may take it. Nearly all courses are complemented by a wealth of hands-on teaching tools you would find in a traditional classroom.
- Students are placed in homeroom and assigned a homeroom teacher. This person is your first point of contact with any questions or concerns and will meet with the student and learning coach 1:1 on a bi-weekly basis. Students also receive live teaching sessions in Math and Language Arts. These sessions are designed to provide introduction or review practice as well as an opportunity for students to interact in small group activities
- The **Middle School** program (Grades 6 – 8) offers a great degree of flexibility. A suggested lesson plan is provided to the parent or “Learning Coach” each week, which updates automatically as students’ progress through the curriculum. The parent/Learning Coach can vary the lesson plan, to accommodate the student’s pace or abilities: for instance, some students do better when they can concentrate on their math studies for multiple hours per day but fewer days per week. The online teachers work in conjunction with the parent/Learning Coach to review progress and modify the pace when necessary.
- In the **High School** program, students are expected to be more accountable for their daily progress and time management. The student is expected to move at a more consistent pace with her or his classes, in each subject, though there is room for flexibility. There are weekly and sometimes daily assignments and due dates. Students are expected to complete assignments and submit them on or before the due date or the grade may be penalized. Students can work whenever they want, including on the weekends, but must meet due dates for assignments. If students have a call scheduled with a teacher or have a synchronous online session, they are expected to attend those meetings.

There is no fixed time for students to log into the online school. They are free to do so anytime during the day. We recommend students to take at least an hour per day, per subject for the ordinary online courses. Advanced Placement courses have different requirements.



### **Do I have to be online at a specific time?**

Our online courses do not require you to be online at a specific time. We have submission deadlines, but students choose the place and time to attend courses and work on assignments. Students should plan on logging into the online learning school at least an hour a day for each subject.

### **Are your report card and diploma valid worldwide?**

We are fully licensed and accredited by NEASC and our report cards are accepted by schools internationally. We offer students an American High School diploma that is fully recognized by Universities. Please check our university acceptance page on our website.

### **What subjects do you teach in KG through to Grade 8? And what subjects do you teach from grade 9-12?**

- **In KG through to grade 8 students** are required to take 4 core courses; English, Math, Science, and History, and can choose 2 electives which is optional. Please do refer to our course catalog for more details.
- **In grades 9-12 we follow a credit system** and students are required to take 6 courses per year, English, math, history, and science a world language and electives to earn 6 credits per year. You would require 24 credits to graduate. Please refer to our course catalog for more details on the high school courses.

### **What is the role of the parent if the student studies from home?**

**Students studying from home require their parent (or another responsible adult) to serve as the 'learning coach'**, The learning coach works in conjunction with the teacher, helping facilitate progress through the daily lessons and working to modify the pace and schedule according to the child's needs. The learning coach assists the student as well to stay on schedule, monitors attendance, and communicates with the online teachers.

Although parents play the role of learning coach for their students in managing the schedule and ensuring the student is completing work at a reasonable pace, teachers remain constantly involved to monitor progress, ensure mastery, and develop specific intervention plans when a child is studying.



### **Do I have to attend school in Switzerland?**

ISBerne Online students can choose if they want to come to the Berne campus for residency weeks for an additional semester fee. Students can opt to participate in our Study Abroad Program and enroll in traditional classes on-campus or take a combination of both on-campus and online courses, for either a semester or full-year. The student will stay with either an ISBerne or a local Swiss family.

### **If my child transfers to ISBerne Online in grades 10-12, will he/she receive credit for high school courses already completed?**

Yes. Part of the enrollment process is for our Enrollment Team to evaluate the transcripts from his/her previous high school and determine the number of credits that can be transferred to meet our graduation requirements. Some Grade 10-12 international transcripts may require translation and/or evaluation through an external agency, The [Arizona International Credential Evaluators](#), at an extra cost before being considered for transfer credits.

### **Does ISBerne Online have certified teachers?**

Yes, our teachers are a fundamental part of our school. The course-specific teachers are all highly qualified, certified teachers with an average of 7 years of teaching experience. The Academic staff at both iCademy Middleeast and ISBerne Online have years of international experience and provide excellent guidance and support to our students.

### **Does ISBerne Online offer IB Courses?**

Due to changes legislated by the International Baccalaureate, IB courses are no longer available for distance learning programs such as ISBerne Online. Therefore, ISBerne Online no longer offers IB courses. If you are interested in the IB you must enroll and attend an IB school on campus, such as our International IB sister school, ISBerne, in Switzerland.



### What if my child has learning needs?

Depending on the learning challenge, it is best to discuss the specifics with the Enrollment team. Online learning can be a terrific alternative for students who have difficulty concentrating in a traditional classroom. Since students can go at their own pace, and work through the material independently, often the flexibility of online learning is an appealing option for families. If a student requires a lot of extra guidance or support, the learning coach at home may need to allocate more of his/her time to the student's studies. Again, best to discuss the issues with our Enrollment Team to see if online learning is a good solution for your child.

### What are the technical requirements for studying online?

Our online courses are designed to work on modern browsers and operating systems. Please use the recommendations below to ensure that your computer is properly configured for our online curriculum.

PLATFORM	OPERATING SYSTEMS	BROWSERS
PC	Microsoft Windows XP or later	Mozilla Firefox 3.6 or later Internet Explorer 7 or 8*Safari 4 or later
MACINTOSH	Apple Macintosh OS X 10.5 or later	Mozilla Firefox 3.6 or later Internet Explorer 7 or 8*Safari 4 or later

\* 64-bit versions of IE are not supported so 32-bit versions must be used. \* IE 9 is not officially supported, but most features work if all plugins are installed \* Google Chrome is not supported, and some issues have been reported. \* We recommend using one of the above browsers for Blackboard.

### Is ISBerne Online accredited?

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