

Our children's names are Jan and Stella and they have been attending the German International School Toronto ("GIST") for four years. Today they are 14 and nearly 12 years old and will finish grade eight and six respectively this month.

Jan, who is 14 years old, went to a German higher-level secondary school in Baden-Württemberg for two months last year. Within in short period of time he was among the best students in the class, and in his evaluation teachers not only valued his good study habits and solid knowledge in the subject matters, but also his social skills. Jan had never before lived in a German speaking country.

In September of this year, he will switch to the Toronto French School. Jan had applied at several prestigious private High Schools in Toronto. Although there is a great deal of competition, Jan was able to hold his own in all subjects including English and was even able to secure one of the few scholarships. His French language skills were classified as being on the same level as that of children who had attended the Toronto French School since first grade. Jan has never lived in France and his French language skills were exclusively acquired in class at the GIST.

Stella, who has been attending the German International School Toronto since grade 5 had previously attended an Italian language school here in Toronto. Due to the individual attention and support – possible because of the small class sizes – she was able to progress in her German language skills to a point where she is now in a class full of students that have lived in Germany all their lives and was able to obtain an A in a German test. It goes without saying that she speaks fluent English without an accent - not only because of the all-English environment in Canada, but also because English is taught at the highest level and by English native speakers at the GIST.

If I left you with the impression that the GIST focuses exclusively on languages I would like to emphasize that the other subjects like Math, History, Geography, Art, Music and Ethics can easily compete with the best schools.

At the GIST, every child is developed and supported as an individual person. We have the GIST to thank for the fact that our children are trilingual, receive a truly multicultural general education, learn good study habits and are taught values like fairness, respect, honesty, diligence and determination. The teachers' approach is characterized by trust and mutual respect. Teachers and students work hard and laugh a lot.

Dr. Winz Casagrande