

VBS – FAQ

Q: What does VBS mean?

A: Vienna bilingual schooling. The children have lessons taught in German, English or a mixture of German and English.

Q: How many VBS classes are there at Theo?

A: We have two bilingual classes in every lower school grade (grades 1-4) and one, sometimes two, in each upper school grade (grades 5-8).

Q: Which lessons are taught in English?

A: Apart from language lessons any of the lessons can be taught in English. Normally about 40% of lessons have an English native speaker teacher.

Q: What does the VBS at Theo offer my child?

A:

- Extra contact with a range of native speaker team teachers and Austrian team teachers.
- Matura at C1 level in English and German.
- Access to books, dictionaries etc. purchased by the VBS association.

Q: What extra-curricular lessons are available?

A: The same as for non-VBS, there is a huge range. Many sports; gymnastics, badminton, climbing, table tennis, football, basketball... Theatre club, chess, French conversation, typing, DAF/DAZ, Roberta (=lego robot programming), dyslexia training and more.

Q: What other languages are taught at Theodor Kramer?

A: From year 5 children must choose from Spanish or Latin.

Q: Does the VBS cost money?

A: There is a 100€ contribution per family per semester.

Q: What is an orientation talk?

A: A talk at which a team of experienced VBS teachers speak to your child in German and English, and require them to do written tasks in both languages, to determine whether they are suitable for the VBS system. Mathematical understanding may be checked in individual cases.

Q: When are the orientation talks?

A: Please see our homepage for dates.

Please register (and send the most recent school report) **at least** two weeks before your selected date to give us chance to process your application.



Q: What is the admission process at Theo?

A:

- **First grade:** First fill in registration form for an orientation talk from our website: <https://www.theodor-kramer.at/drupal/node/35> We also need a copy of their most recent school report. Click this link to find out the dates for application: <https://www.theodor-kramer.at/drupal/node/173>
- **Second to sixth grade:** First fill in a registration form from our website: <https://www.theodor-kramer.at/drupal/node/35> All prospective applicants have to take and pass an orientation talk. We also need a copy of their most recent school report (no older than six months) with a translation where necessary.

Q: Are there any extra considerations for upper school?

A:

- MS students must be AHS Standard in English, German and Maths.
- If your child is transferring to us after grade 5, they need to already be studying our available languages and natural sciences.
- A late transfer (after grade 6) is unadvisable as prospective pupils have simply missed too much lesson content which is essential for the matura exams!

Q: Who decides whether my child is accepted into the VBS programme?

A: The VBS Team teachers do the orientation talk and decide together whether they are suitable. The head teacher makes the final decision.

Q: My child speaks English, but not German. Is he/she suitable for the VBS?

A: No. Prospective pupils need to already speak and write both German and English fluently. As a public Austrian school, we follow the Austrian curriculum.

Q: My child did not “pass” the orientation talk. Can they try next time?

A: No, each child gets one opportunity to show what they can do and cannot repeat the talk when they have had more practice.

Q: How can I find out more about the school and the VBS?

A: You are welcome to attend one of our open days in October and November to have a look around.

Or visit our web site www.theodor-kramer.at

