



KIS High School

History

Built on the original site of the period Highclerc Hotel, KIS was founded in 1901 as Kodaikanal School and has evolved from being a school serving the needs of the missionary children to one of India's foremost academic schools preparing students for colleges and universities around the globe.

Initially structured as an American curriculum elementary school, by 1926 Kodaikanal School went up to grade 10 with a recorded Council resolve to set up a 4-year high school course. By 1929, the first full high school program was established and in 1930, Tracy Manley was the first proud student to receive a High School Diploma.

Accredited in 1968 by the Middle States Association of Schools & Colleges, KIS High School was the first international and first IB school in India with IBO approval of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program for Grades 11 and 12 in 1974.

Today

KIS High School presently has around 200 students in grades 11 and 12 and the student / teacher ratio is roughly 7:1. In keeping with KIS philosophy of caring, guided holistic self development, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and independent decisions. Self expression and creative thinking is valued. KIS aims to see students happy at school and comfortable with the academic demands made on them by the US college preparatory programs and the IB Diploma Program requirements.

The teaching team consists of 25 full time teachers not including special needs staff. Professional volunteers, teacher trainees and international exchange students are frequent visitors adding to the richness of KIS High School life.

Teacher professional development is valued and supported at KIS with staff regularly attending IB and NESAs workshops and conferences held in various parts of the world. As part of KIS commitment to staff professional development, regular in-house professional development sessions are conducted every week with an emphasis on pedagogy, classroom techniques and all round teacher development.

KIS High School students live in dorms in and around Kodaikanal, (*Kennedy, Upper Boyer, Lower Boyer, Solvick, Wissy*) for girls and (*Bartlett West, Bartlett East, Claverack, Pendryn, Lochend*) for boys. Girls' dorms are located on the main campus and boys' dorms are within 10 minutes walking distance from the high school campus.

KIS High School students currently share some facilities with KIS Middle School, notably sports, PE, music, visual and performing arts. KIS High School itself has 16 academic department offices, over 60 spacious classrooms, a large computerized age specific library with more than 28,000 volumes, separate

computer education and science blocks, theater, media room, student recreation rooms and study hall as well as meeting and performing spaces and a learning resource center

Academics

For over 70 years, KIS has prepared students for admission to colleges and universities throughout the world through its academically challenging program. As an American high school, all students graduate from KIS with an internationally recognized High School Diploma. The IB Diploma program is optional for Years 11 and 12 and is fully integrated with KIS High School Diploma program. Both IB and SAT results have been outstanding compared with the world and US means for the last 30 years.

KIS High School Diploma

KIS offers a broad based combination of American and international curriculum to its High School students.

Apart from the core subjects, students are expected to complete courses in Religious Education, Health, Fine and Practical Arts, Physical Education, Computer Education and Community Service requirements to be eligible for the KIS High School Diploma, accredited in the USA.

Requirements for receiving KIS High School Diploma are defined in terms of credits, which apply to subjects of Grades 9 to 12 only. Each course is assigned either 5, 3 or 2.5 credits per semester depending upon class hours per cycle. Students are awarded these credits upon successful completion of required course work. Subjects allocated five or six periods in a six-day cycle receive 5 credits for a semester and 10 credits for a full year. (10 credits = 1 Carnegie Unit) For example 40 credits required in English means students must take 8 semesters of English over a 4 year period earning 5 credits per semester. KIS High School credit requirements are given in the table below and further information is available in KIS Curriculum Guide 2006/7. Overall 235 credits (plus physical education credits and community service hours) are required for KIS Graduation and receipt of KIS High School Diploma (Note: many credits are subject specific within the total of 235).

Additionally, students are required to take Physical Education and participate in the Social Experience Program (SoEx) to receive the KIS Diploma. KIS Second Languages are French, German, Hindi, Spanish and Dzongkha. English as a Second Language is offered to students who require this supplemental instruction.

For full KIS High School curriculum, please refer to:

KIS Curriculum Guide 2007 - 2008

http://www.kis.in/features/kis_publications.php

KIS... over 100 years in global education

Credit Requirements

Minimum requirements for KIS High School Diploma are as follows:

English	40
Second Language	30
Mathematics	30
Science	30
Social Studies	30
Religious Education	15
Fine & Practical Arts	10
Health Education	7.5
Computer Technology	2.5
Electives	40
Total	235 credits

Required courses

Each High School grade has compulsory courses in order to lay the necessary credit foundations for the KIS Diploma. All grades are required to take variable credits in English, Mathematics, Science, Second Language, Humanities, Physical Education, Social Experience, Religious Education, and Health. This is supplemented by options in Fine & Practical Arts (FAPA) which include Art, Music, Home Economics, Industrial Arts and Media Arts. Electives are also offered to all grades e.g. Biotechnology, Political Science, Accountancy, Theory of Knowledge, Social Awareness and Skills for Living.

Awareness programs

KIS has articulated an intentional philosophy of education directed towards the development of global citizenship and based on care of the individual. The central core of KIS Awareness Programs is a holistic approach to the individual student and the knowledge and understanding of the benefits of exposing young people to a wide variety of experiences in a safe, structured, learning environment. Students are encouraged to create, experiment, question, test, understand and develop themselves against the backdrop of opportunity provided by KIS unique location in South India. KIS Awareness Programs have traditionally included Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Social Experience, Hiking & Camping, Sport, Physical and Religious Education to extend and enrich the creative, cultural, environmental, social, physical and spiritual life of every student.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

In addition to the KIS High School Diploma, students may earn the IB Diploma by passing at least 6 examinations in prescribed subject areas: 3 must be at a Higher Level and 3 at a Standard Level. IB examination papers are set by international experts and marked externally. Students must also complete:

- 100 hours of instruction in Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- Extended essay of 4000 words involving independent research in an IB approved area of interest
- Approved program of Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS)

More than 50% of KIS graduates earned the full IB Diploma last year and the Class of 2006 scored a 99% pass rate. Additionally, over 30% of Grades 11-12 students appear for Higher Level and Standard Level IB Certificate examinations in more than 30 subjects, consistently scoring above the worldwide average. For more information please refer to www.ibo.org

Advisors

Each student is assigned a staff advisor. Advisors monitor individual student academic programs and progress, assisting them in developing successful study patterns and effective relationships with teachers and other students.

Grading

Academic progress is internally assessed. Letter grades are given based on the following marking scheme and with following weightings. KIS grade point average (GPA) is calculated according to subject weightings proportional to the number of credits received. Subjects taken on a Pass/Fail basis are not included in the GPA. For US colleges the minimum college recommended mark is normally a "C" average (GPA of 2.0), and 3.0 for selective colleges. KIS 2005/6 average student GPA was 2.856 and college placement was 100% for all graduating students who applied. Students planning to attend Indian Universities are provided with a Grade 12 Mark Sheet (and other grades if needed) with percentage equivalence.

Leisure activities

KIS is a boarding school with a full residential program of activities supplementing its academic life. Many extracurricular high school activities are held in conjunction with Middle School since they share a single academic campus currently. All students participate in a variety of whole school, as well as specific High School events throughout the year e.g. High School and All School Plays, activity clubs which include rowing, canoeing, baking, Hindi movies, table tennis and rock music. The High School student lounge provides a designated space for 'hanging out' and 'senior privilege' allows extended times out of dorms on regular scheduled weekday evenings. Weekend activities (e.g. movies, canteen, sports and open dorm nights) are scheduled throughout each semester.

Leadership

KIS takes the responsibility of developing leaders of the future seriously. For over 100 years students have been given a role in defining school culture and in extending their individual skills into peer leadership areas through programs in social experience, cultural field trips, community service and outdoor education. KIS continues its membership of international bodies which focus on student leadership development such as Model United Nations, Global Youth Conference and the US based National Honor Society (NHS) and National Association of Student Councils (NASC).

Special Events

KIS students take active roles in planning and organizing major school events. The High School Social Committee of students liaises with KIS Activities Coordinator in the scheduling, planning and implementation of all events involving students. Particular annual high spots are Graduation, Senior Prom, High School Formals, Indian and international cultural events.