

## 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.
- Split lessons in English and German in the lower school = smaller group sizes.
- 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, Roberta (=lego robot programming), dyslexia training and more. Most of these activities are offered in German only.

### **Q: What other languages are taught at Theodor Kramer?**

A: From year 5 children are able to choose from Spanish or Latin, sometimes French. As extra- curricular courses we offer French conversation.

### **Q: Is the VBS free?**

A: No. There is a 100€ contribution per family per semester.

### **Q: What is an orientation talk?**

A: A process where a team of experienced VBS teachers speak to your child in German and English and require them to do written tasks in both languages. Maths understanding may be checked in some cases. For students it might feel like taking a test and they won't all be found suitable.

### **Q: When are the orientation talks?**

A: For children in their last year of primary school we hold the orientation talks in January.



For grade 6 and above, they are in February or June. Please register **at least** two weeks before the dates 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 certain subjects like Spanish, Latin (in some existing grades we offer French) and natural sciences.
- A late transfer (after grade 6) is very 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 whether they are suitable. The administrators and the head teacher make the final decision based on numbers and internal factors.

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

A: No, sorry but as lessons are taught in English or German pupils need to already speak and write both German and English. We follow the Austrian curriculum.

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

A: No, sorry but each child gets one opportunity to show what they can do and cannot repeat the talk when they have practised a bit more.

**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 and see for yourself.  
Or visit our web site [www.theodor-kramer.at](http://www.theodor-kramer.at)

