

WALLONIE-BRUXELLES ENSEIGNEMENT
ECOLE INTERNATIONALE DU SHAPE
SECTION INTERNATIONALE BELGE



ENGLISH

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A host-nation section in an international school

Foundation of the school in 1968

When the NATO supreme headquarters were moved to Mons, Belgium in 1967, international treaties were established founding an International School composed of several national sections.

As host nation, Belgium was tasked with organizing an “international” section capable of hosting those students whose countries had not founded a national section.

Over the years, the system opened up and all SHAPE/NATO students are now eligible for enrollment in any of the national sections (on a space available basis).

The international section has since become known as the Belgian section and is now host to students from throughout the NATO network of countries.

Being organized by the host-nation, the objective is to provide the opportunity for SHAPE/NATO students to obtain a top-level diploma while being immersed in the French language and host-nation culture.

Our school is now home to students from 24 nations... approximately 35% SHAPE/NATO and 65% Belgian nationals from surrounding villages.

SHAPE/NATO students have the opportunity, through a true immersive experience, to develop not only their educational and intellectual skills, but also those of solidarity, multiculturalism and diversity.

Our future building on the new campus

The decision was made conjointly in 2010 to renovate the campus.

The Belgian section was moved in 2013 to our current temporary location. Our school is the last to be built. Construction is set to begin in the coming year.

Our future building will be home to both the Belgian primary and secondary sections (600 students).

General organization of the Belgian educational system

Education's place in the Belgian political system

There are three Ministries of Education in Belgium, one for each of the linguistic and cultural communities: Flemish, French and German.

Mons being located in Wallonia, the French-speaking region of Belgium, education in this region (Wallonie-Bruxelles) is governed by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles- FWB).

Our current Minister of Education is Ms Caroline DESIR.

She and her Ministry edit, through Decrees and Circulars, the rules and regulations with which govern all schools in the FWB.

Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles and the subsequent networks of school organizations

Within the FWB, there are subsequent school organizations. All are subjected to the governance of the Ministry of Education, but they have margins of autonomy that allow for different manners in the application of these governing decrees and circulars.

Our organizational network: Wallonie-Bruxelles Enseignement (WBE)

WBE is the largest school organization network with over 1400 schools throughout Wallonia and Brussels.

The network, under the supervision of our current General Administrator, Mr. Julien NICAISE, takes pride in the values and ethics that are the backbone of its philosophy and that guide its decision making.



Democracy

Openness

Scientific process

Respect

Neutrality and emancipation

General considerations

Grading system, division of the school year and passing from one year to the next

The school year in Belgium runs from the last Monday of August to the 1st Friday of July. At SIS Belgian section, we begin the year 3 days earlier to compensate for SHAPE holidays during the year. Students finish their exams around the 25th of June.

The grading system in FWB is based on the division of the school year into 3 “periods” of approximately 9 weeks. Each period is graded on a scale of maximum 20 points. There are also two exam sessions – in December and June. These sessions comprise a maximum total of points that differ from one level of secondary school to the next:

- 🎒 1st level (1st and 2nd years): 40 points
- 🎒 2nd level (3rd and 4th years): 60 points
- 🎒 3rd level (5th and 6th years): 80 points

Students pass their year if they obtain more than 50% in each of their classes.

The certification at the end of the year is determined by the teachers’ council deliberation process.

Students that do not obtain 50% in a course may be given the opportunity to retake an exam in the “second session” of late August, which may permit passage into the following year, once again upon deliberation by the teachers’ council.

Scheduling

At the beginning of every school year, there is a temporary schedule that runs for approximately six weeks. This transitional period allows for adaptation of class sizes, new teachers and their schedules in other schools and the arrival of new students.

The final schedule takes effect around October 15th and then no changes (barring limited exceptions) are made for the rest of the year.

The school day is as follows, Monday through Friday.

1 st period	8:35-9:25
2 nd period	9:25-10:15
Recess	10:15-10:30
4 th period	10:30-11:20
5 th period	11:20-12:10

6 th period (years 4-5-6)	12:10-13:00
Lunch (years 1-2-3)	12:10-13:10
6 th period (years 1-2-3)	13:10-14:00
Lunch (years 4-5-6)	13:00-14:00
7 th period	14:00-14:50
8 th period	14:50-15:40
9 th period *	15:40-16:30

*If your child takes the SHAPE school bus, please inform us upon registration so that we can try to accommodate.

Class size

It is important to underline here the difference between the usual number and the maximum legal number per class. As an International School, we benefit from certain advantages which allow us to reduce the number of students per class, allowing our teachers to give more individual attention to our SHAPE students who require it as part of their studies in an international environment.

Year	Class	Usual number (average)	Maximum legal number
1 st / 7 th grade	All	20	24
2 nd / 8 th grade	All	20	24
3 rd and 4 th / 9 th and 10 th grades	All except for laboratory and ethics/religion	25	29
	Laboratory	15	19
	Ethics/religion	25	27
3 ^e degré (5 ^e et 6 ^e années)	All except for laboratory and ethics/religion	25	32
	Laboratory	15	19
	Ethics and religion	25	27

Important documents

There are two very important documents that are the essential communication tools between the school and parents:

📖 The “*Journal de Classe*” or School Diary: the students are required to note their subject matters, schedules and assignments/tests. This is the official document of the FWB in which teachers can also communicate to parents concerning the student’s schoolwork or attitude in class. Disciplinary problems are also documented in this diary. It is the parent’s responsibility to check this diary daily for notes or comments and to sign regularly marking their acknowledgement of the communication coming from the school. There are also specific pages where parents can write to teachers as well.

This document, coming from the FWB is in French. Should you have any difficulties understanding its contents or usage, please contact the Pedagogical Coordinator for assistance.

📖 The “*Cahier d’avis*” or School notebook: This is a document that we developed specifically at our school that allows for all other communication that is not provided for in the School diary:

- Parental permission for different aspects of school life (early departures, pictures etc.)
- School contacts (telephone numbers, email addresses, persons of contact specific to each need)
- Grades/marks obtained on tests – teachers will note the marks and sign the appropriate column, we ask that the parents countersign to acknowledge having seen them.
- Rules and regulations of the school
- Absence slips that can be turned into the student supervisors

School attendance policy

The school functions on a closed-campus policy. Student cannot leave school without permission from their supervisor and only with parental knowledge (either through pre-arranged permission in the School notebook or a specific phone-call or note on the day of).

Absences are compiled on a half-day basis. A student that misses only one period of class in the morning or in the afternoon is considered absent for the entire half-day.

Parents are required by Belgian law to justify every absence of their child at school. These absences must be justified within the workweek that follows the absence.

Once a student has accumulated 5 half-days of non-justified absences, the parents will be called into the school to discuss the absences, the goal being to ward against student drop-out and find solutions to problems that may be causing these absences.

If a student reached 10 half-days of non-justified absences, the school is required by law to signify to Belgian authorities that there is an attendance problem with the particular student. This process generates an automatic letter from the FWB authorities (in French) that is sent to parents reminding them of the obligation to attend school. At this point, the parents are once again called into the school to meet with the Pedagogical coordinator and the student supervisor to sign appropriate documents of acknowledgement.

If a student (under 18 years) has accumulated 20 or more half-days of non-justified absences, their school year is at risk of not being certified. It is only once the student and parents have signed contracts with the school and these contracts of assiduity have been respected, that the student may once again be eligible for certification.

Parents can justify up to 10 half-days (no more than maximum 2 consecutive days at a time) using the absence excusal slips in the School notebook.

If the absence is more than 2 consecutive days, a medical document is required.

The curriculum offered at our school

The FWB defines the compulsory classes and provides students with the opportunity, as they advance in levels, to choose optional fields of study, as well as complementary activities.

1st and 2nd year of secondary school – the first “*degré*” or level

Classes offered – 1st year

Compulsory Education		Remedial teaching
Philosophy	1h	
Philosophy – Ethics – Religion	1h	
French or <i>French as a foreign language</i>	6h	
History	2h	
Geography	2h	
Mathematics	4h	1h
English	4h	1h
Scientific Education	3h	
Physical Education	3h	
Artistic Education	1h	
Education through technology	1h	
Total	28h	2h

Activities choices			
<u>Latin</u>		<u>Modern</u>	
Latin	4h	French activity	2h
		Mathematics activity	1h
		Environmental education	1h
Total	4h	Total	4h

Classes offered – 2nd year

Compulsory Education		Remedial teaching
Philosophy	1h	
Philosophy – Ethics – Religion	1h	
French or <i>French as a foreign language</i>	5h	
History	2h	
Geography	2h	
Mathematics	5h	
English	4h	1h
Scientific Education	3h	1h
Physical Education	3h	
Musical Education	1h	
Education through technology	1h	
Total		2h

Activities choices					
<i>Latin</i>		<i>Modern</i>		<i>Scientific</i>	
Latin	4h	French activities	1h	French activities	1h
		Economics	2h	Science	2h
		Introductory computer course	1h	Introductory computer course	1h
Total	4h	Total	4h	Total	4h

Certification – the CE1D

At the end of the first “*degré*” or level, there is a standardized test called the CE1D. This test is taken by all student in Mathematics, French*, Science and English.

If the student passes (more than 50%) these tests, then he/she is considered certified and passes on to 3rd year.

If he/she does not pass one subject matter, there is a second session of exams organized in late August and upon completion of these exams, the teachers’ council will deliberate on the certification of the student.

If the student does not pass at the end of the August session, he/she is oriented towards a 2S, a specific year of remedial teaching.

* Please note that arrangements are made for non-French-speaking natives. This should not be a source of stress for SHAPE/NATO students as the teachers’ council is sovereign in certifying student according to individual difficulties and development.

3rd and 4th year of secondary school – the second “*degré*” or orientation level

This “*degré*” or level is called the orientation level because it is at this time that students really start choosing their options and field of interest. In this level, we offer several options allowing for students and parents to find a field of study that will contribute the motivation of the student.

Students can change fields of study (grids) during the school year before January 15th or between the two years.

Classes offered – 3rd year

	Scientific		Latin		Economics		
Compulsory education							
Philosophy	1h		1h		1h		
Philosophy – Ethics - Religion	1h		1h		1h		
French or French as a foreign language	5h		5h		5h		
History	2h		2h		2h		
Geography	2h		2h		2h		
Mathematics	5h		5h		5h		
English	4h		4h		4h		
Physical Education	3h		3h	2h	3h		
Options							
German or Dutch or Italian	4h		4h		4h		
Latin	-		4h		-		
Economics	-		-		4h		
Science courses – basic or advanced							
Biology	2h		1h	2h	1h		
Chemistry	1h		1h	1h	1h		
Physics	2h		1h	2h	1h		
Activities							
French expression (verbal and written) or Conversational English (elementary level)	2h	-	2h	-	-	2h	-
Computer science	-	1h	-	1h	-	-	1h
Grid n°	1	1.1	2	2.1	3	4	4.1

Classes offered – 4th year

	Scientific		Latin		Economics		
Compulsory education							
Philosophy	1h		1h		1h		
Philosophy - Ethics - Religion	1h		1h		1h		
French or French as a foreign language	5h		5h		5h		
History	2h		2h		2h		
Geography	1h		1h		1h		
Mathematics	5h		5h		5h		
English	4h		4h		4h		
Physical Education	3h		3h	2h	3h		
Options							
German or Dutch or Italian	4h		4h		4h		
Latin	-		4h		-		
Economics	-		-		4h		
Science courses – basic or advanced							
Biology	1h		1h	1h	1h		
Chemistry	2h		1h	2h	1h		
Physics	2h		1h	2h	1h		
Activities							
French expression (verbal and written) or Conversational English (elementary level)	2h	-	1h	-	-	1h	-
Computer science	-	1h	-	1h	-	-	1h
Grid n°	1	1.2	2	2.1	3	4	4.1

Certification – the CE2D

There are no standardized tests at this level. The certification of the CE2D is the responsibility of the teachers' council based on the results (above 50% in all courses) at the end of the 4th year.

Students can be held back at the end of the 3rd year (either in June or after second session exams in August) if their results are insufficient.

5th and 6th years of secondary school – the third “*degré*” or determination level

This “*degré*” or level of secondary school is referred to as the determination level as the chosen options determine what is specified as the major field of study on the certificating diploma.

There is no possibility for changing the options after November 15th of the 5th year. No major changes can be made between the 5th and the 6th years (some exceptions can be made with the permission of the FWB authorities).

Classes offered

	Scientific			Latin			Modern languages		Economics		
Compulsory education											
Philosophy	1h			1h			1h		1h		
Philosophy – Ethics - Religion	1h			1h			1h		1h		
French – <i>French as a foreign language</i>	5h			5h			5h		5h		
History	2h			2h			2h		2h		
Geography	2h			2h			2h		2h		
English	4h			4h			4h		4h		
Physical education	2h			3h		2h	2h		3h		
Options											
German or Dutch or Italian	4h			4h			-	4h		4h	
Mathematics	6h		4h	2h	4h	4h	6h	2h	4h	6h	4h
Biology	2h			1h		2h		1h		1h	
Chemistry	2h			1h		2h		1h		1h	
Physics	3h			1h		3h		1h		1h	
Economics	-			-			-		-		4h
Latin	-			4h			-		-		-
Spanish	-			4h	-	-		4h		-	
Activities											
Economics computer course	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2h
PES* Mathematics	-	1h	-	-	-	-	1h	-	-	-	-
PES* Sciences lab	1h	1h	1h	-	-	1h	1h	-	-	-	-
Communication	-	-	-	-	2h	-	-	2h	2h	-	-
Grid n°	S1	S2	S3	C1	C2	CS1	CS2	L1	L2	E1	E2

Certification – the CESS

The end of the 6th year of secondary school is certified by the obtention of the CESS (*Certificat de l'Enseignement Secondaire Supérieur* - Certificate of Higher Secondary Education). The CESS diploma is valid throughout most European countries (in accordance with The Bologna Accord - [EUR-Lex - 32018H1210\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#))

Students can be held back at the end of the 5th year (either in June or after second session exams in August) if their results are insufficient.

An individual approach for our NATO students

The main mission of our school being the integration of SHAPE/NATO students, we take pride in offering several individualized programs that allow for students to evolve at their rhythm as they adapt to their new French-immersive environment.

FLE – *Français Langue Etrangère* – French as a foreign language

Our French as a native language and French as a foreign language (FLE) classes are given simultaneously in the schedule. This allows the SHAPE/NATO students that require special attention in the learning of the French language to receive classes in a very small group with a qualified teacher.

As students progress, the teacher will determine the point at which the students are deemed ready to integrate the normal French class. As classes are given at the same time, this transition is quite fluid.

For our students just arriving and with no French experience, starting in the fall of 2021 we will be provided an individualized schedule during the first 6 weeks of school allowing for intensive *FLE* classes.

Gradual grading and integration into evaluation system

Newly arriving SHAPE/NATO students will receive grades/marks on an informative basis only (no consequences for the certification of their school year) until the teachers can be assured that their schoolwork and level reflect their understanding of the course material and are not a reflection of their level of French.

Some teachers will reach out in English in the beginning weeks/months to provide more explanations to the students.

The teachers will gradually expect more from the new students as their level in French progresses.

We pride ourselves in making the transition into the evaluation system a non-stressful process for the students.

3 levels of English classes

The FWB curriculum defines the English class as the learning of a foreign language, it is therefore elementary and aimed at teaching students the basics of the English language, gradually working up to a certain level of fluency.

As we are home to students from 24 countries and each having a different level of fluency in English, we provide 2 supplemental levels of English classes:

- 🦋 Intermediate level – involves grammar and vocabulary beyond the basics taught in the elementary level, but also brings in basic literature, debates and presentations
- 🦋 Native level – is comparable to an English as a native language class – teachers address literature, press reports, debate, essays etc...

International language certification

With the support of the SIS Common Services, students have the opportunity to certify their levels of fluency in French, English, Spanish and German through the following internationally recognized exams:

- 🦋 DELF – French
- 🦋 IELTS – English
- 🦋 CERVANTES – Spanish
- 🦋 GOETHE – German

The fees associated with these tests are kindly paid for by the SIS Common Services.

Resources available for individual help

Pedagogical coordinator

We have an on-site Pedagogical coordinator who is multi-lingual (French, English, German, Italian) and who helps coordinate the International language certification, disciplinarian and behavioral issues, remedial teaching, tutoring, students with special needs (dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, HP (high-potential students), attention deficit...etc.)

Remedial teaching




As soon as October, there are teacher conferences that are organized in order to determine the students needing extra help in certain courses. We organize help in Mathematics, Science, Languages...

Work Methodology






As part of their schedule, students benefit from "work and study methods" workshops allowing them to explore, accompanied by an experienced teacher, different methods of organizing work and study. We aim for each student to find what suits them to succeed.

CPMS – Psychological-medical-social Center

The FWB provides schools with the following paramedical personnel as to help guide students and parents throughout their years in secondary school. They are associated in important decisions concerning student's progression and evolution in school:

-  Psychologist
-  Nurse
-  Social worker

Contacts at the school for further information or registration

-  Head Principal – Ms. Sarah DAWDY – sarah.dawdy@ei-shape.be 
-  Pedagogical Coordinator – Ms. Céline L'ERARIO – celine.lerario@ei-shape.be

-  Front desk manager – Ms. Zeleka AZAZ – zeleka.azaz@ei-shape.be – 065 44 57 08 - (5708) 