





# John F. Kennedy International School



Saanen | Gstaad  
Switzerland

*Small School  
Big Heart*

# CORE VALUES

Core Values of JFK students and staff.

The foundation of all we do at JFK:

- Adaptability
- Morality
- Resilience
- Enquiry
- Cooperation
- Communication
- Thoughtfulness
- Respect

# CORE SKILLS

Core Skills of the JFK Curriculum.

A set of skills to underpin all learning at JFK:

- Learning Skills
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Skills
- Creativity
- Collaboration & Understanding
- Self Management



## A DIFFERENT SCHOOL:

Welcome to **John F. Kennedy International School**, situated in Saanen/ Gstaad, Switzerland and founded in 1971. Managed now by a non profit foundation, it was directed by Mr. and Mrs. William Lovell between 1971 and 2011. They developed the school from the original Chalet Pfrundacker Children's Home which opened in 1950. The school welcomes boarding and day students, aged between 4-14 years of age from all over the world, who follow an English school programme.

We offer a unique, family-oriented, educational environment where all students are motivated to fully develop their talents and skills in order to prepare them for acceptance into the best and most demanding secondary schools and also for the challenges of the world in which they will live and work.

We offer a large variety of extra-curricular activities to develop the student's independence, talents and team spirit. These activities challenge and stimulate every student.









## WHY CHOOSE THE JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL?

### WE OFFER:

- A strong academic programme
- Instruction in English with French as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language and introduction to German offered as the language of the host country
- Rich and varied extra-curricular activities of which the winter ski programme is a strength and highlight
- Small class sizes where students' needs are noted and cared for individually
- Additional support in English and special learning needs
- Both boarding and day facilities in a beautiful, safe and secure environment
- A highly committed, qualified and caring faculty



# WHAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS HAVE TO SAY.

“If you want a safe and happy school, this is the place for you. Here, your children will have a wonderful time and the school will be their second family. They will have the opportunity of making international friends. Day students and boarders will enjoy spending time together in this excellent school. JFK is a safe environment where all students can develop their skills and talents.”

*John Cassey - South Africa*

“Since the first day I was in JFK, it has been an incredible experience. I love the family atmosphere that makes me feel always like at home. I feel a special care and attention from all the teachers. They are always there for me.”

*Bruno Fernandez - Spain*

“JFK makes me feel positive about myself, so I can do things with confidence. I feel valued and important. I also learn every day how to co-operate and solve problems better with others.”

*Yuki Makitori - Japan*

“We feel honored to be part of such a creative learning hub nestled within a most amazing location. At JFK, kids explore themes that inspire them and the teachers apply the knowledge within those themes. It's been a joy to watch our son immerse himself and we can't wait to see how the year will unfold.”

*Sandra Canten - England*

“My son has truly grown and learned so much from the loving, innovative, and empowering learning community JFK has cultivated and it has been a year we will always cherish. My husband and I have benefited so much from the rich and impactful talks we've had with the staff over the course of the year and hope that in the future, we can continue to have a dialogue about any parenting or educational concerns.”

*Jane Walburn - United States*



# Academics



## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

JFK follows high academic standards. The students follow the International Early Years Curriculum, International Primary Curriculum and the International Middle Years Curriculum underpinned by the British Curriculum.

The children are taught in small classes by experienced teachers who dedicate their time towards helping each student, as an individual, to advance and perform to a high level and at their best ability.

Our well-balanced timetable provides sport, academic studies, and extra-curricular activities. Exceptional classrooms help to maintain the high standards. The role of our teachers is also to enhance the student's personal and social skills, to motivate them to be lifelong learners and to become thoughtful and caring young adults.



# THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

## PLAY SCHOOL:

(2.5 to 4 years)

### Each Child as an Individual

At JFK Play School, we offer a high quality childcare centre with a family atmosphere. Morning and afternoon sessions with carefully designed learning experiences that create a structured context for each child to develop self-confidence and self-awareness as well as cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills.

- Qualified, experienced and caring teaching staff
- Fresh, healthy food cooked on the premises
- Exclusive access to spacious outdoor and indoor play areas
- Unique location with all-year-round access to fantastic outdoor areas providing stimulating learning experiences such as forest learning and river walks
- Hygienic, safe, secure surroundings with others
- Vibrant rooms full of fun



## PRIMARY SCHOOL:

(4 to 10 years)

### Laying the Foundations

The Primary School focuses on providing a happy, structured learning environment in which each child:

- loves coming to school
- learns in two languages: English and French
- acquires basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics
- develops a range of social skills to enable them to work and play with others
- enjoys a strong, enriching programme of sports and extra curricular activities





# One Family



## MIDDLE SCHOOL:

(10 to 14 years)

### Developing Responsibility and Independence

The Middle School nurtures independent learning in an environment which:

- has a strong academic programme which challenges all students
- helps students become well-balanced, confident and competent learners
- instills life and study skills which support healthy personal development
- promotes intellectual curiosity,
- encourages independent thinking and excellent study habits
- maintains a strong extra-curricular and sports programme
- helps students understand the interdependence of people, countries and cultures.



## SMALL SCHOOL, BIG HEART

JFK continues to offer, through many years already, a warm and inviting environment to all the children. We reinforce the essential values of respect, tolerance, politeness, punctuality, organisation, responsibility, kindness, openness, and integrity.

A set of skills to underpin all learning at JFK: Learning Skills, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Skills, Creativity, Collaboration & Understanding and Self-Management.

Our boarding family, a home away from home. Boarding enrolment is limited to 25 students in order to maintain first-rate quality of care in our family-like environment.













# Facilities

The school is situated in the heart of Saanen-Gstaad, a beautiful village in the Bernese Oberland.

A series of traditional, historic Swiss buildings provides both teaching and boarding facilities at the school. A boarding house provides a welcoming home to 25 boys and girl students.

The school works closely with the local community and takes advantage of the world-class facilities on the door step.

The ski slopes are among the best in the world, and in winter, students spend three afternoons per week developing their ski level with very experienced instructors.

The Middle School Building provides us with modern classrooms, science laboratory and library media centre, as well as a large multipurpose hall providing space for drama productions, musical activities and assemblies.







# Enrichment

## KENNEDY ALPINE CURRICULUM

The Kennedy Alpine Curriculum underpins all learning and uses the beautiful surrounding environment to enrich students' learning, to develop their practical and social skills and to give them an understanding and experience of life in the mountains.

For example, through excursions and planned field trips students learn about:

- mountain life and living
- climate, weather, glacier formation, water, snow
- rocks, minerals, crystal formation, plate tectonics
- mountain plants and animals and their adaptation to the environment
- how to plan excursions, read maps, take compass bearings
- how to assess risks, risks management and rescue

and they develop

- skills in skiing, snowboarding and rock climbing, as well as hiking and biking.

## STUDENT ENRICHMENT AND EXTENSION

JFK is proud of its Extension and Enrichment Programme, which offers our students different and varied experiences where they can develop their skills in certain areas, as well as learn new ones.

- **Athletics** and team sports develop physical skills. These include swimming, climbing, football, karate, tennis and horse riding.
- **Arts** encourage musical and artistic abilities and public speaking. These include: participation in the school choir, school plays and band, as well as individual instrument lessons.
- **Cultural Activities and Trips** enrich classroom learning with visits to local places of interest, museums and annual field trips. Motivational speakers are regularly invited to the school to give presentations to the students.
- **Hiking** encourages students to challenge themselves further by participating in longer and more adventurous mountain walks.
- **Languages:** Mother tongue and additional support is offered in French, English and German.
- **Outreach** helps our students to understand others by reaching out to help in community projects in the local area, or through Giving Projects in other parts of the world.
- **Winter Skiing** which is considered a very important part of the JFK school experience, takes place during the months of January, February and March. Highly qualified ski teachers provide instruction in techniques and racing skills and students are also involved in local and regional ski races.











# Boarding

## BOARDING AT JFK

JFK prides itself on providing a boarding facility which is a 'home away from home' for up to twenty-five girls and boys, aged from 4 to 14 years old.

The accommodation is in a traditional Swiss chalet situated near the school premises, at the heart of the picturesque village of Saanen.

The rooms are comfortable and cozy, representing a family atmosphere. Boys and girls are housed on separate floors where they are cared for by our experienced boarding staff. The school has its own on-site chef who prepares meals which are home-made, healthy and well-balanced, using fresh Swiss products whenever possible.

Students actively participate in weekend activities under the leadership of the boarding parents. Cultural visits and a variety of sports activities encourage a balance between a healthy lifestyle and friendship.

The busy life of boarding provides many opportunities for students to contribute to school life. Boarders are encouraged to join the Student Council to represent boarders' views, and they actively work together to support social, charitable and sporting initiatives and events.

We want life for our boarders to be an unforgettable experience which will prepare them for all they will encounter in later life. Experience shows us that friendships made in our Boarding House, lead to lifelong friendships based all over the world!



# Boarding Facilities











# Summer Camp

## JFK Swiss Outdoor Camp



### NATURE

Outdoor learning is all about Nature. You learn with demonstration and evidence. Touching and seeing is all it is about.



### ADVENTURE

Adventure is the move that thrives us now in this world. Crossing a river will never be the same after this summer.



### TEAM BUILDING

Team work will teach us how to work in a group, how to tolerate others and how to build self esteem.

### ACTIVITIES

At **JFK Swiss Outdoor Camps** offers multiple opportunities to explore and enjoy the alpine environment. With activities such as zip lining and mountain climbing the students will find the challenge and joy they look for in the activities. Team building is also reinforced with the construction of rafts as a challenge to cross a river. Using all the equipment provided, your team must plan, construct and race a raft built by your team. Our certified staff of experts will ensure a safe and fun journey while the kids have the time of their lives. Kids will climb across suspended walkways, monkey bridges, suspended stirrups and zip line through the air on our mini zip lines sized for the younger ones. Chances are they won't stop talking about it the whole way home.

**Every week has a different theme, rock, water or mountain.** With all senses students will explore forests, streams, and mountains.

### LEARN OUTDOORS

Outdoor learning values direct personal experience and hence increases motivation and has a bigger impact. Learning happens in a natural environment where students can see, smell, feel and hear the real thing. It includes environmental education, personal and social development as well as adventure activities and can easily be linked to school subjects.

### DISCOVER

Multiple opportunities allow students to discover for example the wonders different rock formations have to offer. They will not only discover different geological rock formations, but also learn how limestone was formed and will search for fossils. In addition students will discover how different animals such as birds, insects and ibex use a rocky habitat for their purpose.



## CAMP

Sleeping under the stars can be a magical experience. It is essential to take the right camping gear to make it a pleasurable experience. Choosing a good camping spot, how to make a fire, how to take the necessary precautions before setting off. The absence of light pollution in an alpine environment provides a brilliant opportunity to discover the Milky Way and to get the chance to view nocturnal life.



## EXPLORE

At **JFK Swiss Outdoor Camps** offers multiple opportunities to explore an alpine environment. With all senses students will explore forests, streams, and mountains. For example, students will survey a mountain stream, test water purity, velocity and temperature. They will explore flora and fauna of a river and find out how it changes over the course of the river.



## HIKE

Hiking is a brilliant opportunity to discover the alpine environment. Students will have the opportunity to discover alpine Flora and Fauna as well as life on the summer pastures. Furthermore students will learn how to navigate safely in a mountainous environment using maps and compass, how weather conditions need to be considered and which equipment is needed for a successful adventure.



For more information please contact:

**Swiss Outdoor Camp**

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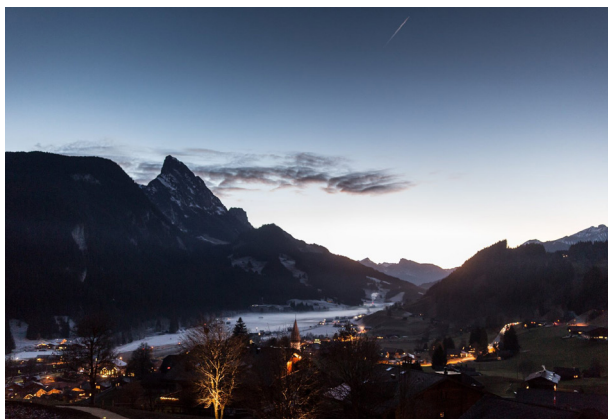
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## LOCATION AND OVERVIEW

- Excellent education
- Caring and supportive environment
- Unique and beautiful situation
- Family atmosphere
  - The John F. Kennedy International School is a co-educational boarding and day school in Switzerland.
  - It is situated in the village of Saanen (canton of Bern), a beautiful region nestled in the Swiss Alps.
  - The school offers an education to children from 4 to 14 years old.
  - The school prides itself on providing a warm and caring family environment.
  - Classes are small, providing attention for individual student needs.
  - The academic programme is enriched by a wide variety of extra curricular activities.
  - The winter ski programme is a particular strength and highlight.
  - Provides a boarding facility which is a 'home away from home' for up to twenty-five girls and boys, aged from 4 to 14 years old.



### John F. Kennedy International School

For more information please contact:  
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