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Bernard Manuel opts for Ice Dubai: A unique approach for enhanced bilingualism

The Jeannine Manuel method will be implemented for the first time in Dubai at the ICE school (The only fully bilingual school with a dual curriculum accredited by the French Ministry of National Education, featuring a 50% alternation between French and English instruction).



[Written by Marie-Jeanne Acquaviva](#)

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Jeannine Manuel is an iconic figure in education, a former resistance fighter convinced in the aftermath of the Second World War that fear of the other and ignorance are at the root of all conflicts, she builds a pedagogy open to the world and based on bilingualism where "the aim of teaching is to train complete

people, which means individuals who are aware of their presence in the world." A legacy that resonates strongly in today's world, and which will be implemented for the first time in Dubai within the [ICE school](#) (the only fully bilingual school with a dual curriculum accredited by the French Ministry of National Education, and featuring a 50% alternation between French and English). We have the opportunity to discuss this with Bernard Manuel, the president of the Jeannine Manuel Schools.

Bernard Manuel will give an IB/BFI conference at the ICE school on February 21st, 2024 around 6pm - [Register here](#)

Lepetitjournal.com/dubai: Why implement the Jeannine Manuel method in Dubai?

Bernard Manuel: Because Dubai is the symbol of a great cultural diversity which is also reflected in the enormous diversity of the academic courses offered: I believe that there are up to 18 distinct academic courses, each course being very specific, whether it is Indian, American, English or French. But it seemed to us that there was no real bilingual ambition anywhere, so Jeannine Manuel would probably be welcome. In my opinion, this profusion of curricula is also a driver of innovation, which is a real plus for education, because it encourages us to adapt and be inspired.

What is the Jeannine Manuel method for beginners?

The Jeannine Manuel Foundation's mission is to promote international understanding. It's about learning, living and growing together. It is both a curriculum but also a set of skills and a philosophy of life. A way to develop the academic, academic and collaborative life of students at the same time and of equal value.

If you had to isolate a key point?

This would be what we call the Growth Mindset*, this way of apprehending learning, whatever it may be: academic or human, considering that we can always learn more, remain malleable and available to welcome evolution and growth, at 360 degrees. Deeply consider that no door is ever closed, neither for the student nor in the literal sense: the doors of the teachers and the institution itself always remain open.

Why did you choose ICE school?

ICE has a history that resonates with us: it is a history rooted in Lebanon, in a Lebanon that was still the land of peaceful cultural and religious coexistence. Of course, today Lebanon is plagued by many difficulties and dissensions, but this spirit, this hope for coexistence is still very much alive within the Lebanese diaspora.

And Jeannine Manuel is exactly that: learning to live together.

How do you differ from the pedagogy practiced in French public schools?

In France there is a tendency to oppose within the school the "traditionalists" and the progressives "pedagogists", which has led to the mockery of pedagogical theories that wanted to "put the child at the center of learning". However, in my view, this opposition is obsolete, inherited from a century and a world that is no longer ours, and I think that we are proposing a "third way" that is built both on a great rigor in fundamental learning, and in the development of a culture of commitment and initiative. In the same way, the relationship between the teacher and the student is not at all cronyism, nor is it subject to unilateral authority. It is a relationship of trust and mutual respect.

How does this relate to the IB curriculum, which is widely used here?

All Jeannine Manuel schools offer the IB in 1st and final year. The IB is a diploma originally created for the nomadic children of a nascent globalization who needed to be able to access the same level of academic education everywhere. What differentiates us from the IB is the emphasis on the identity of cultures as opposed to the globalization of cultures. We are convinced that openness is built from one's own roots. Our philosophy of education is profoundly international, yet we are grateful for our own identity and embrace differences. It's about growing together: it's confusing but it's rewarding!

Bilingualism at last?

Choosing ICE is for this extra openness and to affirm bilingualism, which is not at the heart of the IB system. What ICE offers is unique in Dubai: all students will be French and a large majority of them will have a bilingual degree. Of Jeannine Manuel's hundred or so students, there are sometimes a few who do not choose the bilingual diploma, but they are in the minority.

The question of teacher training, for such a demanding bilingual curriculum?

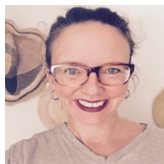
In-service training is at the heart of everything we do, so of course our teachers are constantly trained, and we only recruit teachers of excellence who are also willing to join us and participate in this ecosystem of multicultural and plurilingual learners, where methods and good practices are very regulated and where the myth of French "pedagogical freedom" is set aside in favor of a different kind of approach.

Like what?

Well, in primary school, at ICE, we adopted the Singapore Method for Mathematics after noticing that primary school teachers were often helpless in relation to students in this subject. Thanks to the adoption of this method, we have an innovative and consistent approach and all teachers have a guide in hand. They sacrifice a certain freedom to teach for unparalleled efficiency.

**The growth mindset is a concept developed by Stanford psychology researcher Carol Dweck. According to her, we have the ability to evolve and above all to develop our skills, our intelligence or even new talents over time. It is opposed to a "fixed" mentality that considers that one has "high" or "weak" abilities in certain areas, without being able to change much.*

[For more information about ICE DUBAI](#)



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