

P O R T U G A L

THE CURIOSITY TO QUESTION.
THE COURAGE TO LEAD.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 5-8



WELCOME, FUTURE KNIGHTS!

VERUM BONUM PULCHRUM

MIDDLE SCHOOL IS DIFFERENT

Middle school is an amusement park of discovery. It is a time when young people can easily hold two diametrically opposed ideas and passionately defend both without the slightest sense of irony. As Dickens said (before middle school existed), it is the best and the worst of times.

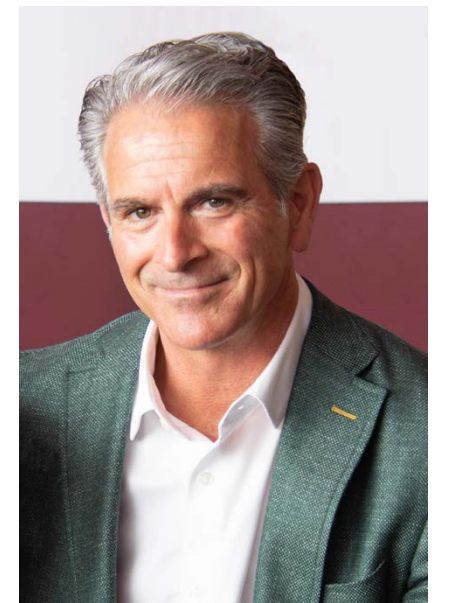
Beyond the intense physical changes these young people are undergoing, they are also experiencing a time of both questioning and independent thinking; and sometimes, because it seems easier, forgetting about thinking and simply conforming.

When young people push against the rules, our job is to gently push them back into their lanes — but not into the ditch. To understand and treat young people like the adults they are aspiring to be is the best way to develop the meaningful relationships we all want with our children.

We are not seeking to raise automatons, after all, but seekers of truth and beauty with a moral compass. These are exactly the kind of young people who grow up to change the world. I invite you to get to know TASIS Portugal and the many ways we rely on the TASIS ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty to prepare our middle schoolers to go forth with the curiosity to question and the courage to lead.

Go Knights!

Keith Chicquen



MEET SOME OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTORS

We don't simply hire teachers for their subject-specific knowledge; we find educators who understand and love the challenge of helping middle school students discover their passion(s) and set goals to achieve those dreams. They know middle school might be the most important time in the lives of these young people.

It takes a special person to want to teach middle school, and our middle school teachers love to work with these bright, opinionated, and maturing students. For many students, this is where the fire is lit, and our outstanding teachers help to ignite that flame. More than at any other time, middle school students want to know their teachers care about them as people first, and students second. At TASIS Portugal, these young people are also the school's leaders and as they learn about the world of leadership they discover their own talents and abilities.

In our new school, the middle school students have a unique opportunity to be leaders and leave their mark. Our leadership program invites students to be House captains, student council members, service leaders, and active participants in plays, bands, rhetoric, debate, and sports. The best way to learn how to lead is to try leading, and we encourage students to run assemblies, work with younger students, and develop the courage and discipline required to shape school culture.



BILL BROOKS, Dean of Students

Bill has taught English language and literature in the US and internationally and has extensive experience in curriculum creation and implementation for English and social studies. Prior to TASIS Portugal, he was the Grade 7 team lead and secondary level EAL teacher at the American International School of Guangzhou, China.

"Middle school students are some of the most candid and courageous people I know. I love their questions and wonderings as well as their capacity for great acts of compassion and kindness."

ISABELLA BOUTROS, Science

Isabella comes to us from TASIS in Lugano, Switzerland, where she served as dean of students and head adviser for the summer program. Isabella taught science in middle schools in Washington D.C, Massachusetts, and Canada, and was a teaching and research assistant at McGill University. A native English speaker, she is also fluent in French.

"I hope my students develop a love of learning and a passion for science. But most importantly, I want them to feel at home in my classroom and always have fun!"



JOHN IGLAR, Math & Coding/Robotics

John joins us with over 25 years of experience as a teacher, coach, and administrator in international and American schools. He has taught mathematics, computer science, programming, robotics, and more in the US, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Indonesia, and Portugal.

"I hope my students learn that technology tools can be a force for good if they are built to work that way...and that they want to make a positive difference in the world!"

RENOWNED CURRICULUM. PROVEN SUCCESS.

In middle school, students move from a homeroom environment to a more independent model with a homeroom advisor. They travel from classroom to classroom for each of their subjects, yet maintain a close connection with their homeroom advisor, who provides a daily touchpoint for each grade-level class. Middle school homeroom teachers are the main point of communication for parents. Our students will graduate with a curated college/university-preparatory academic experience that ensures they are well versed in American and international academic standards, allowing them to compete in any university setting.

When students move to the middle school years, Core Knowledge (English and History), Amplify Science, and Singapore Math are blended seamlessly with the Cambridge Lower Secondary learning objectives. Along the way, students are assessed with formative, summative, and external assessments including curriculum-based assessments, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), and Cambridge International assessments. Our assessment program is designed expressly to provide insight into a student's learning so that we can adjust appropriately, not the other way around. As students move into high school, we guide them through the IGCSE and the International Baccalaureate, culminating in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP). What we teach is highly articulated, rigorous, and grounded in a college-preparatory tradition. How we teach is based on research, current best practices in pedagogy, and building a growth mindset.

Languages

Our devoted, native-speaking educators help students develop competency and a passion for languages including French, Spanish, and Portuguese (three levels). French and Spanish classes are designed so that new learners study alongside more advanced students. We help start the journey toward proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Rhetoric and Leadership

The ability to speak articulately, convincingly, and publicly is an essential life skill. All TASIS Portugal students practice this each year, demonstrate their aptitude within their classes and at assemblies, and in front of the entire school community during our annual TASIS Speaks event.



"Make a difference in the world. These are big hopes and dreams, but you have to hope big and dream big to have bigger dreams come true."

TASIS FOUNDER M. CRIST FLEMING, 1998

THE CURIOSITY TO QUESTION



Amplify Science

In our science classrooms, TASIS Portugal students learn to think, collaborate, and communicate like scientists. They are taught how to make sense of evidence they gather from reliable and varied sources and to develop sound scientific arguments about real-world phenomena.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) incorporate the practices that scientists and engineers engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world. The standards build skills alongside knowledge. Although engineering design is similar to scientific inquiry, there are significant differences. For example, scientific inquiry involves the formulation of a question that can be answered through investigation, while engineering design involves the formulation of a problem that can be solved through design. Our curriculum helps students understand the relevance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (the four STEM fields) in everyday life.

Building Strong Number Sense with Singapore Math

Using the same conceptually rich approach and format as the elementary years, Singapore Math continues in the middle school. This curriculum was thoughtfully developed to ensure students are well prepared for rigorous upper school curricula.

The intentional progression of concepts in Singapore Math helps students become strong problem solvers who truly understand numbers and math, rather than relying on rote memorization. This unique way of teaching requires ongoing teacher training and is vastly different from methods utilized in most schools. Read more about the Singapore Math program on our website.

Singapore Math at
TASIS Portugal:



Future Forward: Coding & Robotics

It is essential that students are prepared to navigate the ever-changing world of technology. Our children exist in a time when the internet, computers, artificial intelligence, and advanced electronics are ubiquitous. We teach students the art and science of coding, as well as the fun and learning of robotics. We instill in students the values that will guide them to use technology ethically and safely.

EXERCISING MUSCLES AND IMAGINATIONS

Physical Education

We believe physical education is as important to a student's growth, health, and development as other core subjects. Our physical education program helps students develop the motor skills, knowledge, and mindset needed for active living, physical fitness, sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence.

Our PE curriculum meets the needs of all students, keeps them active, teaches self-management, emphasizes knowledge and skills for a lifetime of physical activity, and, best of all, is fun! After school, we offer team sports including basketball, soccer, and volleyball, as well as a dance academy for all ages.

Competitive Sport

Competition plays a role in motivating students to perform and excel and offers more than just the winning prize. It allows participants to gain substantial experience, showcase skills, analyze and evaluate outcomes, and uncover personal aptitude.

Competition improves teamwork and collaboration, enhances social and emotional learning, increases intrinsic motivation and tenacity, builds mental and physical toughness, fosters a spirit of sportsmanship, and helps individuals deal with stress. Students who compete learn resilience from losses and how to win with grace.

At TASIS Portugal, safe and healthy competition is encouraged as a growth tool and is overseen by a director of competitive sport.





“For me, a love of literature, the arts, and the performing arts is the heart and soul of education, for it grows throughout our entire lifetime, keeping alive the excitement of learning, creating constant enrichment in our leisure hours and throughout our long golden years.”

TASIS FOUNDER M. CRIST FLEMING, 1993

Music

Our middle school music students apply an increasingly wide range of techniques in their composition and performance. They continue to collaborate with their peers, compose with growing independence, and perform and improvise as soloists. In the classroom, they work together to rehearse and perform, explore the make-up of musical pieces, and engage with new and different methods for writing music.

Students explore a range of music, becoming more confident in talking about their own and others' contributions by considering the broader development of music across time and cultures.



Performance

We invite our middle school students to expand their performing arts learning experience by providing more challenging opportunities. All students can participate in the dramatic process, feel free to express themselves, and learn to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience.

Aspects of the Core Knowledge Curriculum are woven into our performing arts, encouraging the exploration of classical and modern works while honing skills and understanding.

Art and Design

Artistic learning objectives are designed to reflect the interwoven stages of the artistic process and give learners a platform to express themselves.

Students learn how to articulate personal responses to their experiences and to think about how their artistic development supports them throughout all areas of their education. They learn to see themselves as artists, increasingly reflective and independent.

LEADERS IN TRAINING

The TASIS Portugal middle school is a testing ground to explore new ideas, to venture into things untried, to leave your mark, and to lead. The world is in dire need of ethical, courageous, and competent leaders who inspire others. Our founder was this sort of individual. Mrs. Fleming set a high bar for which our school and students strive. She had many successes, a few failures, a life of exploration, and even a few critics. When I think about working with the young people who will forge their characters in the crucible of middle school and emerge as leaders of merit, I am reminded of her words in 1997:

Leadership – that is what education is all about, that is the mission of education. That is why TASIS and other good schools exist. I don't mean "leadership" in a political sense. I mean the kind of leader who in one way or another subtly or visibly affects the lives of all around them and in small or larger ways makes a better person of those whose lives they touch.

Let's try to turn all our students into that kind of person, that kind of leader.

We invite your child to join us at TASIS Portugal. We will challenge them. We will support them. We will ask nothing less than their best. If this would inspire them, good! If it would frighten them, even better! Those are the students who will grow the most from this experience.

- Headmaster Keith Chicquen

"You are here to learn leadership, not to be a follower, for followers are often led down the wrong path. Be strong in your beliefs, fight for your own high values."



M. CRIST FLEMING,
SPEECH TO PARENTS AND
STUDENTS, 2003 (AGE 93)

Middle school students at the first TASIS
Speaks rhetoric showcase



TASIS



PORTUGAL



DISCOVER THE TASIS DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF.

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