



RAISING GLOBAL CITIZENS TOGETHER

THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER
THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



TRUST AND TRADITION

YOUR CHILD AT TASIS PORTUGAL



BEM-VINDOS! WELCOME!

TASIS Portugal is the newest campus in the TASIS family of schools, founded in Switzerland in 1956 by fearless educator and entrepreneur M. Crist Fleming, and fully financially supported by the nonprofit TASIS Foundation.

Our longstanding traditions, combined with a genuine love of children and their unique qualities, make TASIS Portugal a beautiful place for your child to grow, play, and learn.

TASIS Switzerland was the first American boarding school in Europe, and all TASIS schools maintain the tenets on which it was founded: culture, wisdom, truth, and knowledge; represented by the tower, the lamp, the sun, and the book.



Culture Our students are surrounded with beauty, both natural and manmade, to help them appreciate the value of beauty and culture in their lives and reflect it in their hearts and spirits.



Wisdom At TASIS, wisdom means a strong mind, a strong body, and strong principles. To us, wisdom is just as much of the heart as of the mind.



Truth A TASIS education promotes personal integrity and ethical development, steeped in a belief in academic excellence and the values of Western civilization.



Knowledge Through play and learning, and the commitment of its faculty, TASIS encourages students to honor knowledge and become lifelong learners.

At TASIS Portugal, we raise caring, curious, competent global citizens in partnership with parents. I invite you to discover more about our special community with a visit to our campus.

Keith Chicquen, Headmaster

A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION ON A BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

Where some saw an empty shopping center, the TASIS Foundation saw opportunity. The redesign of our building will result in a modern international school that echoes the romantic, historic Portuguese architecture of Sintra. Bright hallways and classrooms and outdoor spaces to run and play are complemented by state-of-the-art facilities and technology specifically designed for sustainability. From our sunlit indoor courtyard to our comfortable commons lounge, our beautiful campus is built to cater to the needs of our youngest learners.

Essentials Included: Meals, Activities, and More

Food is fuel for the body and the brain, so we prepare and serve fresh, healthy meals every day. Because we know you are busy, we have professionally supervised care before and after school. Movement is essential, so we provide yoga instruction and ample play time. Also included in your tuition are books and other instructional materials, school field trips, clubs and sports.



"My dreams have always been filled with beautiful buildings situated in beautiful settings spread around the world and always inhabited by hundreds of beautiful young creatures."

TASIS Founder, M. Crist Fleming, 1988



A SAFE AND INSPIRING PLACE TO LEARN AND PLAY

A true global community, TASIS Portugal is comprised of students and teachers from many nationalities. TASIS teachers are highly trained, experienced professionals with a love of education and culture. They personalize their instruction within each grade level, and every student's progress is closely monitored. Our campus is safe and secure, with an advanced closed-circuit camera system and security office.

Our students wear comfortable tailored uniforms that promote pride in appearance while encouraging individual expression. Each day brings new opportunities to play, learn, and grow.

Care in the Classroom

Every TASIS Portugal classroom is capped at 22 students, and children in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 3 have two full time qualified teachers in the classroom to support their needs. Students in grades 4 and above have a main teacher and a set of specialist teachers who are subject matter experts. This ratio allows our teachers to effectively track student development and gain a better understanding of a child's strengths and passions, while keeping classrooms at an optimal size for diversity and social development.

Partnership with Parents

At TASIS Portugal, we consider the raising of confident, caring, curious individuals the result of a partnership between parent and school. Parents are encouraged to be involved and communicate regularly with teachers. We boast an active Parent Association, and regular Parent Coffees hosted by the Headmaster. Your support in developing good habits at home is crucial to your child's successful education.

"Great schools have two things in common: An outstanding curriculum and the very best teachers. For our first year, we have selected from hundreds of applicants and hired only the finest teachers. They have strong backgrounds, excellent credentials (including advanced degrees), and a desire to be the best teachers they can be."

Keith Chicquen, Headmaster

RENOWNED CURRICULUM. PROVEN SUCCESS.

Core Knowledge

We believe in a coherent, cumulative, and content-specific curriculum grounded in shared knowledge. The idea behind the Core Knowledge (CK) Curriculum used at TASIS Portugal—an excellent sequential, content-rich curriculum covering language arts, history and geography, science, art, art history, and music, is simple: knowledge builds on knowledge. Nearly all of our most important goals for education (greater reading comprehension, the ability to think critically and solve problems, and improved test scores) are a function of the depth and breadth of our knowledge.

By outlining the precise content that every child should learn, the Core Knowledge curriculum provides the foundation for future success, grade by grade and year by year. At TASIS, we ensure this curriculum is effectively delivered by providing essential classroom resources, extensive professional development for teachers, and a community of collaboration that leads to the best learning outcomes for all students.

Our curriculum helps children become culturally literate in a way that is systematic yet creative. Teachers may teach the subject matter as they like, but the content is specified and builds from year to year.

Singapore Math

We utilize the Singapore Math approach, widely considered the best method of teaching mathematics. It was developed and is used by the country of Singapore (which boasts the world's highest-achieving primary and secondary pupils in math and science in the global PISA and TIMSS assessments). In use by schools worldwide, it helps students become strong problem solvers who don't simply memorize or utilize routines, but who truly understand numbers and math. This unique way of teaching math requires ongoing teacher training and is vastly different from methods utilized in most schools.

English as an Additional Language

For students who are not fluent in English, our English as an Additional Language classes and support help bring them quickly to grade-level proficiency so they can participate fully in their homerooms.



TASIS Essential Literacies : Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Mathematics

Each of these areas receives a great deal of time and attention in our elementary program because we believe (and research supports) that early mastery of key literacies ensures future success. This is why our teachers use a phonics-based approach to reading and writing, frequent reading aloud (student and teacher), public speaking, and Singapore Math pedagogy.

Keith Chicquen, Headmaster

THE TASIS DIFFERENCE

Next Generation Science Standards

Next Generation Science Standards are guidelines that are rich in content and practice, arranged coherently across disciplines and grades to provide all students with an internationally benchmarked science education.

These guidelines help students deeply comprehend core scientific concepts, the scientific process of developing and testing ideas, and the evaluation of scientific evidence. Students are expected not simply to learn content, but also to understand the practices of scientists and engineers. Traditional methods of teaching science typically either deal with these topics separately, or do not address them at all.

The Joy of Music: K-3 Violin Program

All TASIS students in Kindergarten through grade 3 learn to play the violin. It is one of the most challenging instruments to learn, and once students are adept at the violin, they have the confidence to master any instrument. Research suggests that playing a musical instrument, and the violin in particular, fosters creativity, teamwork, and cognitive development. A non-fretted instrument requiring digital dexterity, the violin also develops a student's ear, memory strength, and small motor skills. It is a marvel to behold an entire class playing violin together!

The Mind-Body Connection: Yoga

Derived from the Sanskrit word “yuji,” meaning union, yoga is an ancient practice that unites mind and body. Yoga promotes mindfulness—the ability to be fully present in the moment and aware but not reactive. A growing body of research indicates that training the brain to be mindful can remodel its physical structure. Yoga increases flexibility, reduces stress and anxiety, and leads to better overall health.

Skill and Strategy: Chess

Chess is an ancient game dating as far back as 500 AD. Besides being a great deal of fun, chess helps young people with decision making, anticipation, memory, and strategy. Imagine if you could predict someone's actions several moves ahead! Chess teaches you exactly this. It is the ultimate game of strategy and can be enjoyed for a lifetime.



“At TASIS, we believe in taking the best parts of the American pedagogy—strong relationships between teachers and students, the need to differentiate instruction in order to engage each and every student, an unwavering belief in student potential, and an emphasis on critical thinking—and support them with a cumulative, content-rich curriculum designed to ensure that all students establish a deep foundation of knowledge that sets them up for success in future years.”

Tim Fitzgerald, lower school head, TASIS, Lugano, Switzerland

THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER (PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN)

The Early Learning Center provides a stimulating, multi-sensory environment that engages the whole child for cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and creative development. We want children to enjoy school, develop a love of learning, and gain confidence. Here they build the foundation they need to be successful lifelong learners.

Our unique classrooms feature highly trained teachers in welcoming environments filled with purposeful materials. Getting your hands dirty is part of the fun, so we teach the importance of sustainability through outdoor learning, environmental activities, and sensory play. We focus on growing functional independence and self-regulation, good manners, and caring for others and the environment. Classrooms are multi-age to encourage mentorship and allow students to learn from one another.

Reading is a focus of our program and we use research-supported approaches to teach young people to be strong readers and writers. We begin teaching our students to read in the Early Learning Center in a program that gives equal weight, and equal time, to decoding and comprehension. We provide our students and teachers with Core Knowledge materials designed for daily use and for intentional support of both of these aspects of reading development.

Carefully planned activities build on children's interests, ideas, and learning styles, encouraging them to learn through hands-on play while developing curiosity, problem solving, and emotional maturity. "Learning to discover" while "discovering how to learn" is central to our approach. This strong foundation prepares students well for their TASIS elementary school experience.



"What a special word - 'wonder!' It conjures up small children lifting their heads high, their eyes wide and a sense of excitement, waiting for the unknown, the unexpected to happen."

TASIS Founder, M. Crist Fleming, 1988

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1 THROUGH 6)

Our elementary school curriculum is broadly based, well rounded, challenging, and designed to develop a student's respect for and love of learning. We nurture the strong basic skills that serve as a foundation for more complex future learning. Simultaneously, we continue our emphasis on the importance of character and core values. Elementary school students at TASIS Portugal experience an exciting world of opportunities for learning and developing in a lively, happy, and diverse environment.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 7 THROUGH 12)

Our Core Knowledge curriculum is an excellent foundation for young learners. As students move from the elementary program to the middle and high schools, we allow them to take advantage of their vast reservoir of knowledge and strong language and math skills to begin exploring their interests.

While still utilizing an articulated curriculum, the middle school offers additional experimentation and choice. We use the Cambridge Schools International curriculum for our middle school because it is world recognized, culturally sensitive, internationally minded, and provides flexibility while remaining challenging.

Courses adopt a "spiral" approach, building on previous learning to help advance student study. The development of higher order thinking skills (problem solving, critical thinking, independent research, collaboration, and presenting arguments) dovetails beautifully with our Core Knowledge curriculum while preparing students for the rigorous and comprehensive IB diploma program in their final years at TASIS.

"HOW DO YOU START A SCHOOL?"

For me the recipe is simple! Find a beautiful property, both house and surroundings, for young people need and deserve to be surrounded with beauty. It's like a security blanket that will always remain with them, no matter what the rest of life may bring. Fill this setting with young people from all over the world, because the world has become so very small. Fill all their waking hours with commitment to study, sports, the arts, and responsibility to others. Instruct – stretch them in all areas. They don't know the amazing potential they have! Place in this 'house' very special human beings as teachers, friends, counselors, and role models, people who have a sense of the excitement of life and learning – of the huge challenge this world presents, and above all, great faith in their young charges. Sprinkle and cover the whole wonderful concoction, basting frequently with generous portions of TLC – tender loving care! Believe me, it's a foolproof recipe!"

TASIS Founder M. Crist Fleming, 1990

DISCOVER THE TASIS DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF.



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