



TASIS



PORTUGAL

# RAISING GLOBAL CITIZENS TOGETHER

## THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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1ST GRADE - 4TH GRADE



# TRUST AND TRADITION YOUR CHILD AT TASIS PORTUGAL



1st grade students at our inaugural TASIS  
Speaks rhetoric competition

## WELCOME FUTURE KNIGHTS!

VERUM BONUM PULCHRUM

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 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. These values are reflected in our daily instruction, and students are regularly recognized at our school assemblies for exemplifying them.



Tower - Culture



Sun - Truth



Lamp - Wisdom

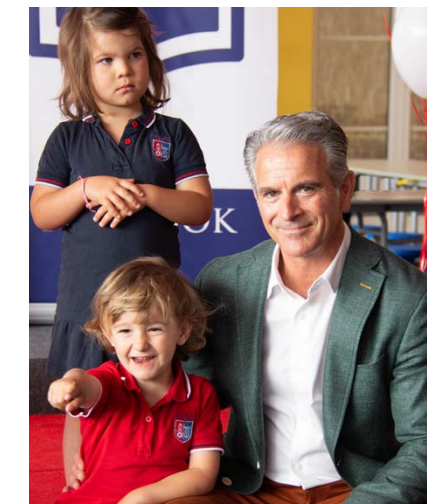


Book - Knowledge

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.

Go Knights!

Keith Chicquen  
Headmaster





# A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION ON A BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

Our beautifully conceived campus establishes TASIS Portugal as a modern international school that echoes the romantic, historic Portuguese architecture of Sintra. Bright indoor areas and outdoor spaces to run and play are complemented by state-of-the-art facilities and technology specifically designed for scalability. From the glass-enclosed, sunlit learning commons to classrooms furnished with natural, sustainable materials, we built the school mindfully to cater to children's needs as they grow.

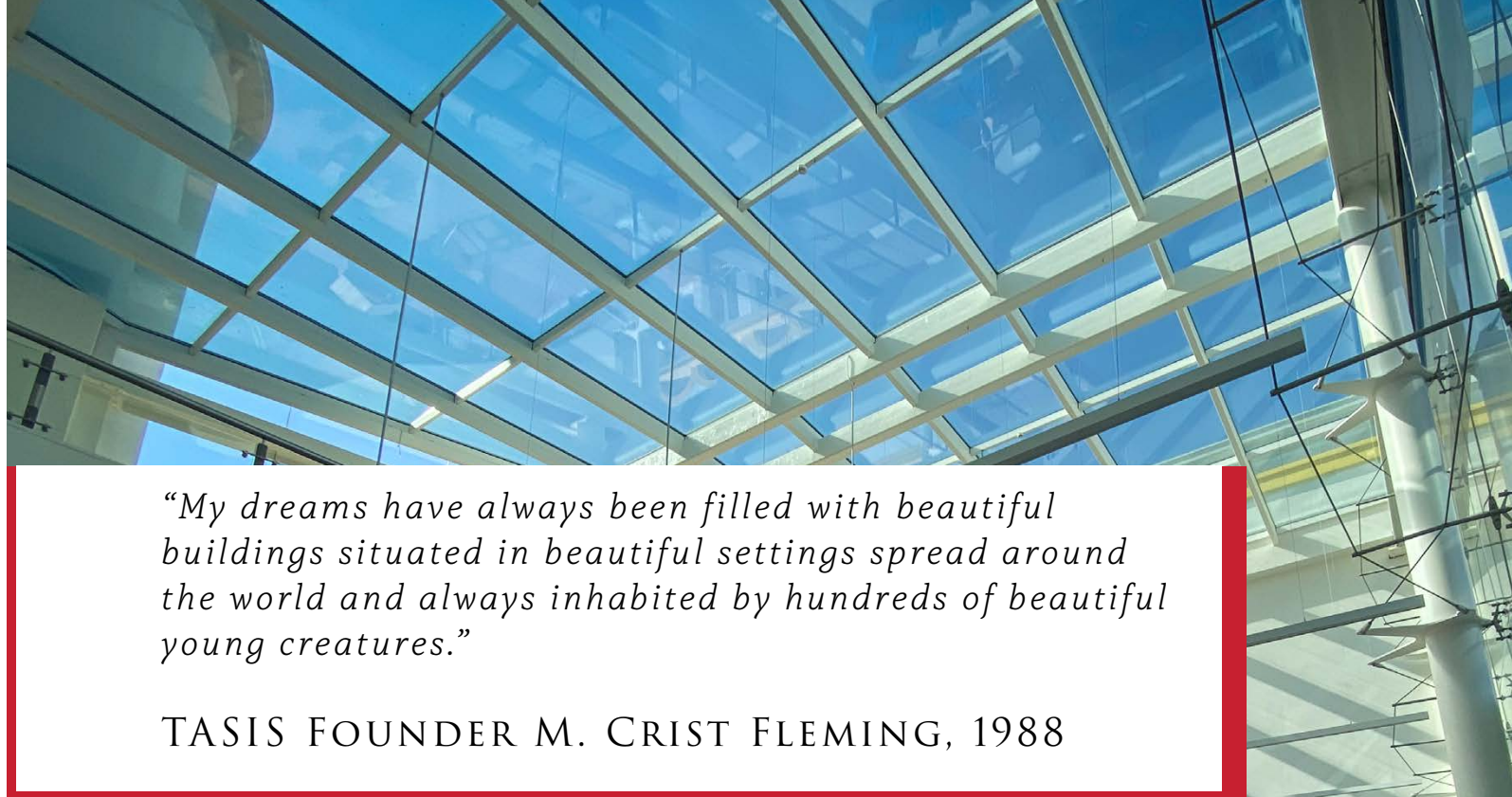
## **Essentials Included: Meals and Snacks, Activities, and More**

Food is fuel for the body and the mind, so we prepare and serve fresh, delicious, healthy meals and snacks every day and include them in our tuition. Teachers, administrators, and children all dine together daily to promote a sense of community. Movement is essential, so we provide yoga and mindfulness instruction and ample play time. Also included in your tuition are books and other instructional materials, school field trips, and school-based clubs and sports.

## WHAT MAKES TASIS AMERICAN?

“Our founder believed in freedom of speech, the ideals of democracy, citizenship, manners, respect, tolerance, and equality. And culture – all cultures. While this ideal is not unique to America, these were some of the foundational pillars of the American republic. They are as important now as they have ever been. These core beliefs, along with a spirit of invention, entrepreneurship, and the concept that anything is possible, encapsulates why TASIS Portugal is an American school. And perhaps why today, it is also a home for students from everywhere.”

Keith Chicquen, Headmaster



*“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 Portugal 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 elementary school classroom is capped at 22 students, and children in first through fourth grades have two qualified, full-time co-teachers to support their needs. 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. Our unique co-teaching model allows our teachers to be exposed to different methods of instruction and to learn from and assist each other daily.

## Partnership with Parents

At TASIS Portugal, we consider the raising of confident, caring, curious individuals to be the result of a partnership between parent and school. Parents are encouraged to be involved and communicate regularly with teachers. Many of our parents volunteer in the School. We boast an active Parent Association and pride ourselves on the social community that has developed among our families outside the school. Your support in developing good habits at home is crucial to your child's successful education.

*"We know that your children are incredibly important to you. We want them to be successful and happy too. Teachers work best when parents help them by providing prepared and ready learners. This is the partnership of education. The saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' is very much part of our philosophy at TASIS Portugal. We look forward to our future partnership with you."*

Headmaster Keith Chicquen

*"Great schools have two things in common: an outstanding curriculum and the very best teachers. We 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.

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 emphasize 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.

## Core Knowledge Curriculum

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. Almost all the most important educational goals (greater reading comprehension, the ability to think critically and solve problems, and improved test scores) are a function of depth and breadth of 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 Portugal, 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. We have a full-time Core Knowledge Curriculum specialist on staff to ensure our high standards are met.

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.



## Core Knowledge at TASIS Portugal







4th grade fossil hunting at Praia do Magoito as part of an Amplify Science geology unit

# DISCOVERY & CHALLENGE

## Next Generation Science Standards / Amplify Science

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. Our Amplify Science curriculum was designed from a collaboration with the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley and follows their “Do, Talk, Read, Write, Visualize” model of learning. It was created specifically to meet Next Generation Science Standards, which are guidelines intended 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.

The curriculum seeks to introduce students to science skills and content through different phenomena. Each unit begins with a big question, which is then broken down into smaller questions. Throughout the unit, students work towards answering the questions by engaging in learning through hands-on experiments, digital simulations, close reading and question asking, and class discussions. The phenomena are relatable and engage the students as they draw on their life experiences and interests to participate in each class session.

## 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 TIMMS assessments). In use by schools worldwide, it helps students become strong problem solvers who do not 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. TASIS Portugal employs a full-time Singapore Math specialist to assist teachers and students in making the most of this exceptional program.

**Singapore Math  
at TASIS Portugal**





# THE TASIS PORTUGAL DIFFERENCE

## Language

To be a true global citizen means understanding cultures that are different from your own. There is no better way to do this than to learn another language and become immersed in its speakers' traditions, celebrations, food, and daily life. In elementary school, we provide three levels of Portuguese instruction (beginner, intermediate, and native) to give our students a superb pathway to fluency and understanding based on World Readiness Standards for language acquisition, cultural understanding, and lifelong learning. For those whose first language is not English, we offer specialized instruction to allow them to participate fully in their classes as quickly as possible.

## Future Forward: Coding and Robotics

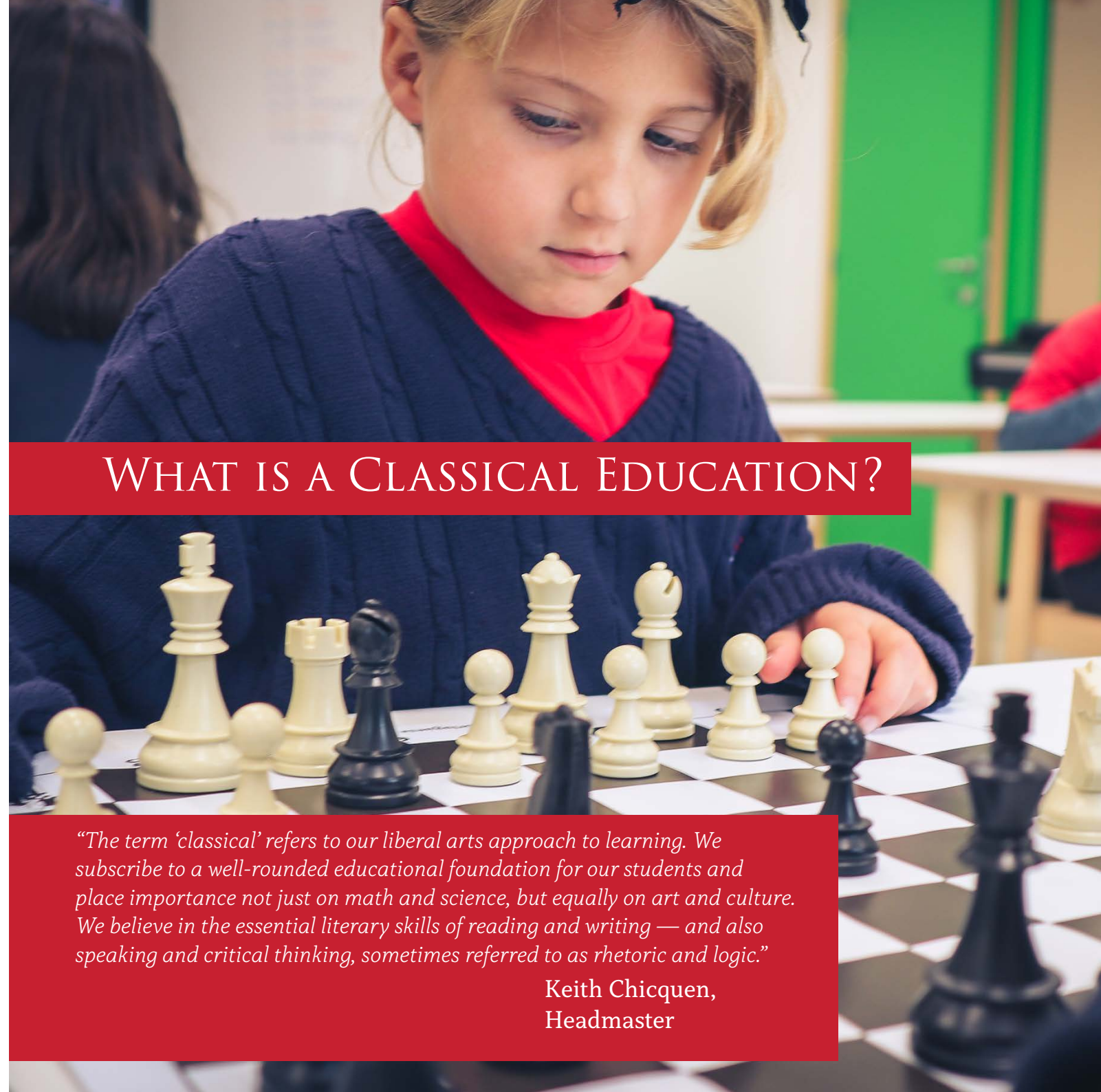
Preparing students for their future means preparing them to navigate the ever-changing world of technology. Our children live in a time in which the internet, computers, artificial intelligence, and advanced electronics are ubiquitous. We devote significant time to teaching children the art and science of coding, as well as the fun and learning of robotics. We instill in them the values that will guide them as they use technology ethically and safely.

## Mastering a Classic: Violin Lessons

All TASIS Portugal elementary school students in first through fourth grades learn to play the violin using the Gordon method. 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 fine motor skills. We love to see an entire class playing violin together!

## Skill and Strategy: Chess

Chess is more than just an ancient game; it is a sport, a science and an art, a pastime and a discipline. Besides being a great deal of fun, chess helps young people develop confident decision making, visual memory, spatial reasoning, and concentration. Children learning chess at school also learn sportsmanship and build their self-esteem. Chess is the ultimate game of strategy and can be enjoyed for a lifetime.



## WHAT IS A CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

*"The term 'classical' refers to our liberal arts approach to learning. We subscribe to a well-rounded educational foundation for our students and place importance not just on math and science, but equally on art and culture. We believe in the essential literary skills of reading and writing — and also speaking and critical thinking, sometimes referred to as rhetoric and logic."*

Keith Chicquen,  
Headmaster





# FLEXING MUSCLES AND IMAGINATIONS

## Music and Art

The arts are an essential part of the knowledge all children should learn, so we use the Core Knowledge Curriculum music and art program in our elementary school. Our early instruction in the arts is noncompetitive and provides many opportunities to sing, dance, listen to and perform music, play act, read and write poetry, draw, paint, and make objects.

We believe children should be exposed to fine paintings, great music, and other inspiring examples of art. As children progress, they will learn more about the methods and terminology of the different arts and become familiar with an ever-growing range of great artists and acknowledged masterworks. Within Core Knowledge, understanding of the arts grows out of at least three modes of knowledge: creative (i.e., directly making artworks), historical, and analytical. We utilize all three modes, with special emphasis on creativity and active participation.

When they acquire a basic knowledge of the arts, children are not only better prepared to understand and appreciate works of art, but also to communicate their ideas, feelings, and judgments to others.

## Performing Arts

Our performing arts program provides a range of opportunities for students to perform vocally, musically, dramatically, and in dance. Students extend and connect with their classroom learning by dramatizing historical events or enacting plays from their lessons.

We encourage a school culture of performing arts, inspiring students to explore their interests and provide a space for all to participate. We want children to feel comfortable expressing themselves through the arts and discovering the ways they feel most creatively inspired.

## Physical Education

We believe physical education (PE) is as important to a child's growth, health, and development as other core subjects. Our physical education program is based on the comprehensive SHAPE America National Standards, created to develop the motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors needed for active living, physical fitness, sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence.

The PE curriculum addresses the mental skills related to the knowledge of movement, growth in feelings or attitudes about oneself and others, and the physical skills related to movement literacy. It 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!



*“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



TASIS



PORTUGAL



DISCOVER THE TASIS DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF.

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[www.tasisportugal.org](http://www.tasisportugal.org)

