



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

4-3-1 Hiroo, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0012 Japan

Tel: 03-3400-3951 Fax: 03-3400-3496

E-mail: info@iss.ac.jp Web: <http://www.iss.ac.jp>

International School of the Sacred Heart Goals and Criteria Review and Evaluation Process.

Brief History of the Sacred Heart Goals and Criteria.

From: *Times Change: A History of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools* by Susan Putnam Maxwell, RSCJ

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in 1800 by Madeleine Sophie Barat, in France, during the time of the French Revolution. Sophie strongly believed that God is a loving God and that girls could be educated in a challenging, intellectual way. The first Sacred Heart school opened in Amiens, France in 1801 and by the time Sophie died in 1865, Sacred Heart schools also existed in Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Algiers, England, Ireland, Spain, Holland, Germany, Cuba, Austria, Poland, South America and North America. The Sacred Heart network now extends to 30 countries.

Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat in her day and the religious of the Sacred Heart since, have held the conviction that education, especially of women, is critical to any attempt to improve a world so very much in need of it. The Sacred Heart educational system was originally founded on everlasting values, aimed at the development of the spiritual, intellectual, moral and social qualities needed to meet the challenges of changing and future times. These elements have been the framework of Sacred Heart education since its beginning in 1801 and continue today.

In the late 1960's - early 1970's discussion began in the United States about uniting all Sacred Heart schools across the USA into one community of Sacred Heart students and educators, and the American Network of schools was formed. The Society realized the need to clearly articulate their philosophy of education and find a way to monitor its implementation in schools. With this in mind a thorough process of input began that involved all RSCJ in the United States, heads of schools, faculty and staff members. In 1975, the original Goals and Criteria were finalized. The Goals and Criteria have since been slightly revised through a process involving Religious of the Sacred Heart and lay colleagues from the US Sacred Heart school communities in 1990 and 2005.

Our Goals and Criteria.

The International School of the Sacred Heart adopted a slightly modified version of the American Network of schools Goals and Criteria in 1990 and then the 2005 version was adopted in 2007. Although the Goals and Criteria were developed by the American Network of schools, many Sacred Heart schools worldwide have adopted them as they ideally define "What

November 2018

To be revised June 2020



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makes a Sacred Heart school?" As stated in the 1975 Goals and Criteria documents, "Independent but never isolated, every Sacred Heart school needs to feel the strength of belonging to a larger whole, of sharing principles and values, broad purposes, hopes and ambitions." Sharing these Goals and Criteria with many schools in the world wide network of Sacred Heart schools and working towards common goals helps us to feel connected to others and strengthens our mission. Members of our community feel part of something larger than just us.

The Goals and Criteria in Practice.

The Goals and Criteria guide Sacred Heart schools in following the spirit of the Society and living its mission in light of our changing world. The goals embrace both a philosophy of education and the articulation of a healthy, profound philosophy of life. They provide the flexibility needed for the particular circumstances of each school, as there are many ways to live each goal. They are used by Sacred Heart schools to focus their priorities and next steps. The Goals and Criteria move from a philosophical statement to concrete objectives. They are not designed to be checked off as completed, but rather to become the atmosphere that we strive to live within. There is always another step to be taken along the journey of living these lifetime, life-fulfilling Goals ever more fully. At International School of the Sacred Heart we commit ourselves to using the Goals and Criteria to guide our decisions regarding the development of our policies and all aspects of our school program.

The Review and Evaluation Process.

The International School of the Sacred Heart commits to a 6 year cycle of review and recommitment to the Goals and Criteria. Years 1 to 5 will be spent highlighting one specific goal each year. Students, parents and faculty are invited to come up with a theme based on the goal, and students have a poster competition. The winning poster is displayed around the school. We include the theme on the website, in assemblies, in our newsletters, at events and in homeroom and Values classes. This does not mean that the other Goals and Criteria will be ignored, as all are equally important.

The International School of the Sacred Heart is committed to educate to:

Year 1: Goal 1 - A Personal and Active Faith in God

Year 2: Goal 2 - A Deep Respect for Intellectual Values

Year 3: Goal 3 - A Social Awareness Which Impels to Action

Year 4: Goal 4 - The Building of Community as a Christian Value

Year 5: Goal 5 - Personal Growth in an Atmosphere of Wise Freedom.

Year 6: Review/Reflection and Recommitment to the Goals and Criteria. *

*** The school values feedback and input from all members of the community in this process. However, our goal is not to significantly alter either the Goals or Criteria as they have an essential role in defining our identity and connection to the Sacred Heart Network. Our goal in this process is for our community to determine where our strengths**

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lie in relation to our active orientation to the Goals and Criteria, and to also express any concerns we have regarding how well we are living the vision expressed by them.

“It is the dialogue throughout the process of reflection among all the different constituencies that insures and deepens the commitment of the school to the life of the Goals and Criteria.” (Sacred Heart Commission on Goals Manual 2017 -2018)

Annual Evaluation

- Each May of years 1-5 of the Review and Evaluation Cycle an annual online survey will be administered to all Faculty/Staff, Students and Parents seeking their input regarding how well the school has lived the focus Goal for that year. Results from these surveys will be analyzed and strengths/challenges for the year recorded.
- Exit interview or questionnaire - Departing families/students
- Anecdotal data from the Grade 8 and 12 Days of Reflection will also be collected regarding what it has meant to the girls to be a Sacred Heart student.
- Action plan developed to work on any significant areas where improved outcomes are needed.

Year 6 Review/Reflection and Recommitment Process

- Throughout Year 6 of the Review and Evaluation Process a broader survey will be administered to all Faculty/Staff, Students and Parents. All 5 of the goals will be addressed in this survey.
- Focus groups may also be conducted with Parents and Students if there are areas identified in the survey where more detailed information/feedback is sought.
- At the end of this process a narrative report will be completed that outlines the strengths and challenges the school has identified for each goal and its criteria, and its proposed areas of focus for the future.

Resources used:

Times Change: A History of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools by Susan Putman Maxwell, RSCJ (2017)

Sacred Heart Commission on Goals Manual 2017 - 2018

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