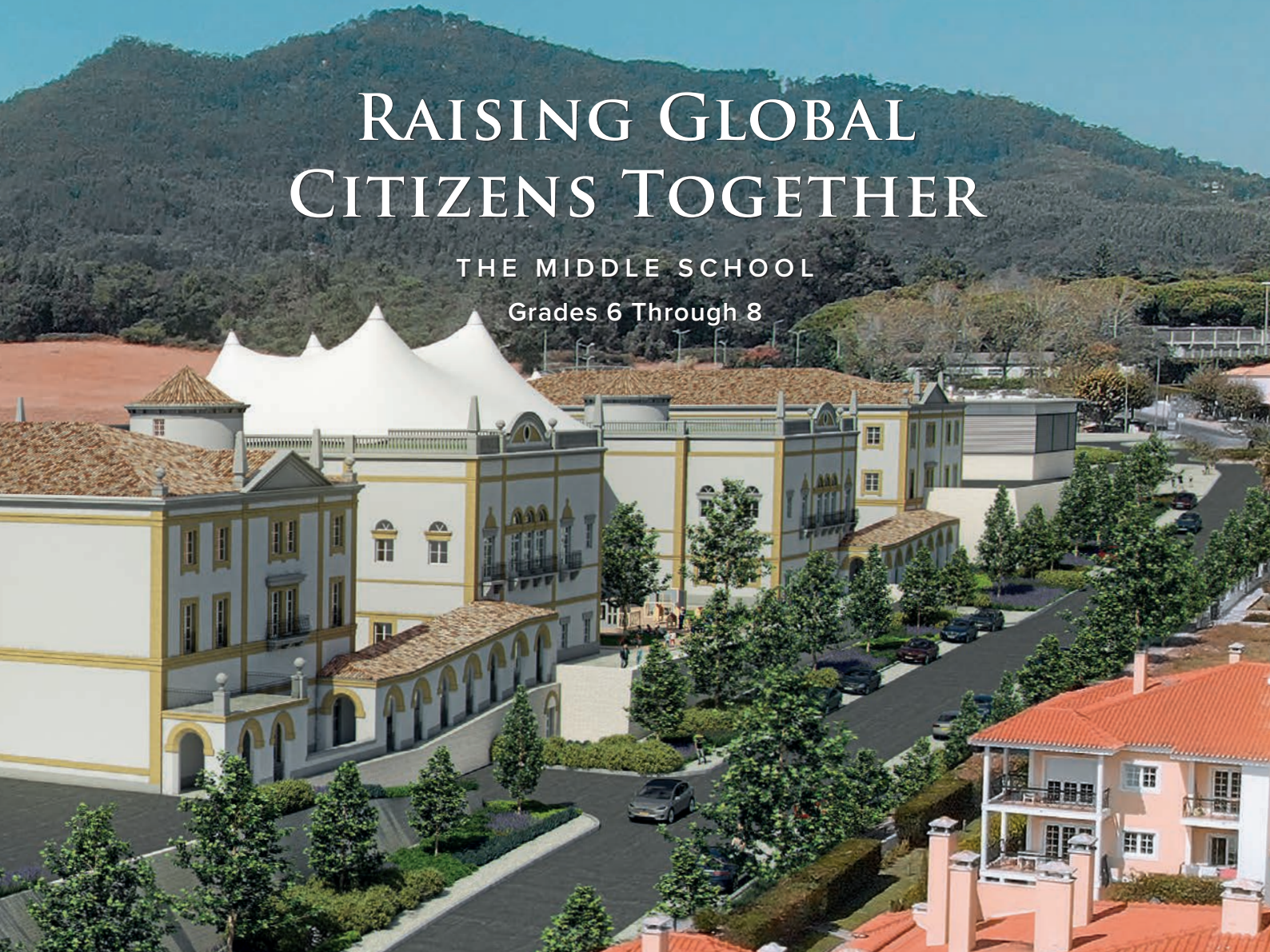




RAISING GLOBAL CITIZENS TOGETHER

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6 Through 8



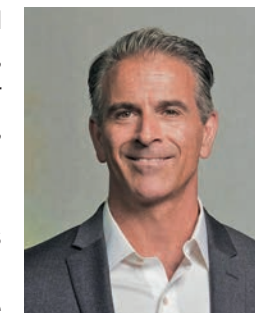
LEADERSHIP AND EXPLORATION

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 goal for the TASIS Portugal Middle School is to provide the guidance, ethical modeling, fairness, and care middle schoolers require.



We know how to channel their energy and passions, while setting the rules and protocols they depend on. We revel in the challenge of middle school because we know that during this time, students are at their most vulnerable while exhibiting their highest potential for growth.

These middle schoolers will forever be our first TASIS Portugal students and their legacy will pave the way for the students to come. I intend to personally oversee our student leadership program to nurture this group of children to their fullest potential.

TASIS was the first American boarding school in Europe, and all TASIS schools maintain the tenets on which it was founded, represented by the icons in our crest: the tower, the lamp, the sun, and the book.



Culture (The Tower) 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 (The Lamp) 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 (The Sun) A TASIS education promotes personal **integrity** and ethical development, steeped in a belief in academic excellence and the values of Western civilization.



Knowledge (The Book) Through **challenge** and **exploration**, 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, expansive outdoor spaces, and sport-friendly playing grounds are complemented by state-of-the-art facilities and technology specifically engineered for sustainability. From our sunlit learning commons to our purpose-built classrooms, our beautiful campus is designed to cater to the needs of our students and faculty.

Essentials Included: Meals, Activities, and More

Food is the fuel for the body and brain, so we prepare and serve fresh, healthy meals every day. We offer a wide variety of after-school programs and extracurricular activities and clubs, from arts to sports. Our daily curriculum includes yoga and physical education classes. Also included in your tuition are books and other instructional materials and school field trips.



“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



"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."

M. Crist Fleming, 1998

MIDDLE SCHOOL IS DIFFERENT

As young people enter adolescence, their brains and bodies begin changing even more than they did following their birth. They seek independence and begin to rail against authority—particularly that which so carefully nurtured them for the first decade of their lives.

Evolution and Pressure

With this evolution comes experimentation, curiosity, new maturity, and a great deal of social pressure: Pressure to conform while exhibiting independence and originality; pressure to lead and pressure to follow; pressure to compete.

As this natural evolution unfolds, young people are their most vulnerable, expressive, and private. They are also most in need of support, even as they push against it. A good school will provide the sense of belonging they desire at this delicate stage.

We Love Middle Schoolers

At TASIS Portugal, we understand middle schoolers, and we love them. No longer content to accept as fact everything they are told, they challenge us and themselves. They are explorers, seekers of knowledge, and makers of sense (who also need reminding when they are not making sense).

This may be the most important time for them to have strong role models outside their families. Yes, they love and admire their parents, but becoming an individual means attempting to be different and unique, often from those they love most.

Explore with Us

We invite you and your child to explore the TASIS Portugal curriculum and meet our stellar faculty. We prepare students to lead, to hold and uphold high values, to care for themselves and each other, and to dedicate themselves to lifelong learning.

Our founder was fond of saying: "Times change. Values don't."

This is an important time in your child's life—ensure they are in a school where those values are not taken for granted.

RENOWNED CURRICULUM

PROVEN SUCCESS

The middle school program is designed to foster the academic, aesthetic, physical, and social growth of students within a structured and caring framework. We teach students to question. We encourage divergent opinions. We inspire them to pursue the independent research of thought-provoking issues, culminating in individual rational judgments.

While still utilizing an articulated curriculum, the middle school offers additional experimentation and choice.

Cambridge Lower Secondary Curriculum

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. Cambridge Lower Secondary develops young learners who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative, and engaged.

It provides a natural progression from primary education and preparation for rigorous upper school curricula. The Cambridge Schools curriculum is the perfect transition from the Core Knowledge curriculum used in our elementary school. Both are highly articulated, with discrete learning goals and a focus on mastery of a wide variety of subjects, including an understanding of global history, literature, language, and ideas. TASIS Portugal is a truly international school.

Singapore Math

TASIS Portugal uses the Singapore Math method, an approach which has produced the best international achievement scores over the past three decades. 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: <https://bit.ly/TASISSingapore-Math>.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:20-08:30		Registration				
Period 1	08:30-09:10	English	Singapore Math	STEAM	Singapore Math	Homeroom
Period 2	09:10-09:50					English
Period 3	09:50-10:30	Global Perspectives	Science	Music/Drama	Music/Drama	
Break						
Period 4	10:50-11:30	Singapore Math	English	Singapore Math	Portuguese	Global Perspectives
Period 5	11:30-12:10	Coding		PE	PE	PE
Lunch						
Period 6	13:10-13:50	PE	Global Perspectives	Foreign Language 2	Arts/Design	Arts/Design
Period 7	13:50-14:30	Music/Drama	PE	Global Perspectives	Foreign Language 2	Foreign Language 2
Period 8	14:30-15:10	Arts/Design	Portuguese	Portuguese	Science	Music/Drama
Period 9	13:10-15:50	Foreign Language 2	Foreign Language 2	Arts/Design	Global Perspectives	Portuguese
16:00		Activities				

STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math

MEET SOME OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTORS

At the end of the day, we know that beautiful facilities, ethical management, and student-centered practices make for good schools, but it is the teachers who make the difference in the lives of young people. We are attracting students from around the world and we have found very special teachers, counselors, and role models to lead this school and the young people in it—teachers who have high expectations for your children, and the ability to help them meet those expectations.

Excellent teachers also need their own learning communities, so we support them with continuing professional development built into every day through common free periods to collaborate, and every fortnight with guided continuing education.

Our middle school teachers know middle schoolers. They are enthusiastic mentors, coaches, and listeners. They will engage, illuminate, and inspire your child to develop expansive thinking, seeking solid reasoning and data to come to conclusions and form opinions.

We invite you to learn more about the very special human beings who will partner with you to raise caring, curious, and confident global citizens at TASIS Portugal.



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 my students want to make a positive difference in the world!”

BILL BROOKS, Global Perspectives & English

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. Most recently, 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!”





"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."

M. Crist Fleming, 1993

EXERCISING MUSCLES AND IMAGINATIONS



Alfredo Silva
Physical Education
Teacher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our physical education program promotes curiosity, critical thinking, and openness to mastering new skills. We provide challenging and structured opportunities for students to explore, learn, and evolve into their potential. Students learn and connect concepts through a full range of sports from cricket to yoga. Everyone participates, reflects, and develops the ability to master a variety of skills. They become competent and confident apprentices, learning teamwork and problem solving together.

"Our learners will own their learning, grow and win together, share thoughts and reflect on their answers. Everybody will win, gain wisdom, and care for each other."

MUSIC AND THEATER

Our performing arts program provides a range of opportunities for students to perform vocally, musically, dramatically, and in dance. By establishing a positive relationship with parents and the community, our program hopes to enrich not just students, but the community at large. We encourage a school culture of performing arts, inspiring students to explore their interests and provide a space for all to participate.

"Students should feel safe and free to explore their talents and desires, developing the confidence they need to express themselves fully."



Luis Saraiva
Performing Arts Teacher



Betty Urban
Art Teacher

FINE ARTS

We help students understand the elements of art: line, value/shading, form/space, color, and texture. Knowing and applying these skills builds confidence and allows children to find their creative spirit and abilities. We expose our young artists to the principles of design and art history, with extensive field trips to artist's studios, galleries, and museums. We are also planning a visiting artist program from Portugal and beyond.

"I am dedicated to listening, adapting, and teaching each student thoughtfully and carefully so they feel safe enough to take risks and experiment with art."

MEANT TO LEAD

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. At the end of her life, she was asked if she had any regrets, to which she responded, “I have no regrets for anything I did, only for the things I didn’t do.”

When I think about working with the young people who will forge their characters in the crucible of middle school and emerge 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. A role model, if you will, yet so much more, because of that certain something they give off – that sense of life as an exciting and wonderful thing! Let’s try to turn all our students into that kind of person, that kind of leader.

The Grade 7 class for 2020 will be our oldest students for their six years at TASIS Portugal. This is both an incredible opportunity, and a unique responsibility. Our middle school students will require and develop leadership skills such as **courage, creativity, intellectual flexibility, moral conviction, and resilience**. We need them to help us create a great school that serves the needs of its students while pushing them to reach higher and expand their vision and their accomplishments. Success is measured in testing the boundaries of your being.

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)

DISCOVER THE TASIS DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF

TASIS



PORTUGAL

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