



# QSI

QSI International School of **Atyrau**  
**Information Packet**  
2021-2022

QSI



QUALITY SCHOOLS  
INTERNATIONAL

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**QSI**



QSI INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF ATYRAU



## QSI International School of Atyrau



QSI International School of Atyrau is a nonprofit institution that opened September 2007. It offers high-quality education in the English language for Preschool students through Secondary IV students. Current enrollment is about 110 students. The primary purpose of the school is to meet the needs of children of expatriate families living in Atyrau that require this type of education with a view to continuing their education in their home countries with a minimum of adjustment. The school is also available to Kazakh parents who want this type of education for their children.

### **Facility**

QSI International School of Atyrau maintains a new, purpose-built facility which was occupied in August 2014. The building sits on over 17 acres of land located on the outskirts of Atyrau and contains over 6,000 square meters of usable space. The site includes a full-size, artificial grass soccer field, a 400-meter all-weather track, two playground areas, and a multi-sport enclosed court.

### **Academic Program**

The academic program uses a Performance-Based/Mastery Learning approach to education. The model ensures mastery of specific skills and knowledge involving both individual and group instruction. The educational philosophy is founded upon the premises that:

- 1) All students can succeed.
- 2) Success breeds success.
- 3) It is the responsibility of the school to provide the conditions for success.

### **Curriculum**

The curriculum includes English (reading, grammar, composition, and spelling), mathematics, cultural studies (history and geography), science, art, music, and physical education. Intensive English classes are offered to students that need additional help with English. Computer use is integrated across the curriculum. Three native language programs are offered: Kazakh, Dutch, and Russian. Russian and Kazakh are offered to non-native speakers. The school seeks to provide students with an appreciation for the rich culture and history of Kazakhstan. Materials and equipment are up to date and of high quality. The faculty members are highly qualified educators coming mostly from America or Canada.

### **Quality Schools International (QSI)**

QSI is a nonprofit organization operating schools in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. QSI International School of Atyrau benefits from the unique opportunities afforded by this organized network of schools with nearly three decades of proven performance.



## QSI Mission Statement



Virtually every five-year-old comes to school eager to learn. The mission of Quality Schools International (QSI) is to keep this urge to learn alive in every child in all QSI schools.

Our schools are established to provide a quality education, in the English language, for students in the cities we serve. These students are the children of parents of many nationalities who have come to a foreign country, usually for a limited stay of a year or more. Some students are permanent residents, citizens of the host country.

Our schools follow a logical model of education which measures success by the accomplishments and attitudes of our students. We believe that all of our students can succeed, that their successes encourage them to continue in a pattern of success, and that it is the schools' responsibility to provide the conditions for success. These conditions include:

- a) Developing clear statements in measurable terms of what the student will do to demonstrate mastery of learning;
- b) Providing the time and resources needed for each student to attain mastery;
- c) Ensuring that students engage in learning at a level which is challenging and yet a level for which each student has the prerequisite skills necessary for success.

We believe in providing an aesthetically pleasing physical surrounding under the charge of a caring staff who believe their students will be successful, and who use time with the students as a resource for learning rather than as a boundary condition to determine when a unit of learning begins and ends. We believe in providing resources such as books, learning materials, and educational technology. In the world today, children need to become proficient in the use of computers and related technology as tools to accomplish a myriad of tasks.

Finally, we believe in working with parents to encourage our students to adopt qualities of living which lead to success long after formal schooling has ended. These include universally accepted "success orientations" of trustworthiness, kindness/politeness, responsibility, independent endeavor, concern for others, group interaction, and aesthetic appreciation.

## School Information

Quality Schools International is an independent, nonprofit organization operating international schools around the world. QSI is committed to providing a quality education.

### School Vision

The Vision of QSI International School of Atyrau is to prepare globally responsible citizens by providing a compassionate and engaging learning community that celebrates differences.

### Curriculum

QSI offers a performance-based curriculum for students, preschool through graduation. The school meets the needs of all its students through a mastery-based system of instruction. We believe that students can master essential skills and information if given sufficient time and support. A full secondary program is offered to students 14 years and older. Secondary students can receive additional support through an accredited online instructional program and QSI Virtual School (QVS).

### Approach to Learning

QSI believes the school has the responsibility to provide the conditions for success, including:

- Clear statements of what the student will do to show mastery of material.
- Time and resources needed for each student to attain mastery.
- Assurance that students learn at a challenging level and each has the skills necessary for success.

### Admission

Admission requires submission of an application form, a copy of passport or birth certificate, previous school records (if applicable), medical history, and payment of the one-time, non-refundable US \$300 registration fee. Registration materials are available in the school office.

### Student Placement

Following official admission procedures, a placement examination is given to each student to determine the appropriate level of instruction. The test involves reading, writing, and mathematics.

### Progress Reports

Student “Status Reports” are sent home five times a year (once each Quintile). Student progress or mastery of the curriculum is reported as either “A” or “B”. Individual narrative reports are sent home two times. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year. However, a parent may request a status report or conference at any time.

### Transportation

Parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.



**Governance**

Quality Schools International manages the school. A Director administers the school on site, and a Director of Instruction monitors the educational program of QSI International School of Atyrau. An Advisory Board supports the school in the community.

**Parent Support Group (PSG)**

Parents are encouraged to actively participate in all school functions with a view toward supporting the school.

**Staffing**

Experienced, native-English speaking teachers are employed for preschool-Secondary IV. Teachers of other nationalities may provide instruction in special areas.



# **QSI International School of Atyrau**

## **2021-2022 School Calendar**

### **First Term**

First Day: 26 August (Thursday) - Early Dismissal

Last Day: 15 December (Wednesday)

Holidays: 30 August (Monday) Constitution Day  
18 – 23 October (Monday - Friday) - Fall Break  
1 December (Wednesday) – Day of the 1st President of Kazakhstan  
16 December – 7 January (Thursday – Friday) – Winter Break

Professional Development: 19 – 20 November (Friday-Saturday)

Quintile 1: 26 August – 15 October

Quintile 2: 25 October – 15 December

Number of School Days: 72

### **Second Term**

First Day: 10 January (Monday)

Last Day: 1 April (Friday)

Holidays: 7 – 8 March (Monday - Tuesday) International Woman's Day  
21 – 25 March (Monday – Friday) Nauryz/Spring Break

Quintile 3: 10 January – 28 February

Quintile 4: 1 March – 28 April

Number of School Days: 53

### **Third Term**

First Day: 4 April (Monday)

Last Day: 22 June (Wednesday) - Early Dismissal

Holidays: 2 May (Monday) - Kazakhstan People Solidarity Day  
9 – 10 May (Monday – Tuesday) - Defender of the Fatherland Day / Victory Day

Professional Development: 16 April (Saturday)

Quintile 5: 29 April – 22 June

Number of School Days: 55

Total Number of School Days: 180  
The school week is Monday through Friday.

## **School Fees 2021-2022**

**Please contact the school for details about tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year.**



## School Fee Policy

### Partial Term

In the event a student enters after the beginning of a term or leaves before the end of a term, the partial term fee is as follows:

Two weeks enrollment or less	= 20% of the term fee
More than two weeks, up to four weeks	= 40% of the term fee
More than four weeks, up to six weeks	= 60% of the term fee
More than six weeks	= 100% of the term fee

### A week is defined as five school days.

Every student must pay the higher 1<sup>st</sup> term fee for the first **complete** term in school. Thus, if the student is in school for less than six weeks of the first term, the fee for the first term will be the appropriate percentage (see table above) of the lower second term fee. **Then, the second term fee will be the higher first term fee.** This pattern also applies to the capital fund fee.

If a student is in school less than six weeks during the year, the fee will be the appropriate percentage of the higher 1<sup>st</sup> term fee.

The registration fee is a one-time, non-refundable fee and is not charged again in subsequent years or upon the re-entry of a student.

**EXAMPLE:** A ten-year-old student enrolls in November. There are 23 school days remaining in the first term, which constitutes more than four weeks but less than six weeks. The first **complete** term will be the second school term. The fees are charged as follows:

- 1st Term: 60% of 2<sup>nd</sup> lower term fee and capital fund fee
- 2nd Term: higher 1<sup>st</sup> term fee and capital fund fee
- 3rd Term: 3<sup>rd</sup> term fee and capital fund fee

**EXAMPLE:** A nine-year-old student enrolls in January. There are more than 30 school days (6 weeks) remaining in the second term. The school fee will be the higher 1<sup>st</sup> term fee and capital fund fee and the 3<sup>rd</sup> term fee and capital fund fee.

### School Absences

There is no reduction of school fees for absenteeism for any reason, including home leave holidays, unless a student officially withdraws. If a student withdraws, the student may re-enroll at any time and be invoiced like a new student. The registration fee is not required upon re-entry. Please note: if there is a short time difference between withdrawal and re-enrollment, enrollment should be reinstated as if the student had never withdrawn.

### Capital Fund Fee

The purpose of the Capital Fund Fee is to provide financial support for the school's facilities and development program, present or future. This may include the purchase of fixed assets such as computers, furniture, vehicles, and other items.

## **Discount Policy**

Discounts of \$100 each will be given for full term payments received on or before the due dates. An additional discount of \$200 will be given if the full annual payment is completed on or before the first of October. Thus, a total discount of **\$500** is possible for students enrolled in the 5-year-old class and above. However, if the first term payment is not received before the first term due date, but the entire year payment is made by 1 October, the maximum discount is \$400. There is no discount available for preschool programs or scholarship students. Organizations and parents must complete a discount form to receive the discount. Discounts will be reversed for students who withdraw before the end of the year and are given a tuition refund.

Organizations or parents are encouraged to donate the timely payment discounts. The school's Advisory Board, with recommendations from the Director, will decide how these funds will be utilized.

Note: If the full payment is made by the required date, and the discount is not taken, the discount will automatically be allocated for activities chosen by the Advisory Board with recommendations from the Director.

## **Payments**

Payment information will be provided by the school.

Payments may be made by check or bank transfer. For US Dollar checks drawn on banks other than banks in the USA, there is a US \$100 charge to compensate for collection delays and bank charges.

Payment, or arrangement for payment, must be made on or before the due dates. Students will not be allowed in class if the financial matters have not been completed.

In cases in which fees, or any other funds owed to the school, are delinquent, and the parent has not made arrangements for payment, student evaluations will be withheld until the fees are paid. Also, no official school communications or records will be issued to the student or parent, nor sent to other schools, when fee payments are not current.

## **Force Majeure**

In the event of *force majeure* that causes a student or students to be withdrawn from the school, the fees already paid in full for the school year will not be refunded, or if unpaid, will be due. This policy is necessary to protect the school's financial interests with a view to continuing operations after the force majeure event has passed. Any appeals resulting from the application of the policy will be resolved by the Advisory Board of the school.

## **Distance Learning**

If the school moves to distance learning and the student continues to be enrolled, the school fees will be paid according to the fee policy, the same as if the student is in the school physically for classroom instruction.



## School Schedule



### School Hours

- Preschool (3-4-Year-Old) Classes
  - Full-Day: 8:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
  - Part-Day: 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Elementary (5-11-Year-Old) Classes 8:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
  - After-School Activities Period (Optional)  
Tuesday and Thursdays: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 12-Year-Old through Secondary IV 8:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
  - After-School Activities Period (Optional)  
Tuesday and Thursdays: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Snack

Students may choose to purchase a snack from our school's cafeteria or bring a healthy snack to eat during break time. School snack options can be paid for on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

All Students should bring a reusable water bottle to school to obtain water from drinking water dispensers located throughout the school.

### Lunch

The school has a fully functioning cafeteria and kitchen. Students may choose to purchase lunches, or may bring lunches to school. Hot lunch options can be paid for on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.





### **Books and Supplies**

Textbooks are loaned to the students. Students are responsible for the care of the books and are not to write in them. Students are expected to bring their own pencils and erasers.

### **School Week**

The school week is Monday through Friday.



## **Special Services, Programs, and Facilities**

### **School Website**

[www.qsi.org](http://www.qsi.org) or [atyrau.qsi.org](http://atyrau.qsi.org)

### **Library**

There is a strategic plan and budget to support the growth of the library. The library has 20,000 books and audiovisual resources. Every elementary student has library time in which they go to the library, learn how to research, and have the opportunity to check out books to take home through the automated check-out system.

### **Science**

Each elementary classroom has the necessary equipment to conduct experiments in science. There is also a fully equipped science laboratory for the secondary classes.

### **Computer Laboratory**

QSI International School of Atyrau has two full desktop computer laboratories for all internet technology (IT) classes, and for use with class assignments. Additionally, there is a collection of notebook computers available for use in class. Middle school and secondary students are encouraged to bring their own laptops to use during class time. The school supplies access to the internet and printers and provides software programs to support educational outcomes.

### **Language Programs**

QSI International School of Atyrau currently has Russian language programs for non-native speakers; Kazakh, Dutch, and Russian language programs for native speakers.

### **Playground**

The elementary school playground provides for informal and organized play.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

An extensive extracurricular activities program is offered to meet the needs of the children five years of age and older. Activities offered are dependent on student interest and faculty capacity. Current extracurricular programs include dance, arts and crafts, Model United Nations (MUN), soccer, volleyball, cross-country, track, basketball, yearbook, and Student Council.

### **Cafeteria**

The school building has a fully functioning cafeteria with a full complete lunch program available for those that wish to purchase these lunches.

### **Gymnasium**

The school building has a full-sized gymnasium and extensive athletic fields, including a soccer field, 400-meter track, and outdoor basketball courts.

## Educational Program

### Entry Ages and Placement

To enter the 5-year-old class, a child will have completed 5 years of age no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. This pattern is applied to the other classes in the school. If an exception is requested, documentation that supports the student's academic need is required, and the Director will make the final decision after consultation with parents and teachers. If an exception to the policy is made, it will be documented and signed by the parents and school administrator, and placed in the student's permanent file.

Secondary-age students are placed into Secondary I by age (14 years old by the end of October), even though secondary students may be engaged in some elementary units. Progress through the secondary levels is determined at the beginning of each school year by the number of credits attained.

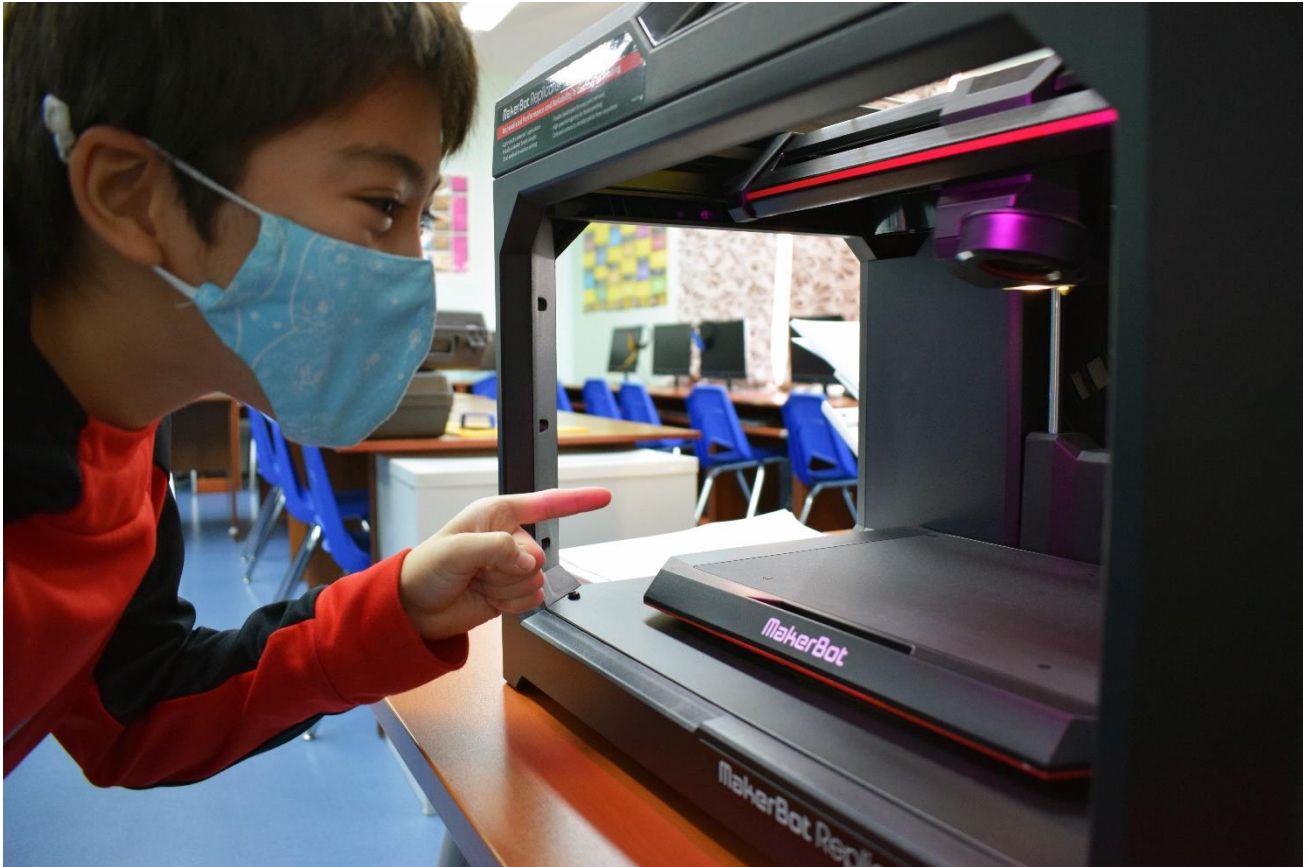
### Preschool (3-4-Year-Old) Program

This preschool program provides participation in a variety of play-related and hands-on experiences designed to develop learning readiness, physical coordination and development, and the social skills necessary to be successful in a classroom setting. Emphasis is placed on the development of self-confidence, self-esteem, and natural excitement to learn. A full spectrum of activities is provided including music, computers, art, library, and play.



### **5-Year-Old Class**

This academically-oriented program develops skills and attitude children need for future academic disciplines. A variety of experiences develop eye-hand-body coordination and reading readiness. The program introduces reading, mathematics, oral and written language, science, and cultural studies. There is a continued emphasis on personal development through varied classes of music, computers, art, library, and physical education.



### **Elementary (6-11-Year-Old) Classes**

Elementary school students take a full program of mathematics, reading and writing, science, cultural studies, art, music, physical education, and library. Computer usage is integrated within the curriculum at all levels. An additional language is offered.

### **12-13-Year-Old Classes**

This program meets the special needs of students in the 12-13-year-old age group. Students take a rigorous academic program of mathematics, literature and writing, science, cultural studies, art, music, physical education, and library/research skills. Qualified students may enroll in some secondary classes for credit towards high school graduation based on approval by the school's administration.

### **Secondary I-IV Classes**

A full secondary program is offered, and additional classes are available online through QSI Virtual Schools (QVS). The secondary program prepares students for colleges and universities in the United States and other countries. The rigorous academic program consists of Mathematics, Laboratory Science (Biology, Physics, and Chemistry), World Cultural Studies and History, World Literature, Writing, Art, Music, Physical Education, and Computer Literacy. Elective courses are available, and Advanced Placement Courses are offered. Three Diplomas are offered: Academic with Honors, Academic, and General.

## **Educational Model Summary**

### **Success-Oriented Learning**

The school's educational structure is based upon student performance and mastery learning. The Performance-Based/Mastery Learning approach recognizes human characteristics and enables the student to be placed in learning environments according to achievement levels. This approach facilitates matching the students' skills and needs with the academic program. The implications are profound for student attitudes and learning. The school is dedicated to this concept.

### **Performance-Based**

The curricular model used is a "Performance-Based" approach to education. The content of each academic discipline is divided into specific student expectancies or "Essential Units". An "Essential Unit" contains specific concepts or skills. Teachers give instruction and guidance for the essential unit using appropriate materials and activities, and when the essential unit is completed, assess for student mastery. Records are maintained documenting individual student progress and credentialing. Objectives, instruction, teaching materials, and evaluations are aligned. Curriculum is reviewed periodically for relevance and validity. All curricula are available for parents to review.

### **Mastery Learning**

In this research-validated model each Essential Unit is taught with a view to excellence. When students demonstrate mastery of the essential unit, they move on to the next essential unit. If the student does not achieve mastery, the teacher re-teaches, and the student revises as necessary. Additional conferencing and extended practice may be given for the student to demonstrate proficiency at the appropriate level before testing again. When the students demonstrate mastery, they are rewarded with an "A" or "B". Thus, a student never "fails" in the traditional sense. Instead, he/she proceeds logically through the curriculum at a pace determined by his/her mastery of the material.

### **Success Orientations**

"Success for All" is the motto of QSI Schools. Personal habits and the ability to interact successfully with others are deemed as valuable as the knowledge and competencies students learn. Success orientations are actively encouraged in virtually all areas of the school curriculum with the view of making them a vital part of one's life pattern. Evaluations of the success orientations are limited to situations within the jurisdiction of the school and are made by a consensus of the professional staff members. They are grouped under the headings of:

- ◆ Responsibility ◆ Trustworthiness ◆ Group Interaction
- ◆ Aesthetic Appreciation ◆ Kindness and Politeness
- ◆ Independent Endeavor ◆ Concern for Others



# Student Evaluation

Evaluations and rewards for student progress should take place as soon as possible after mastery is demonstrated for each unit outcome.

**The three basic premises of performance-based education are:**

- a) All Students can succeed;
- b) Success breeds success;
- c) It is the school's responsibility to provide the conditions for the student's success.

With this in mind, Quality Schools International does not accept mediocre (grade of "C") or poor (grade of "D" or "F") work. The grades of "A" and "B" are mastery grades, and indicate that a student has successfully mastered the learning objective and is ready to build on that learning.

In view of the above comments, the evaluations issued in the written status reports are defined as follows:

- **A** = All essential parts of the outcome were mastered at an appropriately high level. The student consistently demonstrated noteworthy achievement of a high quality, particularly in the higher order thinking or performance skills.
- **B** = All essential parts of the outcome were mastered at an appropriately high level in which the student successfully engaged in higher order thinking or performance skills.
- **P** = The student is "In progress" in the outcome (normal status).
- **H** = This outcome is "on hold" for a legitimate reason. (The student has begun the outcome but is not currently pursuing it.)
- **D** = The student has not made a reasonable effort and is therefore "deficient" in attaining mastery of the outcome.
- **E** = "Exposure". The student made a reasonable effort in the outcome and attained a level of mastery consistent with his/her capabilities. (Elementary classes only, but not in mathematics, reading, or writing.)
- **W** = The student has withdrawn from this outcome.

In Secondary school, students are granted one credit for mastery of each unit outcome which is credentialed "A" or "B". Thus, ten credits correspond to one "Carnegie Unit" as used by many American secondary schools. Because Quality Schools International encourages continued learning, if students receive an evaluation of "B" on a unit outcome, they may continue to work independently in that outcome and request another opportunity to demonstrate a higher level of mastery. If demonstrated, the evaluation may be changed from a "B" to an "A" within the same school year.

Evaluations, called status reports, are issued to all students five times each year (at the end of each "quintile"). However, parents may request a status report for their child at any time.

## QSI Philosophy and Objectives



The philosophy of QSI includes the following:

### **Attitudes Toward Learning**

We believe that more learning will occur if the student has a desire to learn, has positive feelings concerning his school environment, and succeeds in his work. A comfortable atmosphere of caring and acceptance established by the school is considered important, so that each student is encouraged to strive for excellence and to be creative. This is enhanced by an aesthetically pleasing environment with a view to appreciation of beauty and order. Each student's possibility of success increases when the student works at the appropriate level of difficulty and senses positive expectations from his teachers.

### **Functions of the Administration:**

- a) To recruit teachers who have a love for children, who have positive expectations of children, and who are willing to give the time and energy necessary to meet the needs of individual students.
- b) To employ teachers who have acceptable values and who believe that their life style should be a positive influence on their students.
- c) To employ teachers directly from outside of the country, if necessary, to provide experienced and successful teachers for specific positions.
- d) To employ enough teachers to maintain reasonably small class sizes.

- e) To help teachers meet the individual needs of students by employing selected paraprofessionals.
- f) To provide spacious buildings and classrooms which are functional yet include local architectural designs with a view to blending into the local environment.
- g) To test each student in reading and mathematics upon initial enrollment to ensure a proper entry level in these classes.
- h) To encourage parental support of the school with a view to enhancing the learning and the development of positive attitudes of the students.

### **Functions of teaching staff:**

- a) To continually assess the student in all areas of learning to ensure appropriate learning tasks leading to challenging work, but work in which he is capable of experiencing success.
- b) To ensure that the student knows what learning tasks are expected.
- c) To provide appropriate learning experiences and allow each student sufficient time on a task to be able to experience success.
- d) To provide additional learning experiences, if mastery is the goal and if the task is not mastered after the initial teaching/learning experience.
- e) To reward students equally for mastering learning tasks regardless of the path taken to mastery. Not to give a higher reward to one who required a greater input of energy nor to one who easily and quickly attained mastery.
- f) To evaluate students in a way in which a student competes against himself rather than against a fellow student.
- g) To inspire students to help them see what they can be and what they can accomplish with a view to excellence and creativity.
- h) To provide a positive school atmosphere by working with a cooperative spirit, giving support to one another, and encouraging a high morale and efficiency within the staff.

### **Areas of Learning:**

- a) To provide learning situations leading to mastery of appropriate topics in English and mathematics for all students.
- b) To provide quality instruction in science and cultural studies for all students.
- c) To offer quality programs of instruction in physical education, music, and art to all students.
- d) To provide classes in Intensive English as appropriate.
- e) To offer local and foreign languages as appropriate.
- f) To offer selected courses in national studies including non-English languages as appropriate, with a view to the needs of particular nationalities and to academic adjustment upon repatriation.
- g) To offer courses in technology to all students.
- h) To offer varied activities and elective classes which are not part of the regular academic program.
- i) To involve students in field trips and activities related to their classes, but away from school.
- j) To provide the appropriate materials, resources, and equipment for all areas.

### **Social Behavior:**

- a) To encourage an understanding of one's self with a view to developing acceptable values such as patience, kindness, unselfishness, honesty, and consideration for others.
- b) To provide a positive and secure atmosphere, treating the students honestly and fairly.
- c) To encourage each student to feel good about himself and to help him promote similar feelings in fellow students.
- d) To provide guidance in problem solving and decision making situations.
- e) To develop a sense of responsibility and to encourage leadership.



### **Cultural Awareness**

- a) To encourage each student to recognize in a positive way his own nationality.
- b) To provide an atmosphere of cultural acceptance and understanding with a view to building healthy international relationships.
- c) To integrate into the curriculum studies of the local region and the country itself.

### **Environmental Awareness**

- a) To develop an awareness of environmental concerns such as overpopulation, pollution, waste of natural resources, destruction of wildlife and natural areas, and personal health.
- b) To promote a concern for the protection of the environment.
- c) To provide activities and projects for students which involve them in improving the environment.



## QSI Child Safeguarding and Protection Statement

QSI Schools adhere to the CEESA Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement and Commitments as written below.

### QSI Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement

- Safeguarding and Child Protection is a priority for every QSI School.
- QSI commits to supporting school environments that safeguard children through both prevention and intervention.
- QSI works in cooperation with international agencies to ensure standards associated with best practices are regularly reviewed, revised, and applied in all operations, activities, and events.
- QSI leaders honor and uphold child protection guidelines and procedures in partnership with all stakeholders in their respective school communities.

### All QSI schools will:

- Actively uphold the QSI Safeguarding and Child Protection Statement.
- Implement school-based Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies and Procedures that include regular onsite training.
- Employ safe recruitment practices consistent with Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies.
- Educate students and adults on Safeguarding and Child Protection.



## **A Brief History of Quality Schools International**

### **Sanaa International School**

Sanaa International School opened in September 1971 with four students and grew to over 200 within a few years. The school's early history is related to the founder's first assignment in Yemen. In 1966-67, Mr. James E. Gilson was employed as principal of the Yemen-American Cooperative School in Taiz, Yemen. In May of 1967, the American community was evacuated, and the school ceased operations. Mr. Gilson, encouraged by the friendliness and hospitality of the people of Yemen, had a desire to return. In the summer of 1971, as Mr. Gilson was completing a two-year assignment as the Principal of Nairobi International School in Kenya, the civil war in Yemen finished. Missionary friends of Mr. and Mrs. Gilson, Wolfgang and Beryl Stumpf, whom Mr. Gilson met in 1959 during his time with the US Army in Eritrea, encouraged them to return to Yemen to start an international school in Sanaa.

After discussions with key people in Sanaa, it became apparent that there was a need for a school. Therefore, Mr. Gilson accepted a teaching position in Saudi Arabia, hired a teaching couple to go to Yemen, and was able to financially guarantee the first year of Sanaa International School. The school grew to about 25 students in that first year making it possible for Mr. and Mrs. Gilson and their two sons, Marcus and Kevin, to move to Yemen in July 1972.

In 1974, the school's Advisory Board, composed of leading expatriates and Yemenis, joined by a few others in Sanaa, met and formulated the school's Articles of Organization and By-Laws. This established the school as a nonprofit organization and formed a Board of Directors. Accurate accounting records have been kept throughout the school's existence. As a nonprofit entity, the school has been able to receive grants, loans, and land.

As early as 1972, it was foreseen that a purpose-built facility should be constructed. After three years of discussions and meetings at many levels, the Yemen Government granted the school its present 35 acres (about 14 hectares) gratis for a period of fifty years. Many individuals of the Yemen Government, the American Government, the United Nations, and the German Government gave considerable assistance in time and influence to obtain this land that was occupied on 22 December 1976. Construction began on 1 January 1977. A formal agreement with the Yemen Government was signed on 7 May 1977 that included the land grant, as well as a tax-free status for foreign employees of the school.

The building program and site development included the school buildings, two water wells, one residential home, a workshop, and playground development (including a tennis court and a softball field with an outfield fence). In the fall of 1992 a new domed, carpeted auditorium/sports area was put into use, that was surrounded by large classrooms.

The educational program has progressed from the philosophy brought by the first teachers to a structured, performance-based model first implemented in the fall of 1987 in the secondary section. By the autumn of 1989, the entire school was performance-based. Formal accreditation was granted by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools on 24 April 1987.

Due to the presence of Al-Qaida in parts of Yemen that put our foreign staff in danger of kidnapping, the school was closed after the 2014-15 school year.

It is sad to report that on 29 December 2015 during another civil war, a bomber from the neighboring country dropped a bomb during the evening that destroyed the domed building.

Thankfully, no one was in the building at the time. Requests seeking financial compensation for damages have not been recognized nor answered.

### **Quality Schools International**

Quality Schools International has a recent history. In 1991, the political structure of the world began a rapid transition. Great changes took place in the former USSR and in areas formerly under its sphere of influence. Combining this recent history with experience in the school restructuring process leading to higher success in schools, QSI was launched.

Mr. H. Duane Root, Chairman of the QSI Board of Directors, and Mr. James E. Gilson, President of QSI, co-founded Quality Schools International as a nonprofit, educational organization, with a view to offering opportunities in education for expatriates in new countries.

In May of 1991, Mr. Gilson traveled to Albania to have a look at a country just emerging from over 45 years of dictatorial rule. During his time there, he met some key people in the Tirana community and made a decision to begin Tirana International School. This expansion has resulted today in an organization offering excellence in education with 35 schools in 29 different countries on five continents.

**QSI Headquarters** is in Malta. The current QSI President, Jerry Scott, lives in Malta and manages headquarters. This is also the location for the Personnel, Finance, School Operations, Information & Communications, Curriculum & Resources, and Technology departments of QSI. The current QSI Vice-President, Dr. Karen Hall, also lives in Malta.

**QSI Regional Supervisors** are located in regional locations. These six Regional Supervisors provide guidance and support to designated QSI schools.

**QSI United States Business Office** is located in Wilder, Idaho, USA. This office expedites financial transactions for QSI.

**QSS (Quality Schools Services)** is located in Wilder, Idaho, USA. The following offices are housed there: Shipping Manager and Shipping Assistants. QSS provides services for ordering, collection, and shipping of school materials to most QSI schools.

It is an exciting time to be in the world and to be involved in education! QSI looks forward to providing excellence in education for international children living in many countries and to providing career opportunities for caring and competent educators.





