

## Table of Contents



Welcome Letter	1
Ashgabat International School	2
QSI Mission Statement & AIS Statement of Purpose	4
School Information	5
School Calendar 2023-2024	6
School Fees 2023-2024	7
School Fee Policy	8
School Schedule	10
Special Services, Programs, and Facilities	11
Educational Program	13
Educational Model Summary	15
Student Evaluation	16
QSI Philosophy and Objectives	18
QSI Child Safeguarding and Protection Statement	20
Brief History of Quality Schools International	21



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Berzengi, Ataturk Street  
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## Welcome

As the Director of Ashgabat International School, it is my privilege to welcome you to our school. Quality Schools International (QSI) is a nonprofit organization with 37 schools in 31 countries and on 5 continents. Our school of over 250 students, is located in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. We serve children from many countries through mastery learning with an American curriculum. In addition, we provide a place for families to connect and nurture relationships. QSI schools maintain high academic rigor with equal emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and Success Orientations in an accepting, friendly, and supportive environment. AIS is a warm, welcoming, multi-cultural community. Our students, parents, teachers, and support staff have one goal in mind: Success for All!

Ashgabat International School is accredited through Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges and registered through College Board. Accreditation and College Board registration are both important for our international community. These certifications let parents, students, and other educational institutions know we prepare students for the future. All stakeholders are involved in this process so, please let me know if you are interested in assisting with this process. With our College Board registration, we are a testing site for SAT, PSAT, TOEFL and AP exams.

AIS offers classes for students starting at age 2 through Secondary graduation, with academic quality being our goal. We pride ourselves on the amount of individual attention we can give to students due to small classroom size or small teacher to staff ratio. In addition to core subjects, we offer special subjects of art, music, physical education, technology, and other languages. Our secondary students take college preparatory courses and have the opportunity to take AP courses as well. Secondary I-IV students also have access to QSI's virtual high school, which offers a variety of courses.

In addition to our academic program, we offer an assortment of after-school activities. I'd like to encourage our parents to become actively involved in school life through many venues such as field trips, special events, or even leading your own after-school activity. We also have an active Parent Support Group that is open to all parents to join. It gives me great pleasure to facilitate these school-community interactions with a focus on the best interests of each student in the school.

Enjoy looking through our website to discover more about our school. If you have specific questions, please send an email to [ashgabat@qsi.org](mailto:ashgabat@qsi.org).

Please feel free to come by and visit the school. Our door is always open.

Sincerely,

***Dr. Jodi Burnside***

***School Director***



# Ashgabat International School

Ashgabat International School, a nonprofit institution that opened in September 1994, offers high-quality education in the English language for preschool, elementary, and secondary students. The school is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, which has its headquarters in the United States.

## Facility

The new school building and campus opened in August 2018 and is located on a five-hectare campus directly next to the United States embassy complex in the Berzengi district of Ashgabat. It is neighboring to the National Museum and overlooks the city of Ashgabat. Students at Ashgabat International School study in an air-conditioned, heated school building that includes forty-nine classrooms, a library, two computer laboratories, two art rooms, two music rooms, and two science laboratories. Additionally, there is a full gymnasium for all sports as well as a fitness center, large cafeteria with terrace, stage for performances, playgrounds for younger and older students, track and field, and two tennis courts. The building is earthquake safe.

## Academic Program

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

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



## **Curriculum**

The curriculum includes English (reading, grammar, composition, and spelling), Mathematics (basic skills through advanced preparation), Cultural Studies (history, geography, economics, and political science), Science (physical, life, and earth), Art, Music, and Physical Education. Intensive English classes are offered to students who need additional help with English. Technology use is integrated across the curriculum using state-of-the-art computer and mobile-device laboratories.

Russian, French, and German are offered as foreign languages during the school day. The school seeks to provide students with an appreciation for the rich culture and history of Turkmenistan through field trips and explorations within the country.

Materials and equipment are up-to-date and of high quality. Class sizes are small, allowing for differentiated and individualized instruction as necessary. A full four-year Secondary program is offered. The secondary program includes a range of electives and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. All distance-learning programs offered on campus through QSI Virtual School are closely monitored by North American or European certified staff.

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

QSI is a nonprofit organization operating schools in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. Ashgabat International School benefits from the unique opportunities afforded by this organized network of schools with 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:

- Developing clear statements in measurable terms of what the student will do to demonstrate mastery of learning.
- Providing the time and resources needed for each student to attain mastery.
- 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.

### **Ashgabat International School Statement of Purpose**

Ashgabat International School is dedicated to serving the local and expat children of Turkmenistan. We strive to meet the individual needs of all our students by creating a friendly, nurturing, and caring community-centered, international learning environment. Our goal is to inspire and empower all learners as they grow and develop academically, socially, and emotionally. We are confident this vision enables Ashgabat International School to create a positive and dynamic atmosphere in which all students can succeed at a high level.

## **School Information**

### **Admission**

Admission requires the submission of an application form, a copy of a passport or birth certificate, previous school records (if applicable), and payment of the one-time, nonrefundable US \$300 registration fee.

### **Student Placement**

Following official admission procedures, a placement examination may be given to determine the appropriate level of instruction. The assessment may involve reading, writing, and mathematics.

### **MSA Systems Accreditation**

"In April 2022, Quality Schools International and all existing QSI schools achieved accreditation as a school system through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)! Working toward the Achieving Excellence System-Wide accreditation encouraged QSI to reflect on where we are now and where we want to be in 5-7 years. QSI and our schools will maintain our accreditation through a continual process of identifying areas for growth and implementing community-supported action plans to achieve the growth targets. You can find our four primary objectives, action plans, self-study and our Official Notice of Accreditation on the QSI website at <https://www.qsi.org/why-qsi/accreditation> .

### **Progress Reports**

Student "Status Reports" are sent home five times each year. Student progress or mastery of the curriculum is reported as either A or B. Individual narrative reports are sent home two times per year, once in the winter and once in the spring. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled two times each school year, but parents may request conferences at any time.

### **Transportation**

The school offers bus transport. Routing locations and costs may be obtained through the school office.

### **Governance**

Quality Schools International, a private, nonprofit educational organization, manages the school. A Director administers Ashgabat International School on site. An appointed Advisory Board supports the school in the community. A Director of Instruction oversees the educational program.

### **Parent Support Group**

The Parent Support Group (PSG) is a volunteer group involved in activities and projects to improve the school. All parents are encouraged to become actively involved with the school through this organization.

### **Staffing**

QSI hires qualified and experienced educators who enjoy working with children and teenagers. Each educator hired has the expertise to administer the QSI curriculum and strives to help students reach their academic goals.

### **Membership**

QSI is a member of the Central and Eastern European Schools Association (CEESA) and a member of the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE). Ashgabat International School benefits from these affiliations through professional development, student competitions, and other opportunities. Additionally, the school receives support from the United States government and a grant through the US Office of Overseas Schools (AOS).



# Ashgabat International School

## School Calendar 2023-2024

### Term 1

First Day: 24 August 2023  
(THURSDAY)  
Last Day: 15 December 2023  
(FRIDAY)  
Number of School Days: 72

### Term 2

First Day: 08 January 2024  
(MONDAY)  
Last Day: 29 March 2024  
(FRIDAY)  
Number of School Days: 54

### Term 3

First Day: 01 April 2024  
(MONDAY)  
Last Day: 14 June 2024  
(FRIDAY)  
Number of School Days: 54

### General Information

The school week is MONDAY - FRIDAY  
Total Number of School Days: 180

### Quintile 1

First Day: 24 August  
Last Day: 16 October  
Holidays: TKM Independence Day 27 Sep  
TKM Memorial Day 06 Oct

### Quintile 2

First Day: 17 October  
Last Day: 15 December  
Holidays: Fall Break 23 Oct 27 Oct  
Regional Professional Development 16 Nov 18 Nov  
TKM Neutrality Day 12 Dec  
Winter Break 18 Dec 05 Jan

### Quintile 3

First Day: 08 January  
Last Day: 26 February  
Holidays:

### Quintile 4

First Day: 27 February  
Last Day: 24 April  
Holidays: International Women's Day 08 Mar  
Spring Break 18 Mar 22 Mar

### Quintile 5

First Day: 25 April  
Last Day: 14 June  
Holidays: TKM Flag Day 17 May

# School Fee Policy 2023-2024 (TKM)

## ■ *Registration Fee* ■

This is a one-time, non-refundable fee of **US \$300** for all students.

## ■ *Capital Fund Fee* ■

### ⌘ 5-Year-Old Class & Older

### DATE DUE

◆ Annual Fee	\$1,600	
◆ Payment Schedule:		
1 <sup>st</sup> Term	\$600	25 AUG 23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	\$500	15 DEC 23
3 <sup>rd</sup> Term	\$500	29 MAR 24

**\*\*\*No Capital Fund Fees required for National Turkmenistan Families**

## ■ *School Tuition Fees* ■

### ⌘ 5-Year-Old Class & Older

◆ Annual Fee	\$23,000	See Discount Policy
◆ Payment Schedule:		
1 <sup>st</sup> Term	\$9,200	25 AUG 23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	\$6,900	15 DEC 23
3 <sup>rd</sup> Term	\$6,900	29 MAR 24

### ⌘ 2-3-4-Year-Old Class

No Capital Fund Fee is required for these classes. Also, there is no discount available.

	<u>PART DAY</u>	<u>FULL DAY</u>	
◆ Annual Fee	\$7,200	\$9,700	See Discount Policy
◆ Payment Schedule:			
1 <sup>st</sup> Term	\$2,800	\$3,700	25 AUG 23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	\$2,200	\$3,000	15 DEC 23
3 <sup>rd</sup> Term	\$2,200	\$3,000	29 MAR 24

# 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. They will again pay the higher term fees for their first full term after returning. 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.

## **Capital Fund Deposit**

Students that have \$4000 Capital Fund Deposits with the school made before 1 July 2004 are exempt from the Capital Fund Fee. No new Capital Fund Deposits are accepted.

## **Discount Policy**

Discounts of \$200 each will be given for full-term payments received on or before the due dates. An additional discount of \$400 will be given if the full annual payment is received on or before the first of October. Thus, a total discount of \$1000 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 \$800. Discounts should be claimed within 30 days from the payment date. There is no discount available for preschool classes or scholarship students. Discounts will be reversed for students who withdraw before the end of the year and are given a tuition refund. If a parent is paying for more than one student on the same invoice, when calculating the discount, payment should be applied to each term in full in the order of the terms. The discount is only given when payment is made for all students on the invoice.

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.

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

- 2-3-4-year-old class half-day: **8:15 AM – 11:45 PM**
- 2-3-4 year-old class full-day: **8:15 AM - 4:02 PM**
- 5-year-old through 11-year-old classes: **8:15 AM - 4:02 PM**
- 12-year-old through Secondary IV classes: **8:15 AM - 4:02 PM**

## Snack

All students are expected to bring a snack to eat during recess. A snack is provided for students who have purchased the school lunch.

## Lunch

Ashgabat International School has a kitchen and cafeteria. Kitchen employees cook and prepare daily lunches for all students interested in participating in the program. There is a lunch fee associated with this service. Please see the office staff for more details.

## Books and Supplies

Textbooks are loaned to the students. Workbooks that accompany textbooks are supplied to the students when needed. Students are expected to bring their own pencils, erasers, notebook paper, calculators, and other personal supplies.

## Drinking Water

The school is equipped with a sophisticated water purification system for all drinking fountains, sinks in the classrooms, and all kitchen sinks. In addition, bottled water is available to students or can be purchased at our school *Coffee Shop*. Students are expected to bring their own personal, refillable water bottle to school each day.

## School Week

The school week is Monday through Friday.



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

### **School Website**

[ashgabat.qsi.org](http://ashgabat.qsi.org)

### **Newsletter: “Week at a Glance”**

The newsletter is distributed via email every Friday along with Russian translation.

### **School Buses/Vans**

Two school buses transport students to and from school, for an additional fee. To arrange bus service, ask for information at the school office.

### **Library**

The library offers:

- Access to over 16,000 volumes and numerous electronic resource materials.
- Internet access for research.
- A DVD and video server consisting of 3,000+ educational videos as part of the extended library services.

### **Mobile Computer Laboratory**

The school has a mobile computer laboratory consisting of 40 iPad tablets, available to all 5-year-old and older classes, as well as wireless network access throughout the building.

### **Language Programs**

The school offers:

- Russian, French, and German as a second language.
- Advanced or native Russian for native speakers of Russian.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses are offered in each department of the Secondary school. The variety of courses offered is based on student interest and teacher recommendation.

- All AP course instructors are certified to teach courses within their specialty area.
- All AP course syllabi are approved by the College Board which runs the AP program.

### **Playground**

Playgrounds for students include climbing equipment, swings, a slide, and a club house.

### **Physical Education and Playing Fields**

Facilities include a full gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, badminton, floor hockey, and football. There is a fitness center next to the gym. A track and field, soccer pitch, and two tennis courts are outdoors on the school grounds.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Extracurricular offerings vary throughout the year but include various sports, chess, Model United Nations, languages, gymnastics, cooking, fine arts, band, and drama. After-school activities are organized on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and sometimes Fridays.

## Organized Sports

Organized sports are available at the Secondary Level with teams travelling within Turkmenistan. Additionally, sports are played in physical education classes and are often offered as after-school activities.



## 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, teachers, and QSI Regional Director. 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 **31<sup>st</sup> 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 (2-3-4-Year-Old) Program

The program offers children a variety of play-related hands-on experiences designed to develop learning readiness and physical coordination. Reading readiness is an important part of the curriculum. Recognition of shapes, colors, letters and related tasks such as learning to write names are part of this program. Social skills necessary to be successful in a classroom setting are modeled and taught. 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, technology, art, and play.

### 5-Year-Old Class

This academically oriented program develops skills and attitudes children need in the study of the academic disciplines. A variety of experiences develop eye/hand/body coordination, reading readiness, simple number concepts, and oral and written language skills. Subjects include Mathematics, Reading and Language Arts, Science, Culture Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology, and Library Science.



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

Elementary school students participate in a full program of Mathematics, Literacy (Reading and Writing), Science, Cultural Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology, and Library Science. Technology usage is integrated with the curriculum at all levels. Russian, Spanish or French as a foreign language is a part of the regular program for non-native Russian language speakers and Advanced Russian language is offered for native Russian language speakers.

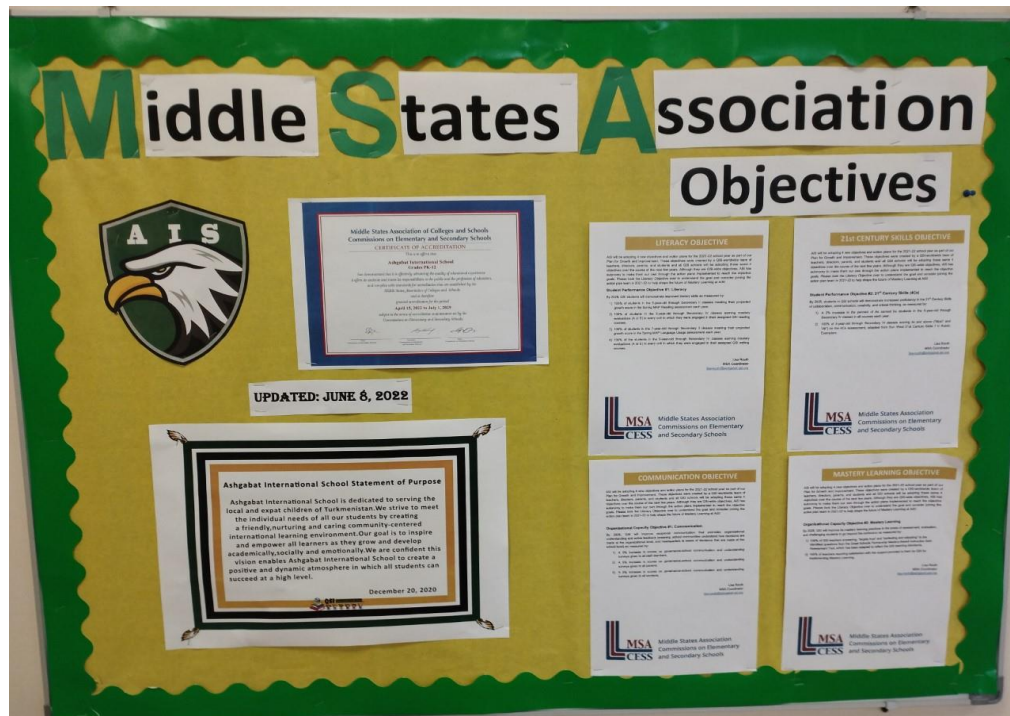
## Middle School (12-13-Year-Old) Classes

This program meets the needs of adolescent students at the 12-13-year-old level. Students follow a rigorous academic program of Mathematics, Literacy (Reading and Writing), Science, Cultural Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology, and Library Science. Foreign language study in Russian, German or French is part of the regular program for students.

## Secondary I-IV Classes

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 (Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics), World Cultural Studies and History, World Literature, English, Physical Education, Russian, French, Spanish, Technology, and electives. A variety of Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered to supplement the academic program. Some Secondary-level academic courses may be offered through distance-learning programs sponsored by QSI Virtual School (QVS) when selected courses needed for graduation are not offered in the school.

Three QSI 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:

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



## 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:**

- All Students can succeed;
- Success breeds success;
- 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 "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:**

- 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.
- To employ teachers who have acceptable values and who believe that their lifestyle should be a positive influence on their students.
- To employ teachers directly from outside of the country, if necessary, to provide experienced and successful teachers for specific positions.
- To employ enough teachers to maintain reasonably small class sizes.
- To help teachers meet the individual needs of students by employing selected paraprofessionals.
- To provide spacious buildings and classrooms which are functional yet include local architectural designs with a view to blending into the local environment.
- To test each student in reading and mathematics upon initial enrollment to ensure a proper entry level in these classes.
- 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:**

- 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.
- To ensure that the student knows what learning tasks are expected.
- To provide appropriate learning experiences and allow each student sufficient time on a task to be able to experience success.
- To provide additional learning experiences, if mastery is the goal and if the task is not mastered after the initial teaching/learning experience.
- 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.
- To evaluate students in a way in which a student competes against himself rather than against a fellow student.
- To inspire students to help them see what they can be and what they can accomplish with a view to excellence and creativity.
- To provide a positive school atmosphere by working with a cooperative spirit, giving support to one another, and encouraging high morale and efficiency among the staff.

**Areas of Learning:**

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

**Social Behavior:**

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

**Cultural Awareness**

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

**Environmental Awareness**

- To develop an awareness of environmental concerns such as overpopulation, pollution, waste of natural resources, destruction of wildlife and natural areas, and personal health.
- To promote a concern for the protection of the environment.
- 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 Statement of Inclusion**

QSI is open to all students. We respect their diversity regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, cultural background, disability, religion, personal beliefs, and socioeconomic status. Teachers will be considerate of diverse cultural and family beliefs when teaching in the classroom. In QSI schools, we provide a safe and supportive environment for all students.

### **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:**

#### **Empower: Skills for Safety, Success, and Global Citizenship:**

A comprehensive QSI child development program that helps to prepare students to live successfully and safely in and out of the school environment. The goal of this curriculum is to systematically teach QSI Success Orientations, along with related social-emotional skills, and child protection strategies at developmentally appropriate age levels. Students need to develop the many good habits and skills that lead to being successful by practicing leadership, confidence, creativity, and the capacity to collaborate with others. This program teaches students these habits and skills in three components: Success Orientations, Social-Emotional Learning, and Child Protection.

- 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, QSI Board of Directors, and Mr. James E. Gilson, President Emeritus 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 37 schools in 31 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 Mechanicsville, Virginia, 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.

