ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR AT A GLANCE

2024 - 2025

ESCOLA AMERICANA DO RIO DE JANEIRO

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PURPOSE, MISSION VISION

OUR MISSION

TO BE GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED AS A LEADING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN ACADEMICS, EXTRACURRICULARS AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

OUR PURPOSE

TO INSPIRE EACH CHILD TO PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS, STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, AND ACHIEVE A FULFILLING LIFE

OUR VISION

TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION WHICH INSPIRES CREATIVITY, CRITICAL THINKING, COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, AND CONFIDENCE TO LEAD AND EXCEL IN AN EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

WATCH EARJ'S **INSTITUTIONAL VIDEO.**

MESSAGE FROM THE EARJ **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On behalf of the EARJ Board of Directors, I am pleased to present our Annual Report, offering an overview of the 2024–2025 school year, a period defined by important milestones and meaningful progress.

The Board of Director's foremost responsibility is to ensure EARJ's long-term sustainability through strategic planning, sound financial stewardship, and the continuity of our academic mission. Our five-year Strategic Plan continues to serve as the compass for advancing academic programs and supporting the development and maintenance of facilities across both campuses.

Significant enhancements have been implemented to strengthen programs within our IB Continuum curriculum, underscoring our commitment to educational excellence. Among the most impactful initiatives were the hiring of new Instructional Coaches to support faculty development, the launch of an Extended Math track for Grades 9 and 10 to challenge students with advanced proficiency, and a comprehensive expansion of our College Counseling Program to better prepare students for their future academic and professional paths.

Further building on our strategic priorities, the Board of Directors moved forward with the next phase of our Facilities Master Plan, that is a cornerstone of EARJ's long-term vision, developed in collaboration with the globally recognized U.S.-based firm Flansburgh Architects. The plan is currently under review by local architects and our project management team to ensure compliance with local requirements, and we look forward to sharing significant progress updates in the near future .

The 2024–2025 school year also marked the beginning of Dr. Steve Desroches' tenure as Head of School. This inaugural year was characterized by collaboration, relationship building, and significant progress. The Board of Directors looks forward to deepening this partnership in the years ahead, with a shared commitment to EARJ's continued growth and excellence.

During this successful and eventful school year, we addressed a range of important priorities with great dedication. I wish to acknowledge each Board member for their steadfast volunteer service and their invaluable contributions to our school's advancement.

Finally, we extend heartfelt appreciation to our Head of School, School Leadership Team, faculty and staff for their unwavering dedication, and we deeply value the trust our families place in EARJ. Together, we remain committed to strengthening the American International school experience for every learner.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA YATES PORTELLA
President - EARJ Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **COMPOSITION**

PATRICIA YATES PORTELLA
President
Class of 2002
Children in Classes of 2029 & 2033
Ex-officio member on all committees (Chair of the Governance and Talent Committees)

RAUL PEREIRA TREJOS
Vice President
Class of 1982
Children in Classes of 2017 & 2020
Governance and Talent Committees

JOSÉ CARLOS E. JUNIOR
Treasurer
Child in Class of 2032
Governance and Finance, Legal & Development (Chair) Committees

LEONIDAS BORIO FILHO
Secretary
Class of 1990
Children in Classes of 2028 & 2031
Finance, Legal & Development and Strategic Planning (Chair) Committees

ALBERTO K. RIBEIRO
Board Member
Class of 1997
Children in Classes of 2032, 2033 & 2034
Governance and Strategic Planning Committees

ALESSANDRO LOMBARDI
Board Member
Children in Classes of 2032 & 2036
Finance, Legal & Development and Strategic Planning Committees

ARNALDO VIEGAS DE LIMA
Board Member
Children in Classes of 2012 & 2014
Finance, Legal & Development, Governance, Facilities & Security (Chair) Committees

CHRISTIAN ITURRI
Board Member
Children in Classes of 2023, 2025 & 2028
Finance, Legal & Development, Facilities & Security and Talent Committees

DARA LEE CHAPMAN
Board Member
Child in Class of 2029
Strategic Planning and Talent Committees

IVAR NORUM
Board Member
Children in Classes of 2026, 2028 & 2031
Finance, Legal & Development, Strategic Planning Committees

MARIA CAROLINA WOLFF
Board Member
Class of 1996
Children in Classes of 2026 & 2028
Facilities & Security and Talent Committees

RYAN ROWLANDS
Board Member

STEVEN BAILLY ROYSTER
Board Member
Child in Class of 2025
Governance and Facilities & Security Committees

MESSAGE FROM THE **HEAD OF SCHOOL**

It is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on my first year as Head of School. The 2024-25 school year was a period of significant growth and collaboration, but above all, it was an opportunity for me to listen and learn. Conversations with our diverse community, including students, parents, alumni, staff, faculty, and Board members, provided invaluable insights into the unique needs and priorities of our school.

The achievements of this past year are a testament to our ability to transform challenges into shared opportunities, ensuring that our successes are truly collective. The Strategic Plan, "Inspiring Your Personal Best," has served as an essential roadmap, guiding our continuous improvement efforts as we build on our commitment to excellence in international education across academics, extracurricular activities, and character development.

We have made considerable progress on several key initiatives designed to enrich the learning experience for all students and empower our faculty. Among the important accomplishments are:

- **Pedagogical Leadership:** A new Pedagogical Leadership Team (PLT) was established to ensure seamless curriculum alignment across both our campuses and to guide academic improvement initiatives.
- **New University Partnerships:** We have strengthened our partnerships with local universities and added five new internship roles for university students studying pedagogy, fostering collaboration and growth.
- **Building Teacher Capacity:** We added two Instructional Coaches and an EdTech Specialist to work directly with our teachers, providing them with the tools and strategies to meet the diverse learning needs of all students. We've partnered with the State University of New York (SUNY) to offer graduate level courses and enhance teaching skills. We're hosting the AMISA Educators Conference in April 2026 to ensure high quality professional development opportunities for our faculty.
- **Improved Campus Environment:** To enhance the daily experience and safety of our Upper School students, two new Campus Monitors were added to help maintain a positive and supportive environment.
- **Enhanced Student Support:** We bolstered our support for student well-being by adding two new Social-Emotional Counselors in the High School.
- **College Counseling Audit:** We conducted an external College Counseling audit leading to restructuring of our program to better support students and families.
- **Campus Improvements:** We remodeled bathrooms and change rooms to ensure child protection and enhanced experiences for our students.

The trust, partnership, and shared commitment to your children's growth and well-being have played an important role in the success of our year. Together, we have navigated challenges and celebrated successes, always with a shared vision of fostering a world-class learning environment. As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 academic year, we do so with a deep sense of purpose and optimism. Our community is stronger than ever, united by the shared dedication of empowering learners and shaping a brighter future. I invite you to explore this Annual Report, which highlights the milestones, achievements, and collective efforts of our community. It is a celebration of what we have accomplished together and a reminder of the endless possibilities that lie ahead. Thank you for being an integral part of the EARJ journey. With gratitude and best wishes.

Sincerely,

DR. STEVE DESROCHES
Head of School

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP **TEAM COMPOSITION**

EARJ is served by a School Leadership Team (SLT) that brings together all areas of the school 's educational and logistical operations. Each member of the SLT is an experienced and highly qualified administrator who is a leader in their field.

DR. STEVE DESROCHES
Head of School

EMILIA FERREIRA
Business Manager

CRISTINA CONFORTO
Director of Advancement & Admissions

CARLOS EDUARDO PINHO
Director of Educational Technology

CLAUDIA VENTURA
Brazilian Program Director

CLAUDIA ARAYA
Athletics & Activities Director

CODY ALTON
Director of Student Support Services

INÊS CORREIA
Director of Human Resources

KIRSTIN WHITE
Barra Campus
Lower School Principal

SCOTT LITTLE
Barra Campus
Upper School Principal

DOREEN GARRIGAN
Gávea Campus
Lower School Principal

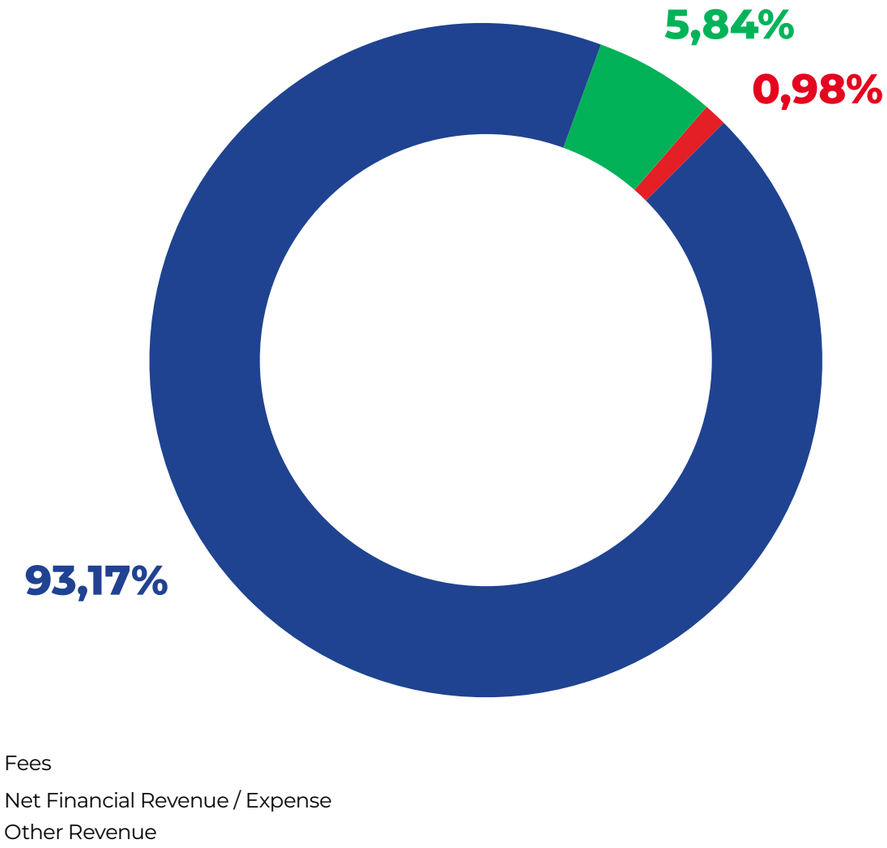
STEVEN SPANNRING
Gávea Campus
Upper School Principal

FINANCE

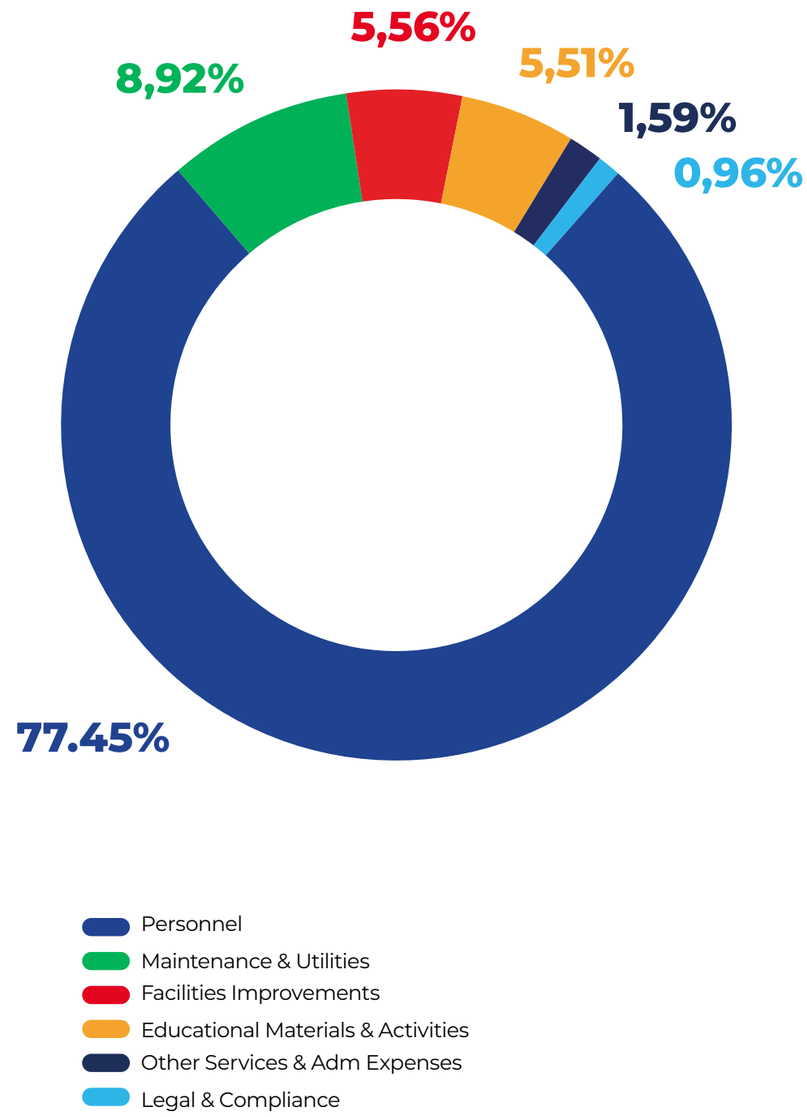
EARJ, a private, non-profit institution, is committed to reinvesting 100% of its revenue towards the education of its students. The financial data presented in this report covers the school's fiscal year from July 2023 to August 2024. As in previous years, we are pleased to report that our external financial audit was completed without reservations, reflecting our commitment to transparency and sound financial governance.

During this period, the school successfully managed a well-balanced budget, ensuring that EARJ has the necessary resources not only to meet its financial obligations but also to enhance our curriculum, attract and retain highly qualified faculty and staff, and support ongoing professional development programs. In addition, we continued to make meaningful progress in developing and improving facilities across both campuses, directly enriching the day-to-day learning environment for our students.

INCOME



EXPENSES



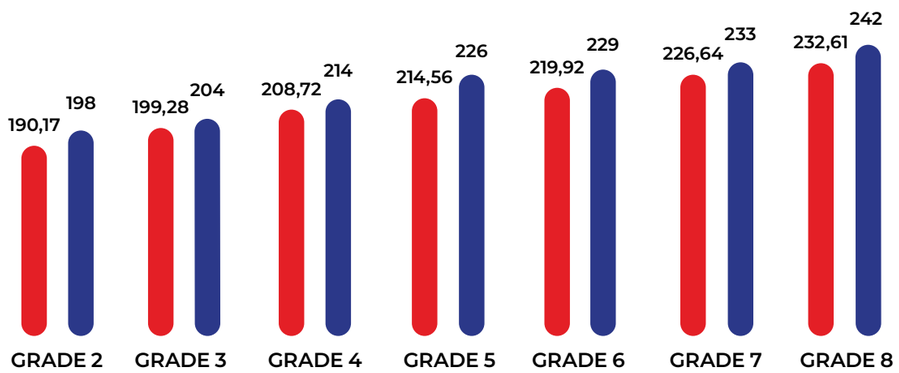
STUDENT LEARNING
MAP GROWTH

Every year, we make use of a range of assessment tools from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to measure student progress in Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science. The MAP Growth assessments provide meaningful data that enables teachers to adapt their instruction to address both individual and group learning needs.

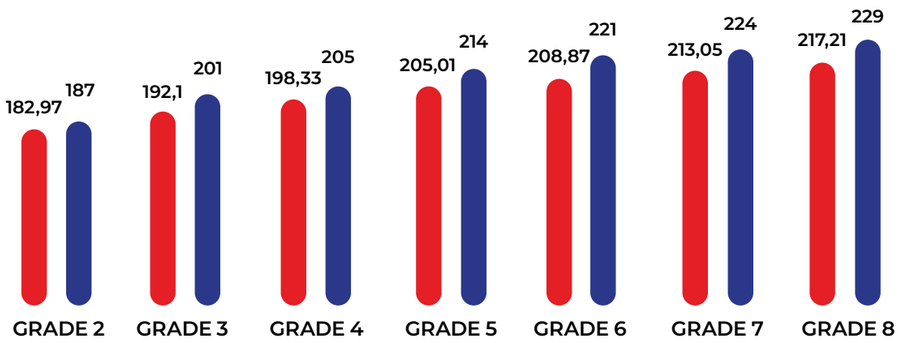
They also allow us to track results over time and compare performance with international benchmarks.

MAP Growth – consolidated results by grade level in Math, Science, Reading, and Language, EARJ in comparison to over 2,300 International Schools in more than 145 countries.

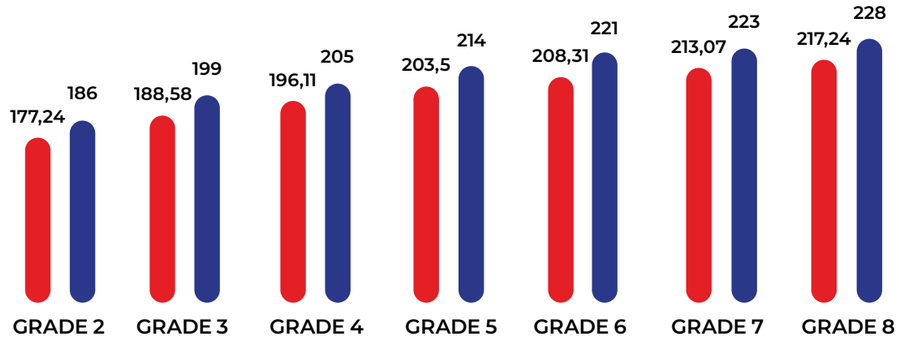
MATHEMATHICS



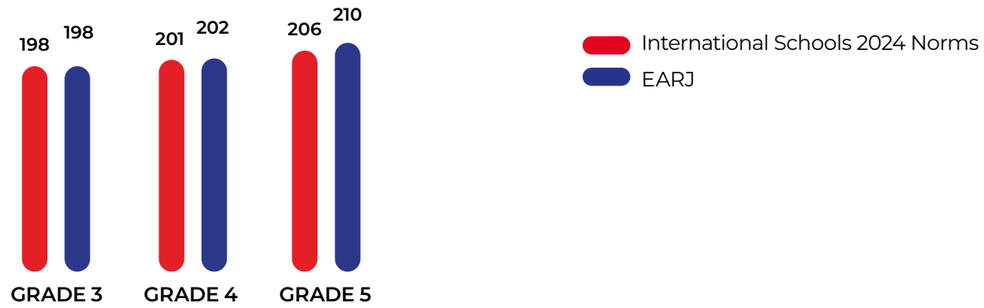
LANGUAGE



READING



SCIENCE



STUDENT LEARNING
IB CONTINUUM

We are proud to highlight what it means for EARJ to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum School, a status that offers our students a seamless and coherent educational experience from their early years through graduation. This integrated approach, which includes the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP), provides a strong, consistent foundation of knowledge and skills at every stage of a student's development.

The positive impact of this continuum on student learning is significant. By building on a shared philosophy and a consistent pedagogical framework, our students become active, inquiry-based learners from a young age. This model fosters essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication. It also nurtures the whole child, focusing on intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

At EARJ, 100% of our students participate in the PYP and MYP. In Grades 11 and 12, 82% of our students engage in the Full Diploma Programme (DP), while another 11% take IB DP certificate courses. This widespread participation underscores our commitment to a challenging and comprehensive international education for all our learners.

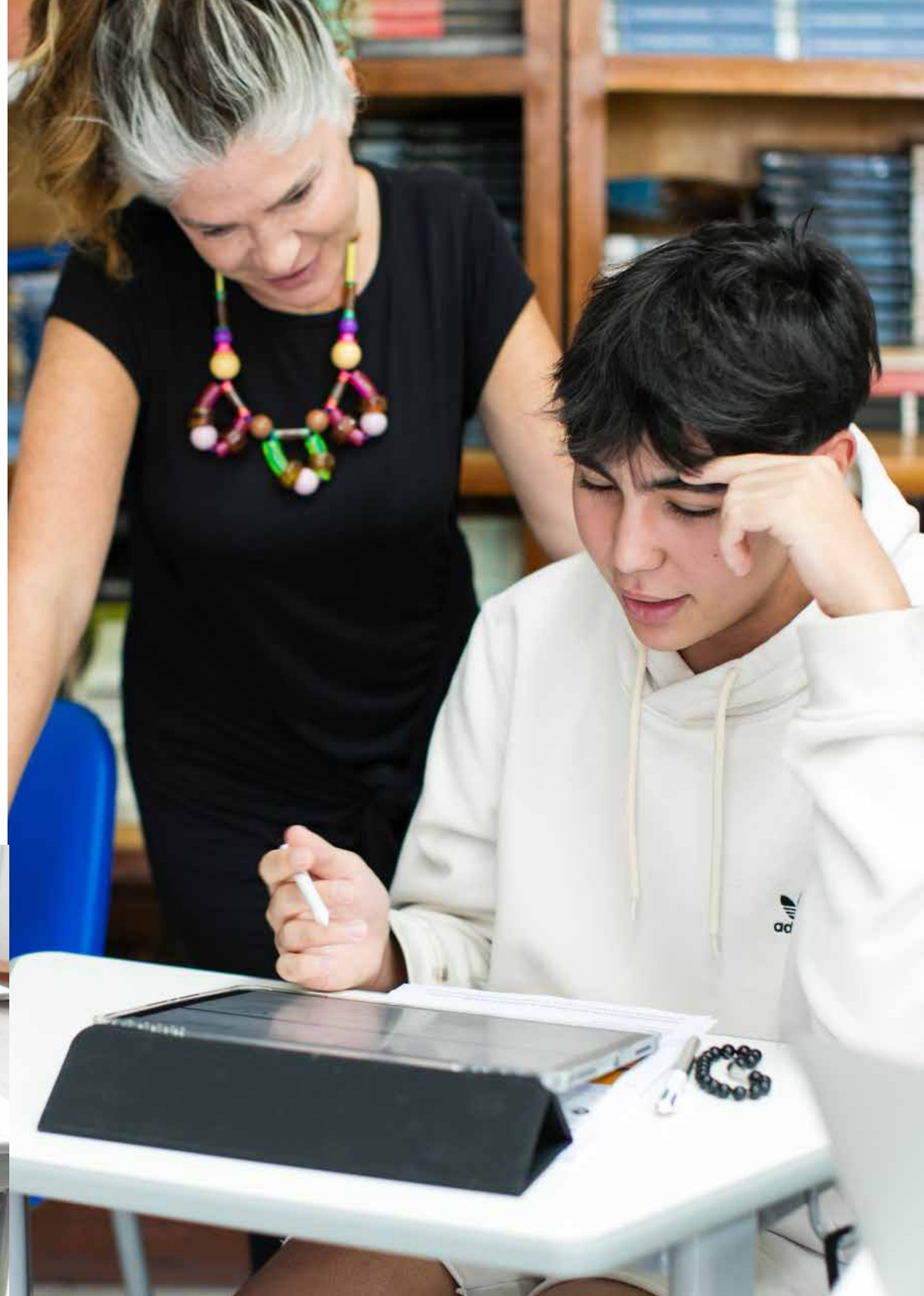
As an IB Continuum School, we are committed to developing students who are not only academically successful but also principled, open-minded, and globally aware. This approach prepares them to excel in higher education and become engaged citizens ready to make a positive impact in an interconnected world.

IB CONTINUUM
CONTINUUM DE L'IB
CONTINUO DEL IB

Primary Years Programme

Middle Years Programme

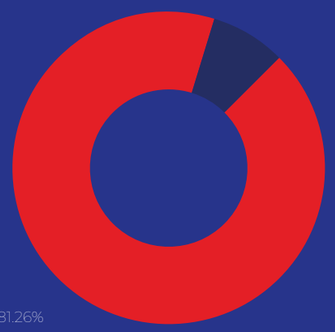
Diploma Programme



STUDENT LEARNING

CLASS OF 2025 IB DIPLOMA RESULTS

36
DIPLOMAS AWARDED



92%
IBDP PASS RATE
WORLD AVERAGE 81.26%

26
BILINGUAL DIPLOMAS

18
TOP MARKS IN IB SUBJECTS INCLUDING:

- ENGLISH A LANGUAGE & LITERATURE HL
- ECONOMICS SL
- PORTUGUESE A LANGUAGE & LITERATURE HL
- CHEMISTRY HL
- SPANISH B HL
- PHYSICS HL
- GLOBAL POLITICS HL
- MATH AA HL

32
AVERAGE POINTS
WORLD AVERAGE 30.6

5.0
AVERAGE GRADE PER SUBJECT
WORLD AVERAGE 4.89

*HL High Level SL Standard Level

STUDENT LEARNING
UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

The Panthers of the Class of 2025 earned extraordinary outcomes: offers from some of the world's best universities in the United States and worldwide, and final destinations that reflect discernment and best fit. Beyond lists and logos, their time at EARJ—friendships, scholarship, service, creativity, and leadership—has shaped a legacy strengthening our community. They leave ready to thrive at universities that will catapult them toward deeply rewarding lives. Wherever life takes them and whatever they pursue, they will forever be remembered, revered, and looked up to as the EARJ Class of 2025—agents of positive change grounded in shared values, spirit, and purpose.

EARJ CLASS OF 2025
USA ACCEPTANCES

American University
Arizona State University
Babson College
Barnard College, Columbia University
Bentley University
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
California State University, Long Beach
Chapman University
Clark University
Clemson University
College of Charleston
College of William and Mary
Colorado State University
Emerson College
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Full Sail University
George Washington University
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University Bloomington
Iowa State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University
Miami Dade College
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
New York Film Academy
New York University
Northeastern University
Occidental University
Oregon State University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Rollins College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
The Culinary Institute of America
The New School
Tulane University
University of Arizona
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Iowa
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Miami
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
University of North Florida
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of South Florida
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington State University
Yale University

STUDENT LEARNING
UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

EARJ CLASS OF 2025 GLOBAL ACCEPTANCES

ARGENTINA
Universidad de Buenos Aires
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

BRAZIL
Unigranrio
UNIG Universidade Iguaçu
UNICID
PUC - Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro
IDOMED

CANADA
University of British Columbia
University of Toronto

FRANCE
Istituto Marangoni Paris
EDHEC Business School - Nice

ITALY
American University of Rome
John Cabot University
NABA

IRELAND
University College Dublin
University of Limerick

MEXICO
Technological de Monterrey

NETHERLANDS
Erasmus University Rotterdam
University of Amsterdam
University of Groningen
University of Leiden
The Hague University of Applied Sciences

SPAIN
Culinary Institute of Barcelona
ESADE Ramon Llull University
EU Business School
Geneva Business School- Barcelona
IE University (Madrid)
University of Navarra

UNITED KINGDOM
City University of London
Istituto Marangoni London
King's College London
London Metropolitan University
Northeastern University of London
Queen Mary, University of London
Royal Holloway University
SOAS University of London
University of Bath
University of Bristol
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Leeds
University of London City
University of Manchester
University of Salford
University of the Arts London

EARJ CLASS OF 2025 MATRICULATION DATA

37%
NORTH AMERICA

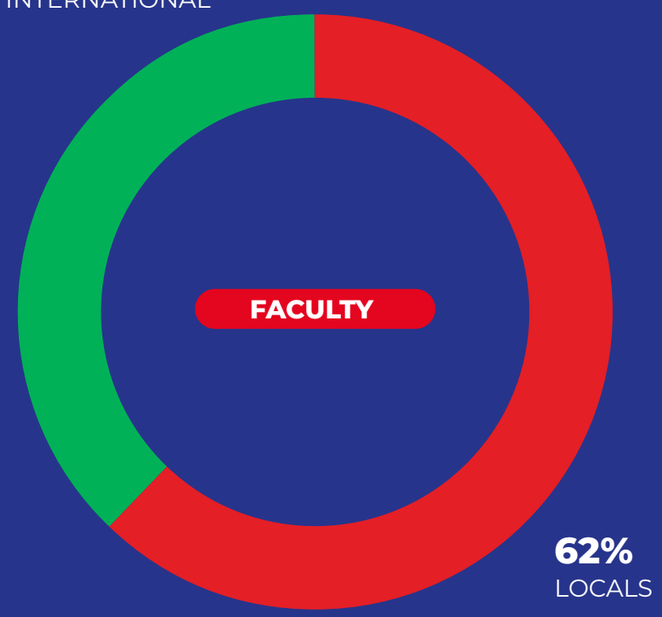
28%
BRAZIL

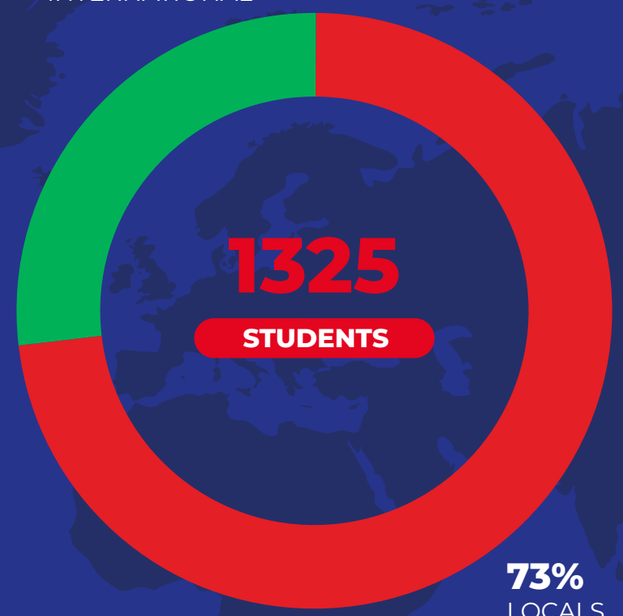
23%
UK & CONTINENTAL EUROPE

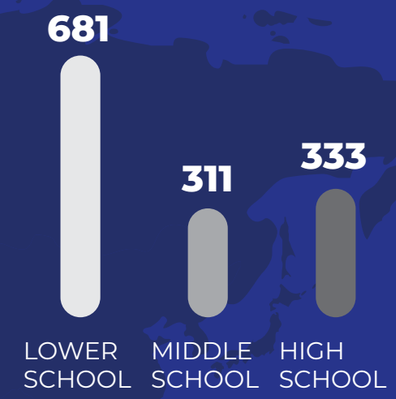
8%
GAP YEAR

4%
LATIN AMERICA

EARJ **COMMUNITY**







64%
FACULTY HAVE ADVANCE DEGREES

STUDENT / FACULTY RATIO
7.36
STUDENTS PER TEACHER

- ANGOLA
- ARGENTINA
- AUSTRALIA
- AUSTRIA
- BELGIUM
- BOLIVIA
- BRAZIL
- CANADA
- CHILE
- CHINA
- COLOMBIA
- COSTA RICA
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- DENMARK
- ECUADOR
- EGYPT
- ENGLAND
- ESTONIA
- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- GREECE
- HUNGARY
- INDIA
- IRELAND
- ITALY
- IVORY COAST
- JAPAN
- KOREA
- MEXICO
- NAMIBIA
- NORWAY
- PANAMA
- PERU
- PHILIPPINES
- POLAND
- PORTUGAL
- QATAR
- RUSSIA
- SINGAPORE
- SLOVAKIA
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SPAIN
- SWEDEN
- SWITZERLAND
- THE NETHERLANDS
- USA
- URUGUAY
- VENEZUELA

48 STUDENT **NATIONALITIES**

ATHLETICS AND **ACTIVITIES**

Athletics and Activities are a cornerstone of the EARJ student experience. They enable students to pursue their interests, uncover new passions, and develop their talents while finding their unique paths. Beyond participation, these opportunities foster character, resilience, and essential life skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

In 2024–2025, our Panthers once again distinguished themselves through outstanding dedication and achievement. From thrilling finishes to record-breaking performances at local, national, and international competitions, our teams consistently demonstrated perseverance, sportsmanship, and pride. Beyond medals and trophies, their commitment and spirit were a true reflection of what it means to be a Panther.

PANTHERS
EARJ

WELCOME TO THE HOME OF THE **PANTHERS**!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LITTLE 10

GOLD

Girls Soccer, Boys Volleyball and Coed Softball.

SILVER

Boys Basketball, Boys Futsal, Girls Futsal and Girls Volleyball.

BRONZE

Girls Basketball

BIG 8

GOLD

Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball and Boys Volleyball.

SILVER

Cheerleading, Coed Softball, Boys Futsal and Girls Futsal.

AASB NATIONALS FINAL FOUR

GOLD

Cheerleading, Girls Soccer and Boys Futsal.

BRONZE

Girls Volleyball and Girls Futsal.

HELSINKI & GOTHIA CUP

Top 32 teams of the tournament (172 teams)

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS LEAGUE

GOLD

U15 Boys Volleyball, U15 Girls Basketball, U15 Boys Soccer, U19 Boys Volleyball and U19 Boys Futsal.

SILVER

U13 Boys Futsal, U15 Boys Basketball, U15 Boys Soccer, U19 Girls Basketball, U19 Boys Soccer, U19 Girls Soccer, U19 Girls Volleyball and U19 Girls Futsal.

BRONZE

U13 Boys Soccer, U13 Girls Volleyball, U13 Boys Volleyball, U15 Girls Futsal, U15 Boys Futsal and U19 Boys Basketball.

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

GOLD

LIBE: U13 Coed Basketball, U15 Girls Basketball and U18 Girls Basketball.
NIDO CHILE: U18 Boys Soccer and U18 Boys Volleyball.
CHEER CHILE: Varsity Cheerleading

SILVER

NIDO: U18 Girls Soccer
88TH EARJ INVITATIONAL: U18 Girls Basketball

BRONZE

NIDO: U18 Girls Volleyball
88TH EARJ INVITATIONAL: U18 Boys Basketball

ATHLETICS AND **ACTIVITIES**

KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Six Middle and six High School students proudly represented EARJ at the AASB KB Tournaments, delivering strong performances and securing an impressive fifth-place finish at the national level in both divisions.

MATHCOUNTS

The American MathCounts Competition Series was an exciting opportunity for ten young Middle School mathematic talents to showcase their skills and engage in friendly competition. This event aims to foster a spirit of mathematical curiosity and teamwork and our students enjoyed an enriching experience.

ISTA

Ten EARJ students participated in the first edition of the International School Theatre Association Festival in Brazil. It was an immersive theatre experience fostering creativity, collaboration and a global perspective on learning.

MUN

The EARJ MUN Club proudly participated in both local and national conferences this year. At BRAMUN, our Panthers were recognized for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence, earning prestigious honors such as the Best Speaker Award and the Outstanding Delegation Award, along with nominations for Chair positions in 2026.

In addition, EARJ successfully hosted the IV edition of RioMUN, welcoming a record number of participants. The conference provided a vibrant platform for young voices to debate pressing global issues and contribute ideas for a better tomorrow.

EARJ Participants / MUN Event

21 = BRAMUN
31 = RioMUN
18 = TBSRJ MUN (The British School)
10 = POAMUN (PASPOA)
11 = GMUN (Graded MUN)

ALUMNI

At the Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro, alumni play a vital role in sustaining and enriching school life. Their ongoing involvement extends the impact of an EARJ education well beyond graduation, while reinforcing the school's mission and values. In 2024–25, more than 18 alumni families returned to campus with their loved ones, strengthening intergenerational ties while offering students valuable mentorship and inspiration. Alumni also played a key role in Career Week, co-hosted by the College Counseling and Alumni Affairs departments, participating in panel discussions where they shared insights into their academic and professional paths, as well as the impact EARJ had on their life choices. Students then had the chance to engage with each alumnus individually for guidance and inspiration. We were proud to welcome Karla Redig and Paola Prado (Class of '81), along with Erik Lassner and Marcelo Mansur (both Class of '06), who shared how EARJ shaped their professional journeys.

Milestone reunions added to the year's highlights, with the Class of '94, the Class of '76 (40th reunion), and the Class of '95 (30th reunion) gathering on campus. Many alumni traveled from around the world to reconnect and celebrate their shared history. Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome the Class of '75 (50th reunion) and the Class of 2005 (20th reunion) in the coming year.

Alumni engagement remains one of EARJ's greatest strengths, fostering a vibrant cycle of inspiration, mentorship, and pride that keeps the Panther spirit alive across generations.

A YEAR IN THE **LIFE OF EARJ**

AUGUST

A New Chapter of Leadership
Dr. Steve Desroches began his tenure as Head of School, bringing global experience and a student-centered vision. His leadership marks a milestone for EARJ, inspiring our community as we embark on the 2024–2025 school year.

OCTOBER

Celebration, Creativity, and Community
Halloween brought haunted houses, trick-or-treating, monster games, and creative costumes. S.O.S. Pink Week raised awareness for breast cancer, while the PTA's Ice Cream Social celebrated Children's Day. Lower School hosted a Music Open House, and Middle School students took part in the Via Sapiencia learning project.

DECEMBER

Festivities, Creativity, and Expression
The end of the semester was full of celebrations. Lower School hosted Holiday Shows, while Upper School presented theatrical and musical performances, alongside an Art and Design Exhibition showcasing student creativity.

2024

SEPTEMBER

Power, Heritage, and Pathways
The MuseOn exhibition Power – A User's Guide challenged students to reflect on global and personal dynamics. Lower School celebrated Brazilian Independence Day, and High School college fairs inspired students to explore their academic pathways.

NOVEMBER

Gratitude, Diplomacy, and Awareness
Our community came together for Thanksgiving, sharing a joyful feast with students, families, faculty and staff. The Gávea Campus hosted the 4th RioMUN, where students honed leadership and debate skills. November also highlighted Black Awareness Month, fostering reflection and inclusion.

MARCH

Celebration, Awareness, and Future Pathways
EARJ celebrated its 88th Anniversary with joy and community spirit. The 20th S.O.S. Walkathon raised R$125,500.56 for the pediatric wing at INCA, setting an all-time record. Grade 12 students took part in IBDP Mock Exams, while the Gávea Campus Blood Drive and Math Counts Competition engaged students across multiple grades. The IB Art Exhibition and Upper School Career Symposium showcased creativity and future pathways.

MAY

Celebration, Achievement, and Global Connections
Barra Campus hosted the 2025 International Day, celebrating cultural diversity. Graduation honored 76 seniors from the Class of 2025 receiving their diplomas. Grade 5 students showcased their PYP Exhibition projects, applying the IB Learner Profile to explore real-world issues and present their learning to the community.

FEBRUARY

Culture, Competition, and Fun
Carnival brought vibrant celebrations and festive spirit to the school community. Students also showcased their skills and teamwork during the Knowledge Bowl, engaging in friendly academic competition.

APRIL

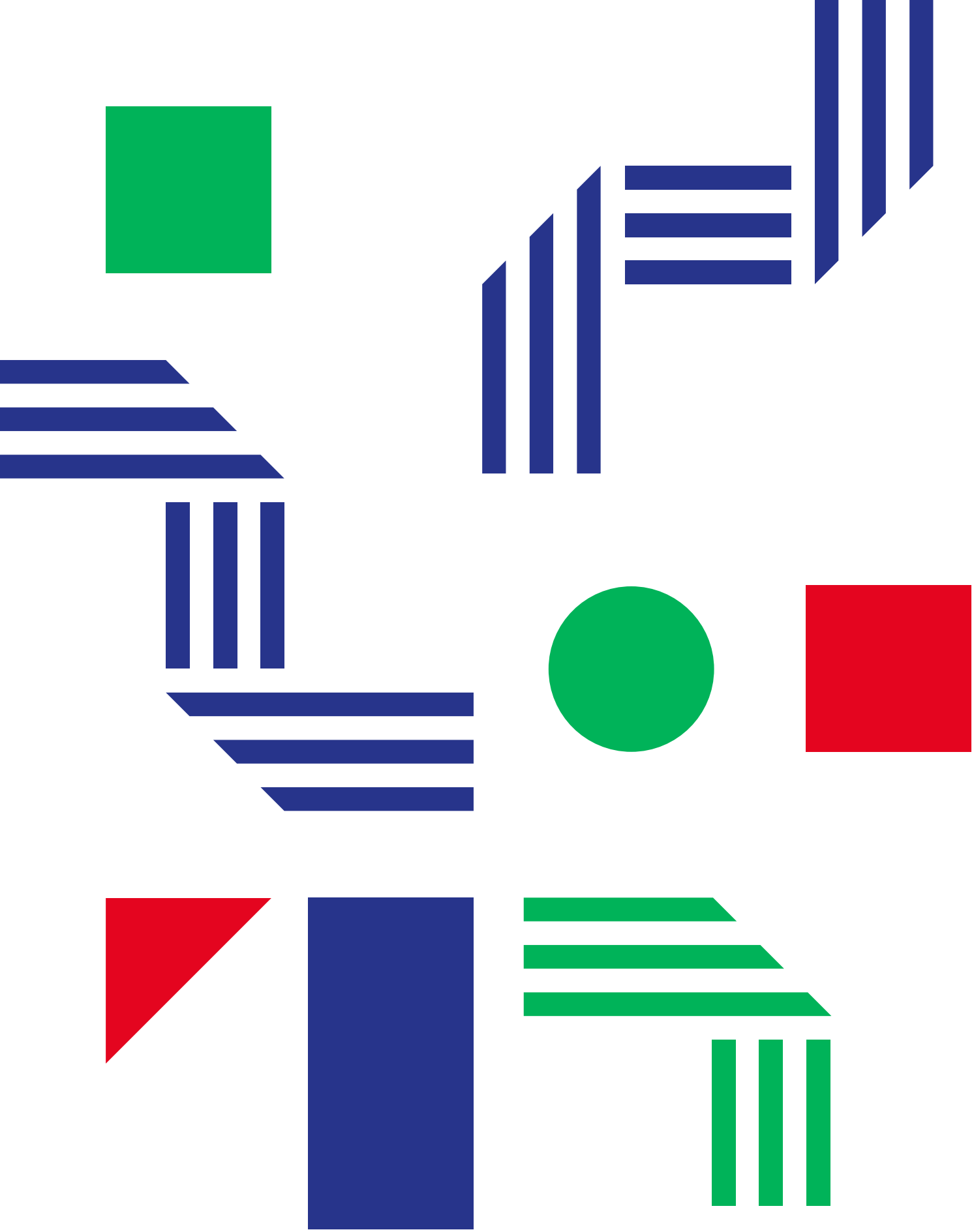
Community, Awareness, and Engagement
Students participated in the Barra Campus Blood Drive, and EARJ commemorated Indigenous Peoples' Day, fostering reflection and cultural awareness.

2025

JUNE

Tradition, Achievement, and Creativity
Festa Junina celebrated Brazilian roots with cultural traditions for the community. Grade 5 and Grade 8 students were honored in Promotion Ceremonies, while Lower School showcased Arts Presentations. High School hosted an Art Exhibition featuring music, theater, visual arts, and design.

FIND
YOUR
PATH



ESCOLA AMERICANA DO RIO DE JANEIRO

BARRA DA TIJUCA
Rua Colbert Coelho, 155
Barra da Tijuca - CEP 22793-313
(55 21) 3747 2000
admissions.barra@earj.com.br

GÁVEA
Estrada da Gávea, 132
Gávea - CEP 22451-263
(55 21) 2125 9000
admissions.gavea@earj.com.br

FIND YOUR PATH

earj.com.br