

# THE TASIS SCHOOL IN DORADO

TASIS

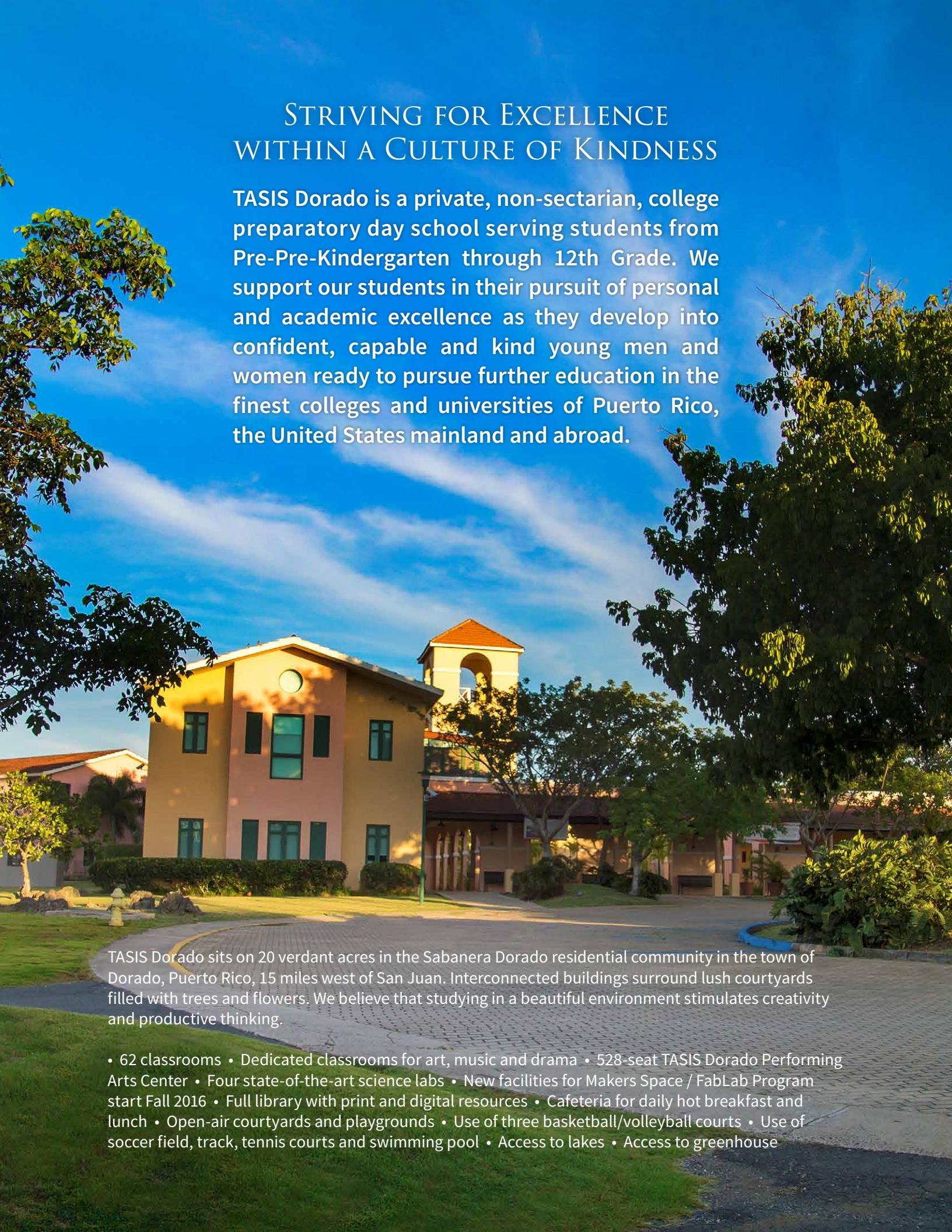


DORADO



## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE WITHIN A CULTURE OF KINDNESS

**TASIS Dorado is a private, non-sectarian, college preparatory day school serving students from Pre-Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade. We support our students in their pursuit of personal and academic excellence as they develop into confident, capable and kind young men and women ready to pursue further education in the finest colleges and universities of Puerto Rico, the United States mainland and abroad.**

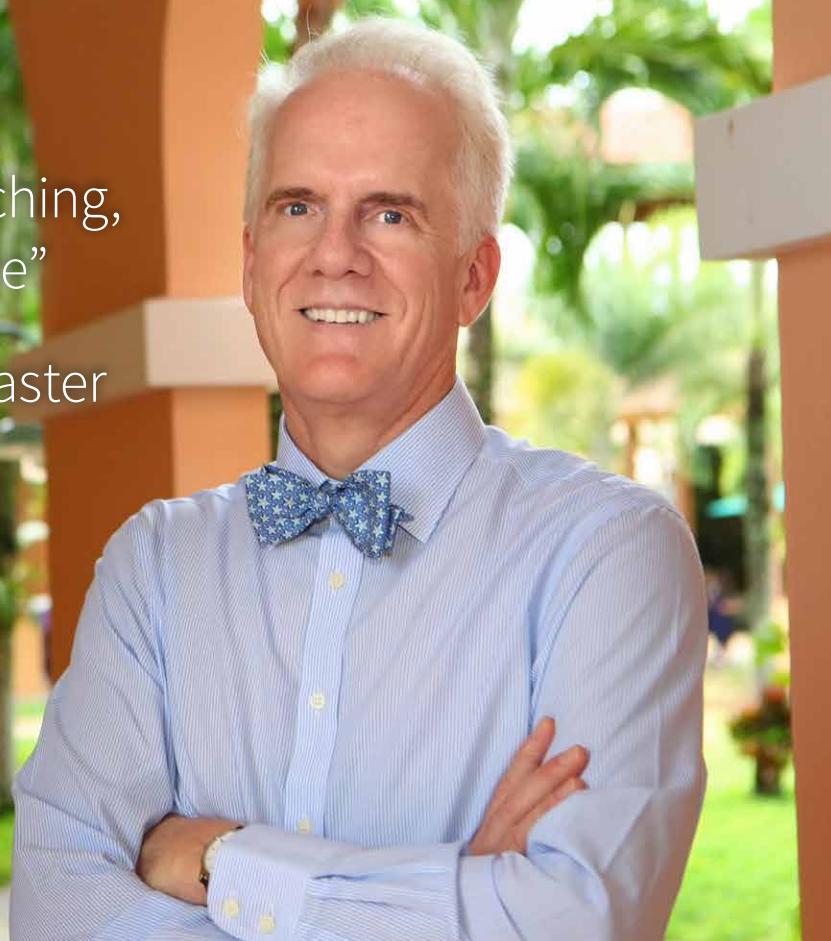


TASIS Dorado sits on 20 verdant acres in the Sabanera Dorado residential community in the town of Dorado, Puerto Rico, 15 miles west of San Juan. Interconnected buildings surround lush courtyards filled with trees and flowers. We believe that studying in a beautiful environment stimulates creativity and productive thinking.

- 62 classrooms • Dedicated classrooms for art, music and drama • 528-seat TASIS Dorado Performing Arts Center • Four state-of-the-art science labs • New facilities for Makers Space / FabLab Program start Fall 2016 • Full library with print and digital resources • Cafeteria for daily hot breakfast and lunch • Open-air courtyards and playgrounds • Use of three basketball/volleyball courts • Use of soccer field, track, tennis courts and swimming pool • Access to lakes • Access to greenhouse

“A great school, like great teaching,  
is both an art and a science”

Dr. Timothy Howard, Headmaster



## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in The TASIS School in Dorado!

In the span of just a few years, our beautiful campus has grown rapidly and aims to be a world-class independent school. We are a non-sectarian, co-educational, not-for-profit school from Pre-Pre-K to Grade 12. We serve an international community in beautiful Dorado, Puerto Rico with outstanding facilities, engaging programs and wonderful teachers.

Our teachers believe that every student deserves to be known, loved, respected and challenged. The central mission of TASIS Dorado is to foster a love of learning in every child, mastery of sophisticated concepts and skills, and the development of character virtues, such as courage, compassion, honesty and gratitude. Our ultimate goal is to develop creative, informed graduates who embrace service and leadership, are prepared to enter the best universities and are willing to pursue lives that contribute to the greater good – in Puerto Rico and in the world.

I hope that by spending some time looking through these pages, you will gain an insight into the work, play, and learning that go into making TASIS Dorado such an amazing and dynamic community. However, visiting our special school is the best way to see and understand our program as well as envision how it can enrich the life of your child. I hope to meet you on campus!

Sincerely,

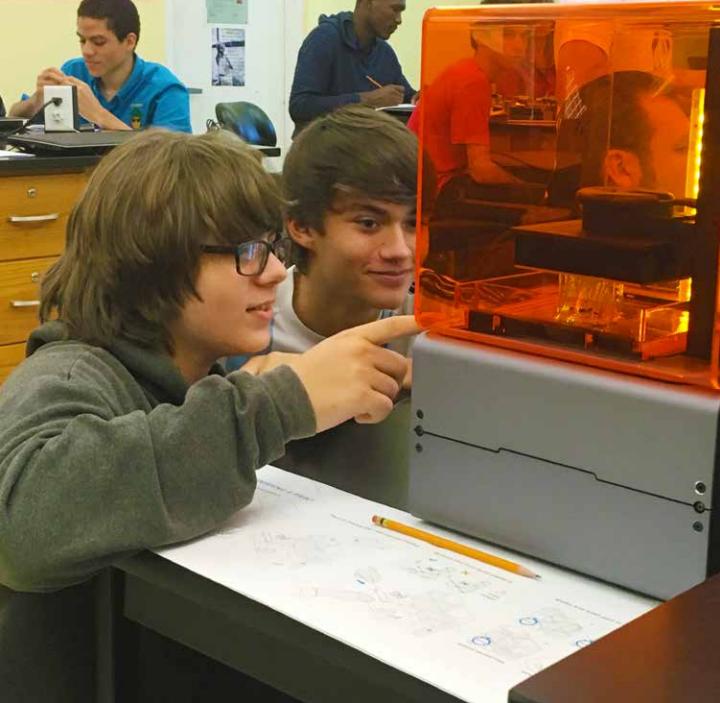
**Timothy Howard, Ed.D.**  
Headmaster

# FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

We provide our students with a comfortable, well-equipped environment as they strive to achieve their maximum personal, intellectual, athletic, emotional, social and artistic potential.

Spacious classrooms are equipped with age-appropriate furniture, air conditioning, state-of-the-art technologies including 57 electronic white boards and plentiful supplies.

The TASIS Dorado library is filled with books, print media, computers, online databases and other resources for students in Elementary, Middle and High School.





## What Sets Us Apart

**TASIS Dorado || Nurturing creative, informed minds for lives of leadership and service.**

We motivate students to achieve their best by setting high expectations and providing rich opportunities for learning within a supportive educational environment.

- We engage children in hands-on learning activities through a rigorous **Core Knowledge Curriculum**.
- We encourage teamwork through our championship math and science departments, our athletics program, motivating classroom projects and the arts.
- We are dedicated to **small student-teacher ratios**. (9:1 on average)
- The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools recognized TASIS Dorado with the “**Program of Distinction**” in **Early Childhood Education Award** (PPK through 1st Grade). TASIS Dorado is the **first school in Puerto Rico & U.S.** and the second one worldwide, to achieve this prestigious accolade.
- We hold an annual “**Exploration Week**” for middle and high school students, who work side by side with expert practitioners in a variety of fields, including medicine, videography, engineering, science, the culinary and hospitality fields and the arts.
- We cultivate sophisticated critical thinking skills through a wide array of curricular offerings.

Visiting our beautiful school is the best way to understand our program as well as envision it enriching the life of your child. We invite you to join us for one of our **Open House** events, as well as taking an individualized tour with someone in our admissions department. We will begin processing applications for the limited spaces available for the next academic year, as of January 31. Please mail us the completed application form and the other admission-related documents as soon as possible. Applicants cannot be considered by the Admission Committee until all application requirements have been met.

**Please call to arrange for your personal visit and to learn more about TASIS Dorado and our confident, well-rounded and high-achieving students.**



## PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (PPK - 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE)

The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) recently recognized the TASIS School in Dorado, Puerto Rico, for its Program of Distinction in Early Childhood Education. **TASIS Dorado is the first school in Puerto Rico and the U.S. to receive this recognition.**

The Middle States Programs of Distinction initiative provides external validation of an accredited school's accomplishments in specific areas of expertise and enables schools to take accreditation to the next level. The review process helps already accredited schools identify strengths and areas for growth and provides inspiration and recommendations for attaining a high quality program.

The Early Childhood Education Program of Distinction recognizes schools that demonstrate dedication to early learning through a rich, child centered philosophy and best practices that focus on exploration, questioning, creativity and social-emotional development, as well as cognitive skills.

### PPK

The Pre-Pre-Kindergarten program provides a rich and stimulating environment for learning. Different from a day care center, this full-day program is set in an educational and recreational environment designed to stimulate age-appropriate individual growth. The loving and well trained team follows a carefully-paced program of educational activities to challenge youngsters' imaginations and creativity as well as inviting them to explore and discover, individually and as part of a group. The children learn how to interact socially, respect rules, follow a school routine and much more. As they listen to stories and engage in other classroom activities, they experience the very beginnings of academic learning with exposure to letter sounds and counting.

The Pre-Pre-K is housed in two spacious, well-appointed classrooms across from the main administration offices. Students are divided into two groups, each with a lead teacher and two assistants. The PPK facilities include a bathroom within the classroom and a playground that is shared with Pre-K students.



## Pre-K & Kindergarten

Hands-on learning is of prime importance for children of four and five years old, since they learn by doing. The Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers introduce material in small and whole-group lessons, after which, students put their learning into practice at hands-on learning centers. Literacy studies in English and Spanish include learning the letters of the alphabet, understanding that letters represent specific sounds and that printed words carry meaning. Students begin by using random letters to label artwork and then progress to inventing spelling and the sounding out of words as they develop reading and writing fluency.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE Academic Excellence

A love of children is central to the educational philosophy of our school. Our goal is to provide a sound educational foundation while fostering a sense of responsibility, independence, compassion, fairness and respect for self and others, in each and every student. The Elementary School uses many elements of E.D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge Curriculum which delineates the skills, content and sequence of curricula, grade by grade. Instruction is in English, with a daily class in Spanish language and literacy.

### Assembly Program

Frequent assemblies with active student participation provide opportunities for our students to show their talents and knowledge, gain stage presence, develop self-esteem, perfect their enunciation and develop memorization and acting skills. These presentations occur with such regularity, beginning in PPK and continuing through Senior year, that students develop confidence and an easy ability to speak and perform in front of an audience.

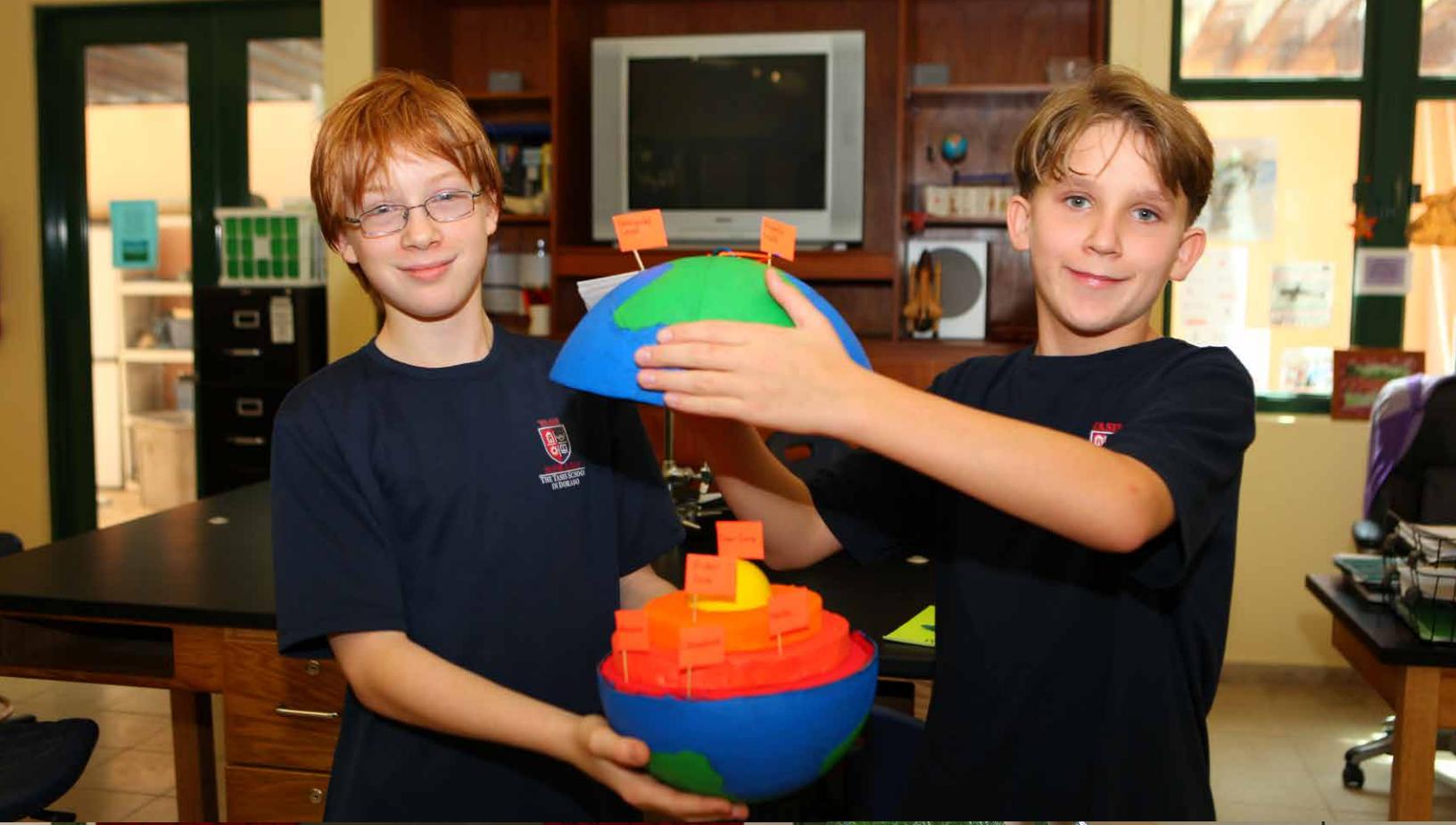
## Character Building

Core Virtues is a practical, non-sectarian approach to character education. This literature-based program cultivates character through the promotion of basic moral, civic and intellectual virtues. We emphasize such “core virtues” as respect, responsibility, diligence, honesty, generosity, perseverance, courage, loyalty, compassion, openness to inquiry and humility.

## ABC Program

We are always happy to see children (and parents) at the playground, on the courts or fields and otherwise engaged after the official school day has finished. We offer Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC)—fun classes not typically found in a school curriculum.





## MIDDLE SCHOOL • 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Middle School students leave Elementary School behind and begin to embrace the freedoms and responsibilities of secondary school. Instruction is primarily in English.

Students enroll in the core courses of English, Spanish or Spanish as a Second Language, Math, Social Studies and Science. They also take Physical Education and a variety of electives including Art, Music, Drama and World Languages. Students begin to develop individual talents and interests and advanced Math and Science courses are available to qualified students who will likely pursue Advanced Placement classes in High School. Academic grades become increasingly important as students become eligible for the Honor Roll or High Honor Roll and, in the Seventh Grade, for the National Junior Honor Society. Middle School ends with an Eighth Grade graduation ceremony that includes the recognition of character, leadership and community service, along with academic awards and the designation of a Valedictorian, Salutatorian and TASIS Dorado Scholar.

# HIGH SCHOOL - 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

High School students embark on the final leg of their journey toward college and define individual talents and interests. All students take the core subjects of English, Spanish, a third language, Math, Science, History / Social Studies and the Arts, as well as electives. Students who meet certain criteria may enroll in “plus”, “enriched” and Advanced Placement (AP) courses and in certain cases courses may be designed to meet students’ advanced needs.

The TASIS Dorado college preparatory education not only provides a strong academic foundation, but also cultural, social, psychological and physical development of the student. Our student body will develop into leaders, honorable individuals and exemplary citizens.

Special programs include Exploration Week and other thematic weeks, community service, academic exchanges, overseas travel, visiting experts and artists, summer activities and more.

The rigorous program ensures that our students graduate with a solid breadth and depth of knowledge and skills that allow them to successfully tackle post-secondary education.

**The High School academic program meets and exceeds the requirements of colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico. All core subject courses also meet Puerto Rico’s “Nivel Avanzado” criteria.**

A minimum of 25 credits is required for graduation, including English (4 credits), Spanish (4 credits), Mathematics (4 credits), Sciences (3 credits in lab sciences), Social Studies (4 credits), World Language (2 credits or proficiency), Electives (2 credits) and Physical Education (2 credits). Students may take additional credits and must complete Exploration Week and 10 hours of community service every year.



# TASIS DORADO AT A GLANCE

**Founded** | 2002

**Headmaster** | Dr. Timothy Howard • **Principal** | Maritere Matosantos

**Location** | Dorado, Puerto Rico, USA • 25 minutes from LMM International Airport • 15 miles from San Juan  
1 mile from the beach

**Grade Levels** | PPK - 12th Grade

**Academic** | Minimum 25 credits for graduation • 20 Advanced Placement courses available

**Student Body** | 751 students in PPK - 12th Grade • 179 High School students • 30 seniors graduating in 2016

**Faculty** | 106 full-time faculty members • More than half hold or are earning advanced degrees

**Languages** | English as the primary language of instruction • Spanish language and literacy in the classroom daily, at all levels. • Spanish as a Second Language for new learners • French or Italian for 8th Graders and “upSpoken” in our students’ homes: Spanish, English, French, Italian, Arabic, Korean, Japanese, Swedish, German, Catalán and more



**Accreditations** | Middle States Association, CADIE & Consejo General de Educación de Puerto Rico

**Featured Programs** | Exploration Week • French Student Exchange • Academic Travel • Summer Camp  
Summer Spanish Immersion and Marine Biology

**Campus** | 62 classrooms • 4 science labs • 3 basketball courts • 2 lakes • 528-seat Performing Arts Center (PAC)  
countless orchids

# THE ARTS



The arts, in many forms, are a vital part of each student's day, as students learn to both create and appreciate beauty. Elementary students study art, music or drama every trimester and 5th Graders combine all three in an amazing year-long, student-created, opera project. All middle school students take specialized classes such as Band, The History of Puerto Rican Theater or Ceramics, while High School students have a wide variety of elective choices. Students from many disciplines come together to produce an annual musical and assemblies. Plays and other performances are a regular element of many core classes.

- Choir
- Glee Club
- Stage Band
- Rock Band
- Batucada
- Instrumental Music classes
- Art classes
- AP Art
- AP Music Theory
- Theater classes
- 3-M Music Honor Society
- International Thespian Honor Society
- Oratoria Team
- Forensics Team
- School-wide musical
- After-school lessons



## SPORTS

TASIS Dorado student athletes are active on the track, field and courses in PE classes, clubs and team sports. Mini, Youth, JV and Varsity teams compete in the LAMEPI and PRHSAA leagues and the Super Mini teams compete in inter-school tournaments.

## TEAMS

Basketball • Cheerleading •  
Cross-Country • Flag Football •  
Golf • Judo • Soccer • Swimming •  
Tennis • Track & Field • Volleyball





## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### Exploration Week

High School students spend four days immersed in integrated academic subjects such as Chef Dorado, Biotechnology and CSI Dorado, Physics of Surfing, Urban Art, Video Production, Entrepreneurship: Cupcake Wars, Veterinary Medicine and many more. This week provides students an excellent insight into career paths and new areas of interest.

### Thematic Events

Special events include Communities of the World, Puerto Rican Week, Semana de la Lengua, Novel Voices, Science Week, Space Camp, Spirit Week, Field Day and more.



## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Student Council • National Junior Honor Society • National Honor Society • Model United Nations • French & Italian Honor Societies • Interact Club • English Forensics • Spanish Oratoria • Math Team • Science Team • Art Honor Society • Thespian Honor Society • Tri-M Music Society • Stage Band • Batucada • Robotics • Marine Biology Club • Chess Club • Environmental Science Club



## COLLEGE COUNSELING & TASIS DORADO GRADUATES

Our **Academic Dean and College Counselor, Ms. Lucía Martín**, leads a team that guides our High School students through the college selection process by providing academic planning beginning in the 9th Grade and continuing through the college application and selection process. We provide information for students and parents about colleges, the application process, trends, testing and summer programs. We strive to place students in colleges and universities that are not only selective but also are the best fit for the individual student's interests and talents.

We coordinate the ERB, PIENSE, PSAT and AP standardized tests and we offer information and help coordinating the SAT, SAT II, ACT, PEAU (local "College Boards"), TOEFL and Nivel Avanzado exams. We also advise students when applying for summer programs and college "fly-in" programs.

We write personal recommendations for all US college applicants. College representatives from Puerto Rico and the US visit our campus throughout the first semester of each year, offering informational sessions and, in some cases, interviews. We coordinate with other schools to maximize our students' exposure to a variety of colleges and universities.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 25 credits is required for graduation, including English (4 credits), Spanish (4 credits), Mathematics (4 credits), Sciences (3 credits in lab sciences), Social Studies (4 credits), Foreign Language (2 credits or proficiency), Electives (2 credits, one of which must be in the visual or performing arts) and Physical Education (2 credits). All High School Students must complete the Exploration Week Program all four years. Students may take additional credits. There is a yearly requirement of 10 hours of community service. Students acquire technological competence through both our curriculum and our laptop-friendly system.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The TASIS School in Dorado was founded in 2002 by educator Fernando González and developer Friedel Stubbe, with Louis Christiansen as headmaster and Maritere Matosantos as principal. This unique team oversaw impressive growth and development of the school that earned impressive accreditation reports from the Middle States Association, established competitive sports teams and diverse extracurricular activities and led to outstanding test results and college admissions. Not content to rest on their laurels, the team determined that to address the challenges of the future and strengthen the school, a new structure of governance was required. Transferring TASIS Dorado to the non-profit TASIS Dorado Educational Foundation, Inc. and creating a new Board of Directors to manage the school was a significant leap forward in securing the school's future.

## The Board of Directors

**Rafael Bras**, Provost Georgia Institute of Technology

**Louis Christiansen**, Founding Director of TASIS Dorado

**Eduardo Cortés**, Hacienda San Martín, Inc.

**Fernando González**, Board Chairman

**David Hicks**, TASIS Foundation

**Maritere Matosantos**, TASIS Dorado Principal

**Federico Stubbe, Jr.**, Federico and Priscilla Stubbe Educational Foundation

**Ceciliana Stubbe Puig**, Federico and Priscilla Stubbe Educational Foundation

**José Menéndez-Cortada**, Director Emeritus

**Federico Stubbe, Sr.**, Director Emeritus

# ADMISSIONS

TASIS Dorado welcomes highly qualified and motivated students who seek a challenging college preparatory experience. A full class of Pre-Pre-Kindergarten students is admitted each year and students are admitted to Pre-Kinder through 11th Grade as space permits.

## PPK, Pre-K & Kinder Admissions

TASIS Dorado admits students who are able to meet the expectations of a high quality pre-school program leading to a Pre-Kinder experience with a demanding curriculum. While some PPK and PK students have English as their first language, the majority come from homes in which Spanish is the primary language. These students are gradually challenged to adapt to and learn in English as the language of instruction. Students with English as their primary language develop additional vocabulary and absorb Spanish through their daily interactions with others students. Fully bilingual teachers are aware of all students' language needs, and students receive full support with the transition. We expect all youngsters who attend our Pre-School program (PPK, PK and Kinder) to be fully toilet trained. The required age for admission to Pre-Pre-Kinder is three years old by September 1. The required age for admission to Pre-Kinder is four years old by September 1. The required age for admission to Kindergarten is five years old by September 1.

## 1st Grade - 11th Grade Admissions

TASIS Dorado admits average-and above-average ability students who are able to meet high standards and expectations in their academic, extracurricular and social endeavors. Students applying to 1st to 11th Grades must have a working command of English since it is the primary language of instruction. Students whose first language is not English will spend the school day in the regular classroom, immersed in the educational program. Bilingual teachers will be aware of all students' needs and will support them in the transition. Students whose native language is not Spanish will enroll in regular Spanish classes if they are able, or else in Spanish as a Second Language classes. Children requiring tuition beyond the school's regular program will be referred to tutors.

# ADMISSIONS

## All Grades

All candidates are given careful consideration in the admissions process and any negative decisions are made regretfully but with the best interests of the child and the school in mind. Reasons for either admission or non-acceptance of applicants are made upon consideration of many factors including the results of psychometric evaluations, assessment of readiness, school records and recommendations as well as an assessment of whether the school has the appropriate educational programs to meet the needs of the child. The final decision on admission of a candidate is based on the collective experience and judgment of the school administrators.

All applicants are notified in writing of the decision of the admissions committee. Each applicant's admission folder and its content are the property of TASIS Dorado and may not be copied. Our school has limited facilities for students with special needs, but we do all that is reasonable to comply with our legal and moral responsibility to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the school can cater to adequately.

TASIS Dorado does provide, through the principals and guidance counselors, academic, behavioral and emotional support to help students reach their potential. The school recognizes the importance of including students, parents and guardians, classroom teachers, special services staff and administrators in a collaborative process for the delivery of special services to students with learning differences.

TASIS Dorado coordinates a range of support services for students of all grade levels, at an additional cost to the family. Areas of support offered include initial assessment, speech and language services, academic support, classroom guidance and individual counseling. TASIS Dorado does not, however, offer a full spectrum of special education programs. Admission and permanence in the school is contingent upon a match between the student's and the family's needs and the level of services available. For that reason, the admission and permanence in the school of any special needs student is determined on a case-by-case basis using multiple sources of information. Please be clear and specific about your child's needs during the application process.

## Apply to TASIS Dorado

We are delighted that you have decided to apply to TASIS Dorado. Applicants are notified promptly of the committee's decision. Upon confirmation of acceptance, you will be sent enrollment papers and information on uniforms, supplies to purchase and more. Please let us know if you have any questions. All admissions correspondence should be sent to: Admissions Office TASIS Dorado, 11 Carr. 693, Dorado, PR 00646-3452

**Applications will be considered when the application file for each student is complete**, with all of the following:

**1)** Completed Student **Application Form** with a non-refundable application processing fee of \$250 per student. Please note that a non-refundable enrollment fee will become payable upon acceptance of the applicant to confirm the place offered. The place is guaranteed only when the payment has been made. **2)** A complete **official transcript** of the applicant's school record. Parents or guardians should request that an official transcript be sent directly to TASIS Dorado from each school attended in the last three years. For applicants for Kindergarten through

3rd Grade, parents or guardians may submit the originals of the applicant's evaluations or grade report cards for all years in school. TASIS Dorado will copy these reports for the school's files and return the originals. **3)** A recent **Psychometric Exam** performed by a licensed psychologist who has been advised that the purpose of the exam is to aid in determining the applicant's readiness for success in the TASIS Dorado educational program. The WPPSI for PK and Kinder and appropriate WISC-IV (depending upon age) is required for admission to 1st through 11th Grade. Sub-scores, observations and recommendations should be included in the report, with any additional tests the psychologist may deem advisable. Please note that students must have reached their fourth birthday before the psychometric can be administered. **4)** A personal **interview** with the applicant and parent or guardian. Whenever possible, the applicant is invited to spend a day at TASIS Dorado to allow the youngster to learn about our school and for the school to observe and test the child in our educational setting. **5)** Two **letters of recommendation**, from the current school's principal and a homeroom teacher. **6)** A copy of the applicant's **birth certificate**. **7)** A recent **photograph** of the applicant.



## THE TASIS SCHOOL IN DORADO

11 Carr. 693, Dorado, PR 00646

**Telephone** | 787.796.0440 • **Fax** | 787.796.0240

[www.tasisdorado.com](http://www.tasisdorado.com)

**Admissions** | Jovita Casanova • [casanova.j@tasisdorado.com](mailto:casanova.j@tasisdorado.com)

**Headmaster** | Dr. Timothy Howard • [howard.t@tasisdorado.com](mailto:howard.t@tasisdorado.com)

**Principal** | Maritere Matosantos • [principal@tasisdorado.com](mailto:principal@tasisdorado.com)