

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THEIR  
JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SEVEN SEAS  
SCHOOLS



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# mission and vision

To guide children along their journey of growth to bring their full power and potential into the world as mature and harmonious beings.

## Our Vision for the Movement

To facilitate the growth of a global network of Seven Seas schools that foster the development of character and virtuous soul qualities along with mastery of academic subjects and the arts as well as life and technical skills.

## Our Vision for the Campus

Create environments that maximize an experience of well-being, clear thinking and a connection with nature.

"Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility - these three forces are the very nerve of education."

Rudolf Steiner

"A life with no sense of meaning is the darkest tragedy. The greatest gifts one generation can give to another are the tools to find their direction in life and the strength and courage to pursue it."

Daniel Ehrlich



# summary.

The Seven Seas approach to children's education is inspired by the educational principles of Rudolf Steiner. Reforms have been made where needed to ensure that we provide the most profound opportunities for every child that walks through the doors of a Seven Seas school.

In an increasingly technological and mechanistic world, what does it mean to become truly human? What kind of school could provide the right environment for children to grow up and be properly equipped to face this new world in effective and practical ways without losing their humanity? It was questions like these that led Daniel Ehrlich to create the Seven Seas school movement on the foundation laid 100yrs prior by Rudolf Steiner.

A view of man as machine can lead one to theorize that the sooner a child begins to learn certain things, the better. The Seven Seas model stands in stark contrast to this theory, seeing in the human life a process of becoming that moves through well defined, and easily observable, stages of evolution. Thus, the Seven Seas model is built around the needs of the growing child as they change throughout the various phases and stages of the child's life.

Teachers, as well as school founders, are expected to work intentionally at their own self-mastery because this can only lead to a deeper understanding of their students, their communities, and the development of a character worth modeling by them. And it is the character of the teacher where emphasis must be made in a Seven Seas school - not on the opinions or beliefs of the teacher. A fundamental characteristic of a Seven Seas school is the way in which it leads children to learn how to ask the right questions. The cultivation of wonder and a love for learning are invaluable assets for the whole life. These are the style of gifts we seek to give our students - morals and virtues being held in higher esteem than the rapidly changing "answers" being fed to children in other educational systems around the world.

The curriculum outlined below is currently under review by our internationally based think tank and modifications can be made to suit the specific time and place in which each Seven Seas school finds itself.

## Early Childhood (K-3)

- Emphasis on imaginative play, storytelling, and oral language
- Introduction to basic skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic through hands-on activities
- Development of fine motor skills through handwork and crafts
- Music and movement education through singing, recorder playing, and eurythmy

## Elementary School (Grades 4-6)

- Continued emphasis on imaginative play and storytelling
- Introduction to formal arithmetic and language arts
- Handwork and crafts continue to develop fine motor skills
- Music and movement education expand to include string instruments and simple choreography
- Form drawing and painting introduce artistic skills

## Middle School (Grades 7-8)

- Increased emphasis on academic subjects like mathematics, language arts, and science
- Handwork and crafts focus on more complex projects like woodworking and weaving
- Music and movement education continue to develop skills on string instruments and in eurythmy
- Introduction to foreign languages

## High School (Grades 9-12)

- Academic subjects like mathematics, language arts, science, and history are integrated with artistic and practical activities
- Students have the option to specialize in areas like music, drama, or visual arts
- Foreign languages continue to be emphasized, with opportunities for advanced placement
- Electives include woodworking, basketry, and bookbinding

## Common Threads

- Emphasis on experiential learning and hands-on activities
- Integration of academic subjects with artistic and practical skills
- Focus on developing the whole child, including cognitive, emotional, and social aspects
- Use of natural materials and simple, handcrafted tools
- Encouragement of imagination, creativity, and critical thinking

## Key Skills

- Fine motor skills through handwork and crafts
- Visual memory and discrimination through form drawing and painting
- Inner calm and intellectual clarity through handwork and movement education
- Self-esteem and joy through practical and beautiful creations
- Development of the heart and will through moral principles and fairy tales
- The Seven Seas curriculum aims to educate children to be complete and balanced human beings, preparing them for a lifetime of learning, creativity, and responsible citizenship.

# festivals.

The festival life of a Seven Seas school is an immensely important aspect of the community building activities of the school, and each festival presents a special opportunity to pass down certain lessons and morals to the children.

The list of festivals below have been observed by schools inspired by Rudolf Steiner's principles for over 100 years. This list can be modified to suit the culture and hemisphere that the individual school is located in.

September 29th Michaelmas  
November 11th St Martin--Lantern walk  
November 27th Advent spiral-Advent Garden walk  
December 6th Saint Nicholas Day festival of St Nicholas  
December 13th Saint Lucia Day- festival of St Lucy  
January 6th Epiphany of Three Kings  
February 2nd Candlemas  
February 14th Valentine's Day  
Spring Waldorf Festival = Earth Day  
May 1st- Mayday  
June 24th- Summer St Johns Tide

For an explanation of why each of these festivals is observed, please see the International Association of Seven Seas School's Festival handbook.

# School model

Seven Seas schools should always bear in mind the reality that when you build something, you must then work to preserve it. The world is always changing and this can create significant challenges for each school. Scale then is an important consideration. Our model recommends neighborhood schools that do not exceed an enrollment of around 150 students. If this means separating high school classes from lower grades, that is perfectly admissible. The final determination as to scale must be made on a case by case basis based on the costs and demands of the local economic and sociopolitical climate in which the school is based.

There is a threefold structure to the organization of the International Association of Seven Seas Schools (IAOSSS), the educational management arm of the movement, Saint Martin Management Services, LLC and the global community of individual schools. IAOSSS oversees the legal and rights sphere helping to guide the movement forward within the boundaries of the world's various political systems, as well as providing teacher training among its many roles. Saint Martin Management Services, LLC (Saint Martin) offers management and administrative support to all Seven Seas schools so that the leadership of the school itself can focus on the needs of the community and the children in its care. In this role Saint Martin oversees the commercial sphere of the movement. The global community of individual schools works together to oversee the cultural sphere and community life so as to help each school prepare itself to offer its best to the neighborhood that it serves.

Seven Seas schools can also be created to foster the development of a particular and focused set of skills or professional activities ranging from the arts, to sports to technical fields.



# campus and classroom

The mind needs the foundation of a healthy body. The heart needs a mind full of wonder. Natural spaces and materials help to cultivate that sense of wonder and foster healthy development.

Wherever possible, Seven Seas school campuses should be in a natural setting. In urban settings where this is not possible, every attempt should be made to be close to a park or grounds where the children can have some experience of nature and the outdoors. Every school should have a place for a traditional garden. An abundance of trees and the presence of animals that will need the students care are ideal.

Buildings should make use of sustainable technologies and natural light as much as possible. A balance of straight lines and curved lines throughout is necessary and should always remain an ideal. The environment the school creates for the children should be beautiful as this inspires the soul of the child with a belief in goodness. Artificial materials should be avoided in construction - especially in applications where the materials would remain visible. Low VOC products should be sourced whenever possible.

Classrooms should be warm and inviting and tailored to the age of the children who will use it. The Lazure technique of painting is strongly recommended for all spaces. Natural materials should be used for all furniture and fixtures. Each classroom in a Seven Seas school should be treated as its own unique sanctuary, inspiring a sense of reverence and awe in its students.

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