



EARLY YEARS



PRIMARY



SECONDARY



ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE



# WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE

St. Francis is an international school offering Brazilian and foreign pupils a first-rate education which enables graduating students to enter excellent Brazilian and international universities.

Opening in São Paulo in 2003, St. Francis is the only full International Baccalaureate school in São Paulo - since 2008 it has offered all three IB programmes. We provide a safe educational environment and infrastructure, enabling students to realise their full potential in core academic subjects, the arts, and sport, while addressing their individual needs.

The taught curriculum encourages students to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors to their communities, and responsible citizens. Based on an interdisciplinary approach, we empower our pupils to be passionate lifelong learners, to achieve academic excellence and to be committed to impact the world positively.



**Shirley Hazell**  
College Principal



# WHO WE ARE

## *We empower pupils*

- to be passionate lifelong learners
- to achieve academic and personal excellence
- to be committed to impact the world positively

## Beliefs and Values

### *We believe that*

- pupils have the potential to develop in all areas within a well-thought-out, balanced and stimulating curriculum
- everyone in the community has an important role in fulfilling our mission
- learning is best achieved through inquiry, significant experimenting and meaningful problem solving
- pupils develop best in an environment which reflects a safe and supportive community
- pupils are unique and active agents in their own learning
- teachers are active leaders and role models who guide pupils to achieve their innate potential
- pupils should respect and understand their home culture and heritage and those of others
- the acquisition of fluency in English and Portuguese and the development of pupils' mother tongue are essential

## Outcomes

### *Pupils will*

- acquire and apply the IB learner profile attributes
- understand their needs, and those of the community and take appropriate action
- be responsible independent learners and critical thinkers who strive for excellence



## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Our youngest group at St. Francis starts at year level PYP 1 at 3 years of age, where children have their first contact with the academic world and a school environment.

The formal curriculum is guided by the Brazilian and the British National Curriculum and follows the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes for students aged 3 to 19.

St. Francis and its IB Continuum programmes encourage students to become active, passionate, lifelong learners. We are concerned with people as a whole.

Along with cognitive development, IB programmes address the student's social, emotional and physical



well-being. They offer opportunities for students to become active and caring members of local and global communities.

Through the IB programmes we support our pupils in becoming inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective individuals. These attributes of internationally minded people represent a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond intellectual development and academic success.







The three IB Programmes which St. Francis College offers are described below.

## PYP

ages 3-12



Preparing students to be active participants in a lifelong journey of learning, the PYP is designed for students aged 3 to 12.

It focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. It is a framework guided by six trans-disciplinary themes of global and local significance, explored using knowledge and skills and with a powerful emphasis on inquiry. It nurtures independence and learning skills and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning.

## MYP

ages 11-16



Preparing students to be successful in school and to be active, lifelong learners, the MYP is designed for students aged 11 to 16.

It provides a framework which encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. The MYP emphasises intellectual challenge, allowing students to make connections between their studies and to the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, inter-cultural understanding and global engagement, qualities which are essential for life in the 21st century.

## DP

ages 16-19



Preparing students for success in higher education and life in a global society, the DP is an academically demanding, challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepare students aged 16 to 19 for success at university and beyond.

Students are able to have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge, flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally, ethically, study at least two languages, excel in traditional academic subjects and explore the nature of knowledge through the programme's unique extended essay, creativity, activity and service and theory of knowledge course.



## SCHOOL PROFILE

We explicitly teach the skills of understanding, research and inquiry, including how to locate, evaluate and apply information so that students will develop the capacity to make informed, responsible choices throughout their lives and be able to make a meaningful contribution to the community.

We opened in 2003 and we are located in the vibrant neighbourhood of Pinheiros, in the city of São Paulo in Brazil.

Today St. Francis College has more than 750 students of over 29 nationalities. The school engages more than 100 full-time teachers of various nationalities. We are proud to have this diverse background and we truly believe it contributes to an environment of deep learning and meaningful cultural exchange among staff and pupils.

### PASTORAL CARE

St. Francis is committed to a holistic view of education. While the academic curriculum is of utmost importance, we also aim to nurture the personal development of our students; how we think and behave, as well as what we know and are able to do.

The IB Learner Profile is a neat précis of the school's desired learning outcomes. The more affective side of the Learner Profile - Caring, Balanced, Principled, Open-minded and Risk-taking - are attributes we aim to develop more thoroughly, both explicitly and often implicitly, through our Pastoral programme. From our tutorial programme through our House competitions to the preparation we provide for study and life beyond St. Francis, we develop our pupils to their fullest academic and personal potential.





## EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY

St. Francis is a lively and vibrant school, where our young children learn through inquiry and active exploration: watching, creating, experimenting, investigating and discovering. In our school they are stimulated to develop their skills and attitudes in order to grow as confident learners.

The teaching and learning process is based on constructing knowledge related to themes of local

and global significance. Teachers work as mediators to optimise each child's individual progress through a transdisciplinary programme of education. It starts at Alpha year level, progressing through the Primary Years Programme.

### IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The PYP is designed for students aged 3 to 12, and offers a comprehensive, inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning. It provides an internationally designed model for concurrency in learning, and incorporates guidelines on student learning styles, teaching methodologies and assessment strategies.



# SECONDARY

In Secondary, our IB Continuum offering moves on to the Middle Years Programme (MYP), a five-year programme for pupils between the ages of 11 and 16. The programme enables students to inquire on a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally. The outcome is young people who are creative, critical and reflective thinkers. In the final year of the MYP, pupils complete portfolio-based assessment tasks in their language acquisition courses (French/Spanish) as well as the arts (drama/music/visual art) and receive an official subject certificate from the IB.

They also sit the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exams from Cambridge University. The Secondary IGCSE courses are two-year

courses that form the curricular basis for the MYP 4 and MYP 5 years.

The MYP is followed by the Diploma Programme (DP), a two-year programme for pupils usually between the ages 16 and 18. The DP curriculum is made up of six subject groups and the DP core, comprising theory of knowledge (TOK), creativity, activity, service (CAS) and the extended essay (EE). Through the DP core, students reflect on the nature of knowledge, undertake projects that involve independent action and service to the community, and complete independent piece of formal research.

The Secondary school curriculum is also designed to meet the requirements set by the *Ministério da Educação* (MEC) for all schools in Brazil. At the end of DP 2, successful pupils will have both the IB Diploma and the *Certificado de Conclusão do Ensino Médio*.



# CAREERS & UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

At St. Francis College, supporting students through the sometimes challenging process of deciding what and where they want to study and guiding them through the conundrum of the university applications process, is a priority for us. This is why we have an experienced full-time Careers Advisor who meets students individually and tailors his support to specific and individual needs.

The Careers Advisor closely collaborates with the Diploma Coordinator and the Head of Secondary. As a team, we ensure that students are provided with the guidance and support they need. We follow tight policies to ensure our recommendations present each student's potential fairly and go through a revision process, before submitting them to universities.

Over the years, we have built an intricate network with universities in many different countries. This enables us to find the best fit for our students and also raises the profile of our school amongst universities. We also hold University Fairs, where both Brazilian and international institutions meet our students, providing them with valuable information about the different academic paths available to them.

Our services are enhanced by our Work Shadowing Programme, which is offered to DP 1 students. Organised by parents, students have the opportunity to spend a week shadowing a business or profession of their interest. This gives them an inside, first-hand experience, into what working in a specific professional area is like. Careers Day is also another unique opportunity where many parents of our community come and share their experiences and knowledge about the challenges and opportunities that their professional lives have given them.

## UNIVERSITY OFFERS

When our students graduate from St. Francis they are accepted at both Brazilian and at international universities and continue to excel academically, personally and professionally.



### BRASIL

Centro Universitário Belas Artes de São Paulo  
Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing  
Faculdade de Informática e Administração Paulista  
Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado  
Fundação Getúlio Vargas  
Fundação Insituto de Administração  
INSPER  
IBMEC  
Pontífica Universidade Católica de São Paulo  
Universidade Anhembí Morumbi  
Universidade de São Paulo  
Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
Universidade Estadual Paulista  
Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie



### CANADA

University of British Columbia  
University of Toronto



### CHINA

City University of Hong Kong  
NYU Shanghai



### FRANCE

ESSEC Business School  
Montpellier Business School



### MEXICO

Universidad Iberoamericana



### NETHERLANDS

HZ University of Applied Sciences  
NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences  
Nyenrode Business Universiteit  
Saxion University of Applied Sciences  
Tilburg University  
Twente University  
University of Amsterdam  
University of Groningen  
Vrije University Amsterdam



### PORTUGAL

Universidade de Coimbra  
Universidade do Porto  
Universidade Nova de Lisboa



## SPAIN

IE University  
EU Business School Barcelona



## SWITZERLAND

Glion Institute of Higher Education



## UNITED KINGDOM

Birkbeck University of London  
Brunel University London  
Cardiff University  
City University of London  
Goldsmiths University of London  
King's College London  
Leeds College of Music  
London South Bank University  
New College of the Humanities  
Queen Mary University of London  
Regent's University London  
Royal Holloway University  
UAL: University of the Arts London  
University College London  
University of Bath  
University of Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Leeds  
University of Leicester  
University of Liverpool  
University of Manchester  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Sussex  
University of Warwick  
University of Westminster London



## UNITED STATES

Academy of Art University  
American University  
Babson College  
Bentley University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Calvin College  
Chapman University  
Claremont McKenna College  
College of William and Mary  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Emory University  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Fordham University  
Georgetown University  
George Washington University



## UNITED STATES - CONT.

Georgia State University  
Harvey Mudd College  
Hult University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Lynn University  
Manhattan College  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Michigan State University  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Nova Southeastern University  
Pace University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pepperdine University  
Pomona College  
Pratt Institute  
Purdue University  
San Diego State University  
Santa Clara University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Seton Hall University  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Tufts University  
University of California Berkeley  
University of California Davis  
University of California Los Angeles  
University of California San Diego  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Denver  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill  
University of North Florida  
University of Notre Dame  
University of San Francisco  
University of South Florida  
University of Southern California  
University of Tampa  
University of Virginia  
Virginia Tech



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Visual Art

Art is an integral part of our school curriculum. We believe in the holistic development of children. Over a period of time, specialist art educators at St. Francis have carefully crafted an art curriculum that inspires, motivates and educates. High-quality art education engages and challenges students to explore, create, reflect, and to communicate visually. Creativity is at its best when students are deconditioned from normal educational parameters. At St. Francis we believe in the art of creative thinking and in teaching our students to take risks with their ideas, and most important, to experiment.





## Music

St. Francis has a strong musical tradition. Music is a curriculum subject, with a practical base of instrumental tuition, singing, composition and listening analysis, to support students in their theoretical knowledge and their musical journey.

Whatever their ability, all pupils express themselves musically in class, and through extra-curricular groups and inter-disciplinary activities. Choirs, orchestras, smaller ensembles and bands play throughout the school. These groups perform regularly on campus, for the enjoyment of parents and staff, in an extensive programme of performances.



## Sports

St. Francis College offers a wide range of physical activities and sports to students from both campuses in the Early Years, Primary and Secondary, both within the P.E. curriculum and during extra-curricular activities (ECAs).

The College has a House System including every student from PYP 5 to DP 2. The system is used to encourage loyalty and responsibility. There are three Houses: Condors, Eagles and Falcons. Students are assigned a House as soon as they start PYP 5, or in their first week of school if they start in a different year.



## Drama

At St. Francis the appetite for drama grows at a healthy rate. Curriculum drama is a valuable opportunity at St. Francis for children to express themselves and to gain confidence and self-esteem.

Pupils step forward with great enthusiasm, and thoroughly enjoy being in the school plays. Led by our experienced drama teachers, children participate in substantial annual Primary and Secondary productions. Everyone contributes to making it an event to remember, in the spotlight or behind the scenes - in sound, lighting, costumes, make-up, set-building, publicity and stage management.

With careful preparation and rehearsals, and performances both on campus and at outside venues, our young actors and technical crew know what it's like to appear on stage in the heart of São Paulo.





## ECAs

St. Francis has a large variety of Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs). They are offered to PYP 2 (age 4) pupils and right through to DP 2 (age 18). Sports, performing arts, technology, cooking, business and entrepreneurship, arts & crafts, and music are some examples of the many ECAs offered.

They are all held after hours on campus. Some of the ECAs are held in English and other in Portuguese, as many are conducted by our own staff and others are third party hires. Many of our ECAs are unpaid and several are paid. The ECAs are announced at the beginning of each semester and options and sign-up forms sent to parents via email.

ECAs at St. Francis College are an important pillar of our school life. Students enjoy attending them and it is common for students to sign-up to at least one or more ECAs per term.



## Nutrition

We offer wholesome, nourishing balanced meals with a wide choice of dishes, including hot meals, a vegetarian option, a salad bar, rice and beans, and a variety of fresh fruit every day. The recipes have controlled amounts of fat, salt and sugar in them to ensure that our children have the correct balance in their diets.

Kitchen staff and the school's nutritionist together prepare all school meals, making sure they are cooked to perfection. Special dietary requirements which your child may have can also be met by the school.

School lunches are included in the pupil's monthly tuition and the weekly menu of snacks and lunch is shared on our website both in English and Portuguese.

## HUG (Help Us Grow)

HUG Association is a non-profit organisation which mainly consists of college parents with the support of several staff members, working together as a community, to “Help Us Grow” St. Francis College.

The association seeks to unite the parental community including extended alumni, friends and families, it supports college projects outside of the school curriculum; and supports college capital projects. Several of the projects HUG is currently involved in are the College plays (drama), Sports, College yearbook, Young entrepreneurs, Work shadowing programme and alumni events (e.g socials, workshops).



## Health & Safety Measures during Covid-19 Pandemic

The information shared in this document is pre-pandemic and several things may have been altered or adapted during Covid-19 crisis. On our campus we follow strict health & safety protocols. All individuals are requested to test for Covid-19 every week and a negative result must be reported to the school to be allowed on campus. Masks are obligatory at all times even for those that have been fully vaccinated. Door sanitizer mats, hand sanitiser stations and many other cleaning facilities are available on campus.





## CONTACT US

For further information on the school with regard to the curriculum, school hours, uniforms, transport and more, please contact us.

Our admissions department will be glad to assist.

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