Table of Contents

Ashgabat International School
Mission Statement 3
School Information 4
School Calendar 2019-2020 5
School Fees 2019-2020 6
School Fee Policy 7
School Schedule 9
Special Services, Programs, and Facilities 10
Educational Program 12
Educational Model Summary 14
Student Evaluation 15
QSI Philosophy and Objectives 16
Brief History of Quality Schools International 18

Ashgabat International School
Berzengi, Ataturk Street
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Director: Patrick Doherty
E-mail: patrick-doherty@qsi.org

Telephone: (99312) 48-90-27/8
Fax: (99312) 48-90-28
Website: www.qsi.org or Ashgabat.qsi.org
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 neighbor 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, an elementary and secondary 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:
1) All students can succeed.
2) Success breeds success.
3) 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 and French are offered as foreign languages during the school day, and Turkmen language and Turkmen history and culture courses are offered after school. The school seeks to provide students with an appreciation for the rich culture and history of Turkmenistan through field trips and ‘Week Without Walls’ 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:

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

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 three times each school year, but parents may request conferences at any time.

Transportation
The school offers bus transport. Routing locations and cost 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
Native English-speaking, certified, experienced teachers from western countries are employed for most full-time teaching positions. Teachers from Turkmenistan and other countries are hired for instruction in specific areas.

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).

Accreditation
Ashgabat International School is fully accredited in the United States by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA).
**School Calendar 2019-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Quintile 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 22 August 2019</td>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 22 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 13 December 2019</td>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 14 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of School Days: 72</td>
<td>Holidays: Turkmenistan Independence Day 27 Sep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Term 2</strong></th>
<th><strong>Quintile 2</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 06 January 2020</td>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 15 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 27 March 2020</td>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 13 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of School Days: 54</td>
<td>Holidays: Fall Break 28 Oct 01 Nov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Term 3</strong></th>
<th><strong>Quintile 3</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 30 March 2020</td>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 06 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 12 June 2020</td>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 24 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of School Days: 54</td>
<td>Holidays: Professional Development 18 Jan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>General Information</strong></th>
<th><strong>Quintile 4</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The school week is MONDAY - FRIDAY</td>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 25 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of School Days: 180</td>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 22 April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Quintile 4</strong></th>
<th><strong>Quintile 5</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 25 February</td>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 23 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 22 April</td>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 12 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holidays: International Women’s Day 09 Mar</td>
<td>Holidays: Constitution Day 18 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Quintile 5</strong></th>
<th><strong>Holidays:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 23 April</td>
<td><strong>Winter Break:</strong> 16 Dec 03 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 12 June</td>
<td><strong>Fall Break:</strong> 28 Oct 01 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holidays:</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Holiday:</strong> 14 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Professional Development:</strong> 15 Nov 16 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Neutrality Day:</strong> 12 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Winter Break:</strong> 16 Dec 03 Jan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Quintile 2</strong></th>
<th><strong>Holidays:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 15 October</td>
<td><strong>Fall Break:</strong> 28 Oct 01 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 27 March 2020</td>
<td><strong>School Holiday:</strong> 14 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of School Days: 54</td>
<td><strong>Professional Development:</strong> 15 Nov 16 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holidays:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Neutrality Day:</strong> 12 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Winter Break:</strong> 16 Dec 03 Jan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Quintile 3</strong></th>
<th><strong>Holidays:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 06 January</td>
<td><strong>Professional Development:</strong> 18 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 24 February</td>
<td><strong>International Women’s Day:</strong> 09 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holidays:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Break:</strong> 16 Mar 20 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Quintile 5</strong></th>
<th><strong>Holidays:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Day:</strong> 23 April</td>
<td><strong>Constitution Day:</strong> 18 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Day:</strong> 12 June</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break:</strong> 16 Mar 20 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Fees 2019-2020

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

Capital Fund Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-Year-Old Class &amp; Older</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fee</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>1st Term</th>
<th>2nd Term</th>
<th>3rd Term</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>23 Aug. 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 Dec. 1919</td>
<td>27 Mar. 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Tuition Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-Year-Old Class &amp; Older</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fee</td>
<td>$20,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Part-Day</th>
<th>Full-Day</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Term</td>
<td>$7,900</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
<td>23 Aug. 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Term</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
<td>13 Dec. 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Term</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
<td>27 Mar. 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2-3-4-Year-Old Class
No Capital Fund Fee is required for these classes. Also, there is no discount available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Fee</th>
<th>Part-Day</th>
<th>Full-Day</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6,400</td>
<td>$8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Part-Day</th>
<th>Full-Day</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Term</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>23 Aug. 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Term</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
<td>13 Dec. 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Term</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
<td>27 Mar. 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 1st 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 1st 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 2nd lower term fee and capital fund fee
* 2nd Term: higher 1st term fee and capital fund fee
* 3rd Term: 3rd 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 1st term fee and capital fund fee and the 3rd 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. 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 $100 each will be given for full term payments received on or before the due dates. An additional discount of $200 will be given if the full annual payment is completed on or before the first of October. Thus, a total discount of $500 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 $400. There is no discount available for preschool programs or scholarship students. Organizations and parents must complete a discount form to receive the discount. Discounts will be reversed for students who withdraw before the end of the year and are given a tuition refund.

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
Payments may be made by check, bank transfer, or cash. For US Dollar checks drawn on banks other than banks in the USA, there is a US $100 charge to compensate for collection delays and bank charges.

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.
School Schedule

School Hours
- 2-3-4-year-old class half-day: 8:12 AM – 12:00 PM
- 2-3-4 year-old class full-day: 8:12 AM - 3:45 PM
- 5-year-old through 11-year-old classes: 8:12 AM - 3:45 PM
- 12-year-old through Secondary IV classes: 8:12 AM - 3:45 PM

Snack
All students are expected to bring a snack to eat during recess.

Lunch
Ashgabat International School has a kitchen and cafeteria, and cooks 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 the kitchen. In addition, bottled water is available to students. 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 or www.qsi.org

Newsletter: Week at a Glance
The newsletter is distributed via email every Friday, along with Russian translation. Newsletters are also archived on the school’s website.

School Buses
Four school buses transport students to and from school, for an additional fee. To arrange bus service, ask for information in 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, Turkmen, and Spanish as a second language.
• Advanced 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, 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 to other countries in the region for international competitions. 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 31st 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 and teachers. 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 end 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 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 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, Turkmen, 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. Additionally, the school offers the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program, which may lead to the AP Capstone Diploma.
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:

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

- a) All Students can succeed;
- b) Success breeds success;
- c) 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 "D" or "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:**
- a) 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.
- b) To employ teachers who have acceptable values and who believe that their life style should be a positive influence on their students.
- c) To employ teachers directly from outside of the country, if necessary, to provide experienced and successful teachers for specific positions.
- d) To employ enough teachers to maintain reasonably small class sizes.
- e) To help teachers meet the individual needs of students by employing selected paraprofessionals.
- f) To provide spacious buildings and classrooms which are functional yet include local architectural designs with a view to blending into the local environment.
- g) To test each student in reading and mathematics upon initial enrollment to ensure a proper entry level in these classes.
- h) 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:**
- a) 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.
- b) To ensure that the student knows what learning tasks are expected.
- c) To provide appropriate learning experiences and allow each student sufficient time on a task to be able to experience success.
- d) To provide additional learning experiences, if mastery is the goal and if the task is not mastered after the initial teaching/learning experience.
- e) 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.
- f) To evaluate students in a way in which a student competes against himself rather than against a fellow student.
- g) To inspire students to help them see what they can be and what they can accomplish with a view to excellence and creativity.
- h) To provide a positive school atmosphere by working with a cooperative spirit, giving support to one another, and encouraging a high morale and efficiency within the staff.
Areas of Learning:

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

Social Behavior:

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

Cultural Awareness

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

Environmental Awareness

a) To develop an awareness of environmental concerns such as overpopulation, pollution, waste of natural resources, destruction of wildlife and natural areas, and personal health.
b) To promote a concern for the protection of the environment.
c) To provide activities and projects for students which involve them in improving the environment.
A Brief History of Quality Schools International

Quality Schools International (QSI) is a nonprofit organization operating international schools around the world. Mr. H. Duane Root, current Vice President of QSI, and Mr. James E. Gilson, current President of QSI, co-founded Quality Schools International to address the need for international schools in new locations.

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. Continuing expansion has resulted in an organization that today offers excellence in education in 31 countries.

**QSI Headquarters** is managed by the Director of Operations and located in Ljubljana, Slovenia. QSI Headquarters departments include: Personnel; Legal; Finance; Technology; Development; Resource & Curriculum; Accreditation & Information; Marketing & Conferences; and Insurance. The QSI President resides in the United States.

**QSI Regional Supervisors** are located in regional locations. Regional supervisors provide guidance and support to designated QSI schools. Specific regions are divided as follows:

- Africa and Europe
- Balkans and Caucasus
- Central Asia
- Central and South America
- East Asia

**QSI United States Business Office** is located in Wilder, Idaho, USA. This office expedites financial transactions for QSI.

**QSS (Quality Schools Services)** is located in Wilder, Idaho, USA. The following offices are housed there: Vice President, 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.