



## Update on TASIS Developments

Parent Reception: February 7, 2018



At the start of his presentation, TASIS Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff noted that the very strong turnout at this event demonstrated the interest and investment parents have in this unique institution.

## Welcome and Introductions



Mr. Nikoloff introduced members of the TASIS Board of Directors and the TASIS Parent Association (TPA) and praised them for all their work on behalf of the School.

## Your new Headmaster



Mr. Nikoloff discussed his childhood in upstate New York and mentioned how his time working on farms motivated him to get a good education.

## Christopher Nikoloff, Headmaster



Ecole Bilingue  
de Berkeley **eb**



  
HARKER



Mr. Nikoloff further discussed his background and talked about what he learned from his time at Boston University (did his BA and MA there and learned about eternal truths and true scholarship), Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley (an international school in Berkeley, CA, with a French-American curriculum), the highly regarded Harker School (spent 18 years there—12 as Headmaster), and Santa Clara University (earned an MBA).



## TASIS Headmaster



All of those experiences helped lead Mr. Nikoloff to TASIS, and he is extremely happy to be here.



Mr. Nikoloff in downtown Lugano with his wife Corina; their sons Alexander (grade 6), Anthony (grade 4), and Andreas (Kindergarten); and their dog Gracie.

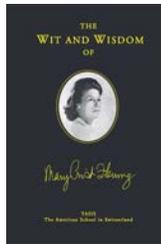
## Agenda



- Educational Philosophy
- Financial Model
- Future Plans

Mr. Nikoloff introduced the main agenda for the evening.

## Educational Philosophy



“Fill all their waking hours with commitment to study, sports, the arts, and responsibility to others. Instruct—**stretch** them in all areas. They don’t know the amazing potential they have!”

Mr. Nikoloff shared a favorite quote from TESIS Founder M. Crist Fleming and noted that it is our job at TESIS to make sure each student “leaves no potential behind.”

## TASIS Mission



Timeless **Truths**  
Western Civilization  
World Cultures  
**Past** ideals  
Purpose in the **present**  
Hope for the **future**

Mr. Nikoloff highlighted the TESIS Mission Statement and noted how it differs from what one tends to see in most schools:

*Consistent with the vision of its Founder, M. Crist Fleming, TESIS is committed to transmitting the **heritage of Western civilization and world cultures: the creations, achievements, traditions, and ideals from the past that offer purpose in the present and hope for the future.***

He also introduced the concept of perennialism, the belief that truths are universal and timeless because human nature does not change. Perennialism in education is the belief that schools should teach ideas that are everlasting.

## Educational Philosophy



“Times may change, but values don’t.”

Mrs. Fleming shared this belief.

## Core Knowledge



- Content-Specific
- Cumulative
- Coherent

Mr. Nikoloff transitioned into a discussion of the Elementary School’s Core Knowledge curriculum, a detailed outline of recommended content knowledge and skills to be taught in language arts, history and geography, visual arts, music, mathematics, and science from Pre-Kindergarten through grade eight.

He noted that the curriculum is unique and effective because it is *content-specific* (many schools fall into the trap of trying to teach broad skills without rooting them in specific content), *cumulative* (each year builds upon the next, ensuring steady progress), and *coherent* (other curriculums are often fragmentary and disconnected).

## Core Knowledge

“Core Knowledge is a fantastic program, particularly for an International school, as it provides children with a **core of knowledge** that is the **common ground** of **Western Civilization**.”

– Marco Ornaghi, TASIS Parent and Board Member



# Financial Model

## Family Budget

### Annual Expenses — Salary



### Capital — Loan



Mr. Nikoloff transitioned to the second major agenda item: the TESIS Financial Model. To help explain how a school is financed, he drew comparisons to a family budget, which is separated into two major categories: annual expenses that are covered by a family's regular income (food, primary education, childcare, entertainment, etc.) and capital expenses that require loans (home, car, college education, etc.)

# Financial Model

## School Budget

### Annual Expenses — Tuition



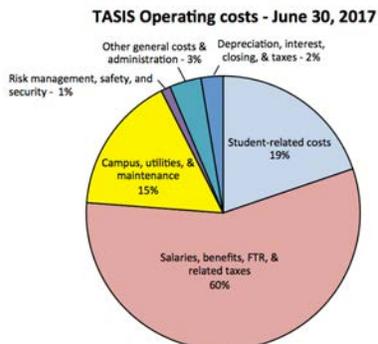
### Capital — Giving



A school's budget operates in a similar manner. Annual expenses (teacher salaries, text books, sports equipment, security, food, electricity, etc.) tend to be covered by tuition revenue, but major building projects must be financed by capital campaigns (i.e. the generosity of others).

# Financial Model

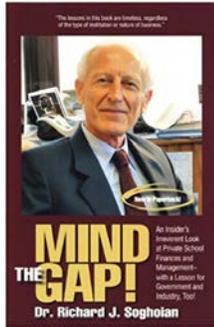
## Annual Expenses



Mr. Nikoloff shared a chart that breaks down TESIS's annual expenses into categories. He noted that the allocations are typical for a school the size of TESIS— particularly the 60 percent spent on employees' salaries and benefits.

# Financial Model

Mind the Gap



Most independent schools rely upon an Annual Fund to bridge the gap between their annual expenses and the revenue they raise through tuition. TASIS does *not* follow this model, instead accounting for *all* operating costs in its annual budget. This was a deliberate decision made by the TASIS Foundation, a non-profit Swiss foundation that was established in 2004.

# Financial Model

Summary

Annual Expenses — Tuition



Capital — Giving, Loans, Foundation, Development Fund



# Future Plans: Program

## ES Program



- American Homerooms
- More English
- More Science
- More Italian (IS & AS)
- Same Specials
- Same Lunch/Recess
- Longer Academic Day

Mr. Nikoloff transitioned to the third agenda item: Future Plans. He started by discussing some exciting changes to the Elementary School program that will begin to take effect next year. (These changes will be explained in greater detail to all parents later this month.)

## Future Plans: Program



### Effective Curriculum

*PK-12  
alignment  
articulation  
adherence  
assessment*

Mr. Nikoloff discussed the importance of aligning the School's curriculum from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 and noted that TASIS continues to make improvements in this area.

## Future Plans: Program



### Effective Classrooms

#### Teacher Professional Growth and Evaluation Plan

*planning  
engagement  
assessment  
environment  
professionalism*

Mr. Nikoloff noted how special the TASIS Faculty is—how much they love and know both their subject and the children they teach.

## Past Milestones



Palestra: 1999

Mr. Nikoloff discussed some of the impressive buildings that have been added to campus in recent years and noted how this expansion would not have been possible without the generosity of alumni, parents, and friends of the School.

## Milestones — Thank You!



M. Crist Fleming Library: 2004

## Milestones



Aurora: 2006

## Milestones



John E. Palmer Cultural Center: 2009

## Milestones



Lanterna: 2010

## Milestones



Fiammetta: 2010

## Milestones



Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center: 2012

## Milestones



Campo Science Center: 2014

As a new arrival at TASIS, Mr. Nikoloff noted how grateful he is that the School began planning for the future well in advance of his arrival. “We are all the beneficiaries of this work,” he said.

He also noted that there is still work to be done and that we must continue planning for the future.

## Future Plans — *Depending Upon Approval from Town Council*



Parking Fall 2018 Tunnel Spring 2019

Mr. Nikoloff then briefly discussed some of the plans for expanding the TASIS Global Village.

## Future Plans



Valzonico ES Classrooms  
June 2019 - Sept 2020

## Future Plans



Hadsall East Terrace ES Classrooms 2021

## Future Plans



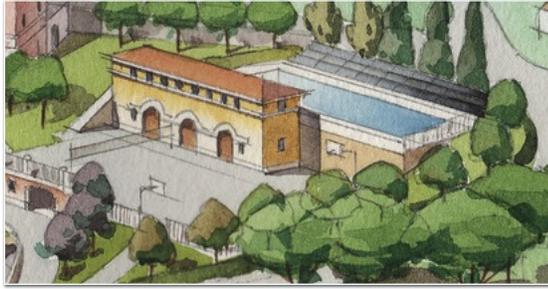
Sports Field and Greenhouse

## Future Plans



Corona Music and Student Centers,  
Classrooms and Dormitory

## Future Plans



Swimming Pool and Changing Rooms

## Future Plans



Hadsall South Wing

## Future Plans

### Immediate Benefits



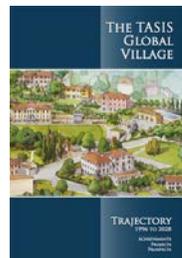
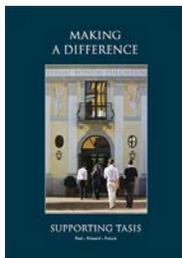
The most pressing campus needs are to improve the School's parking situation, construct a tunnel between Hadsall and the main campus (with an emphasis on safety), and add Valzonico, an Elementary School classroom building that will allow students to move from Focolare to be part of the main ES campus, further tightening the TESIS community.

## Future Plans



TASIS Global Village: 1996–2028

## Future Plans



Much more information about the School's future goals can be found in *Making a Difference*—a guide that outlines the school that Mrs. Fleming started, the TASIS Foundation, her Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership, Awards and Scholarships at TASIS, Annual Giving, the MCF Legacy Society, the different ways to give, and more—and *The TASIS Global Village: Trajectory 1996 to 2028*, which explains how supporters can be part of the change that will secure TASIS's standing as one of the most academically-challenging institutions in the world.

Hard copies of these two publications are available upon request, and digital versions can be found at <https://tasis.ch/page.cfm?p=1569>.

## Why?



**“Education is the most important concept and activity in the world, the highest calling to which we can dedicate ourselves, and the challenge is not to change the substance of true education but to defend and transmit it. Thus the only concern of a good school should be with growing stronger, with becoming more contagious in its commitment to excellence and high standards.”**

Mr. Nikoloff channeled some additional words of wisdom from Mrs. Fleming to explain why we are never satisfied at TASIS and are always looking toward the next step.