

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



One of my most important tasks as Headmaster of The Richmond School is to emphasize the distinctiveness of this educational institution while, at the same time meeting the standards of the other leading bilingual schools in Colombia. Fortunately, for the latter, we have objective benchmarks such as our standing in the national exams (ICFES) and our acceptance into *the Union Colegios Bilingues*, an association of 14 leading bilingual schools in Bogota. Our small class sizes, qualified and experienced teachers, and beautiful physical plant make us stand out here. Distinctiveness, however, is more difficult to objectively quantify. A visit to our Pre-school and Primary school will show many new developments this year in infrastructure: new floors, furniture, and a play space for Pre-school to specialized Art and Music rooms for Primary. We have also added bilingual storytelling, a life skills course, and a primary computer specialist to our academic program. In Secondary, we are continuing our emphasis on science with our students taking specialized courses in Physics, Chemistry, a Biology beginning in the 8th grade. Our 11th grade students also take special courses to help them prepare for their university careers. These courses are taught by some of our most experienced and qualified teachers. I, for example, teach the History and Politics course which Vicky Botero (Secondary Coordinator) teaches Further Math and Telmo Pena (Bienestar Coordinator) teaches Aesthetics and Philosophy. I am very proud of this increased academic rigor in our academic program. Academics is not all though. We also emphasize personal growth through a strong aesthetics program and Community Service. Together, all of the above attributes mark The Richmond School as distinct from other schools. Behind all of this, though, is our determination to motivate our students. We do this through developing challenging projects that both require and develop deep understanding within our students. These projects can range from the arts (theatrical, musical, and dance presentations) to the sciences (science fairs and experiments) and the humanities (debates and research papers). These projects not only demand that our students develop their powers of argument. but also that they used their skills of bilingual communication and technology. These projects and these skills are the key to our academically challenging program. This is where the true distinctiveness of The Richmond School lies.