



COLEGIOS  
DIACONALES



# Educational Project

San Esteban  
Díacono

San Felipe  
Díacono

San Nicolás  
Díacono

# Mission

*Based on the values of the Gospel and the Person of Christ, our school community educates men and women to grow in their personal, family and work spheres in a welcoming environment, giving the best of them to serve in the construction of a better society.*

Educando mentes y corazones



The School's education aims at encouraging each student to give their best, both in the personal and academic aspects of their lives, seeking an harmonious growth in humanities, sciences, technology, arts and sports. We focus our intention in the knowledge of Christ, prioritizing the spiritual growth and the practice of Christian values such as service and solidarity.

We educate responsible, warm, diversity respectful, joyful, creative, humble and sensitive children and youngsters based on the needs of the contemporary world. We value the richness and challenges presented in a comprehensive education, based in a warm environment, in which girls and boys (coeducational school) can live their school stage in a joyful and enthusiastic manner.

We promote the participation of students, parents, teachers, administrative staff and alumni in the achievement of the institutional goals.

The "Colegios Diaconales" ("Diaconal Schools") were born in 1987 with the foundation of "San Esteban Diacono" School. Subsequently, the "San Felipe Diacono" (1996) and "San Nicolas Diacono" (2000) Schools were founded. There are three cornerstones that shape this educational project around Christ: academic seriousness, harmonious growth and hospitality. The meditated reading of this document will provide the members of the school with a better understanding of the ideals that act as a base for this school and, at the same time, provide with the tools to assume them and put them into practice In order to turn them into a reality.

# Christ, the center of the community

The “Diaconal Schools” are Catholic and have Christ at their very core. They look in Him and his Gospel the way to channel and permanently revise their lives and educational doings.

Stephen, Philip and Nicholas were chosen as the first deacons of the Catholic Church. Stephen, a wise and just man, knew the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore the believers’ assembly chose him to serve at the table of the widows and the poor thus being called to the diaconate. Through his testimony, he fearlessly proclaimed Christ, and was apprehended and put to an unfair trial. He defended his cause with strength before those who accused him and decided to cover their ears to not listen to him. He ended his life as a martyr.

Philip gave testimony of the resurrection of Christ with such strength and conviction that all of those who would listen to him would be

astonished. With a great missionary spirit and capacity to serve, he converts Samaria to the faith of Christ and evangelizes all the cities that he would walk through. He was guided by Holy Ghost towards an Ethiopian man who then became the first man from another race to be evangelized.

Nicholas was a restless man who searched for Christ through his entire life with great strength. He became Jewish after being a pagan which is when he finds Christ. Generous, humble and a server of the servers. He was chosen among the crowd of disciples and ordained deacon thanks to his good testimony, wisdom, and faith in the Holy Ghost.

Inspired in the life of the first deacons, the School has the mission to educate men and women who aim at serving those in need and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, based on God’s will for each person and each person’s limits and strengths.

## Spiritual Dimension

Man, being at the center of the preserving work of God, was made from love, for love, for the good and for life. He was summoned to establish a personal and filial relationship with Him which is essential as it is through this relationship that all dimensions of the human being are articulated in a complex biological, psychosocial, and spiritual unit. The spiritual unit is specifically human. The human being is eminently social as he was made to live in communion with others.

The School expects its students to meet Jesus Christ and at the same time understand that adhering to Him is a personal decision. In this sense, any of the roads that people choose to take are equally respected.

The School offers the possibility to prepare for the sacrament of forgiveness, communion

and confirmation. Students will participate in periodically celebrated retreats and liturgies. They will have classes of religion from pre-k to the end of high school

Parents are expected to support the spiritual growth of their kids, encouraging an environment of unity from their homes that welcomes conversation, reading, reflection and pray. They are also invited to participate in all the initiatives organized by the School that support this purpose. These include: parents' catechesis, celebrations and parents' group work.

It is advisable that the families experience the different liturgical times so that instances such as Christmas and Easter become moments of unity and contact with the Lord.





## Service Vocation

The School makes sure that its students are educated with a social sensitivity that allows them to understand the needs of others and develop an interest in making a more satisfactory and fulfilling society.

The formation of reflection groups and communities guided by senior students or alumni is encouraged. In order to channel the faith in service, the School will connect with institutions that encourage the development of social action, with open-mindedness and disposition to serve where and whenever is necessary.

The contact with poverty and the hurt is encouraged in parents and their children in order

to develop a sensitivity that will allow them to help those in need. This will allow us to move forward in serving others, especially the weakest ones.

Students have the possibility to develop their faith and give testimony of it in missions, urban service camps and formation camps. Solidarity, the love for justice and a generous sacrifice spirit in favor of others will always be defining attributes of the students' human profile.

The families of the School have a social responsibility which is why they are encouraged to live deeply connected to the country's reality.



# Academic seriousness

The School encourages its students to develop an interest and taste for knowing and understanding the world that surrounds them. It promotes an attitude towards studying, critical thinking, as well as the responsibility and commitment with the search for truth.

It is important to contribute in forming habits and developing skills and competencies that allow each student to acquire significative and deep learning and, in turn, become permanent and curious apprentices capable of developing new knowledge.

With regards to our institutional culture, we pretend to value and prioritize the work well-done. It is a value that requires a permanent and conscious effort until it becomes a habit. Well-done work dignifies the person.

## English language

The School is conscious of the importance of a foreign language. Thus, the school encourages the teaching and learning of the English language at all levels (from pre-k to high school). This allows students to easily walk through the difficulties of the real world where English is needed

We encourage students to take international tests such as the PET and FCE (University of Cambridge).



**Cambridge English**

Exam Preparation Centre



## Deep learning

The pursuit for knowledge, the sense of observation and studying (both at the school and at home), must be concerns for all students.

The newly acquired knowledge is linked to the previous knowledge of students and, at the same time, it is related to other areas or topics. Likewise, a goal is to transfer the new knowledge to the real and day-to-day experiences incorporating, through this process, a logical and critical judgement.

Students are taught to think and are handed tools to keep learning in order to generate new knowledge so that they are capable of independently solving dilemmas and difficulties that may appear.

To put the knowledge at the service of others, starting with classmates, and applying such service in the solution of new situations or in different contexts, are reasons to feel joyful and satisfied.



## Give their best

We expect students to have a key role in their learning process so that they are not just mere receivers of the knowledge transmitted by the teachers. From this perspective, the role of the teachers must be focused on listening, guiding the students' understanding of the different contents, designing challenging experiences and supporting learning projects that may arise along the process.

We look for teachers and students that are driven by knowledge, who value the work well-done, the development of research initiatives and deep learning. We facilitate a calm environment so that kids are capable of observing, discovering, asking questions, raising hypotheses and doing research in different areas of interest.





## Active methodology

Students learn by doing, reflecting and applying knowledge. Within this process, making mistakes is considered a part of learning.

There is a special room for cooperative learning experiences which, besides boosting knowledge, provide students with the possibility to develop skills such as team work, critical thinking, as

well as planning, guidance and evaluation of individual and collective activities.

The periodical evaluation of the students aims at developing a formative feature in the students' education. The students' stimulation is prioritized over the development of purely competitive skills

# Warm and welcoming school

The educational endeavor of the School is based on love, which translates in an affectionate treatment towards those who are part of the community. The School aims at educating minds and hearts.

## Healthy cohabitation and good treatment

A positive and harmonious cohabitation is intended so that every kid and youngster learn to know and respect the other, by listening, and expressing their opinions and needs. We promote respectful dialogue to reach agreements and find solutions to discrepancies.

The School wants every student to develop the capacity to adapt and love themselves just the way they are, to support each other in every endeavor that will allow them to become better people and to contribute to the development of others in their respective homes, at School and in society.

## Open to the contemporary world

The School faces the challenge of understanding the world, characterized by the science and technical development, with the values of a comprehensive human vision of reality capable of overcoming any type of reductionist and fragmentary ideas of the world. This challenge makes us develop an academic work with seriousness and from a critical and renewed perspective, based on modern day's circumstances of time and place.

The School supports the development of a proper critical spirit of students that allows them to discern between diverse options and opinions so that they can develop a solid and well-based judgement about reality. From the formative area, several and wide experiences are offered towards the encouragement of self-care and the care of others, the commitment with the natural and social environment, and the practice of a responsible citizenship. Some activities that facilitate the expression of this spirit involve: Student Councils, the development of class community, service learning, service missions, urban colonies, scouts and mentorships.

## Austerity

Everything matters. Not everything is acceptable just because others do it. We are not easily controlled by the world values: money, social reputation, power. We have values that we want to assume in a timely and adequate manner. These values are hierarchized according to their connection to God, man and all other creatures.

A lifestyle of truthfulness, austerity, responsibility, honesty, service spirit, cordiality, participation, open-mindedness, tolerance and prudence are encouraged.

The School wants its students to be warm and joyful, capable of appreciating the goods that are provided to them and understanding that their commitment and responsibility towards society is even greater to the extent of the abundance of these goods.

It is essential to value the dignity of work. It is important to appreciate it even more, without giving too much importance to the economic success that usually undermines the vocational sense and affects the personal and family development.



## Diversity

Diversity among students and their families nurtures the School's educational project. Among students, this is expressed by the degree of development of skills that are presented in the cognitive, social, emotional, athletic and artistic dimensions. Among families, this is manifested in the cultural, value-based and religious aspects.

The School welcomes and promotes heterogeneity as it facilitates the learning process of students, a healthy school cohabitation and the common good.





# Harmonious growth

The education aims at the person in an integral manner. It considers the fact that each being is unique and inimitable, called to freedom, conscious, responsible and in constant search for the sense of life. This is the base for the need to develop, in a harmonious manner, the aesthetic, intellectual, athletic, cultural, social and psychological capacities of the students. The workshops and academies are options that facilitate the discovery and development of such abilities.

## Arts

The School puts special emphasis in the development of the artistic, musical, cultural, and creative skills of its students. Workshops are organized so that students can improve their skills, exhibitions will be put up and spaces will be open so that the personal and collective creativity are encouraged.

Students participate in cultural activities by visiting museums, attending plays, or listening to

music. Likewise, the School offers its infrastructure for the development of this type of activities that go in benefit of the school community.

## Healthy habits and sports

The promotion of mental and physical health are goals that shape the academic and educational programs of the School. The understanding of the importance of a healthy life, the addition of habits related to healthy eating, the systematic practice of exercise and proper sleep hours are goals that will be worked on together with the families.

Special importance is given to programs related to self-care, the prevention of drug use and responsible sexual and affective experiences.

Physical education and sports are understood as spheres that help students acquire knowledge and respect for their bodies and, at the same time, contribute to develop motor and social skills that are coherent with their growth.



We stimulate sport training so that students discover the respect for healthy competition. Sports allow for an adequate develop of perseverance, responsibility, perseverance, commitment, hygiene, leadership, teamwork and social integration of students.

The participation in competitions between the “Colegios Diaconales” and other schools will facilitate the familiarity with other young environments and will develop a sense of identity and belonging to their respective educational communities.

## Leadership

The School wants its students to be confident in their value and to develop the skills that will allow them to be true leaders in whatever endeavor they need to lead.

The leader we want to shape is a server that focuses his action in favor of the group or community in which he participates. Through a service-based leadership, the leader will gain authority, respect and adhesion to the values he promotes and the goals he aims at achieving.



## Responsible citizenship and sustainable culture

The family and school environments are welcoming of the different cultural expressions. To know their country, their people, to have a clear opinion on the historical and current events, will help students to be better citizens, to take care of our patrimony and civic culture.

Sensitivity and ecological commitment are encouraged. The goal is to value the richness of the natural environment and the conservation of nature through daily recycling, reutilization and reduction habits. Students are protagonists in the care of the environment by leading a sustainable consciousness.

The school community must contribute to the sustainable development of our world in order to satisfy the needs of the current and future generations. Lastly, we expect that the development of these ideas, in the light of the experience of each School, bring this document to life based on the founding values of the “Colegios Diaconales”.

However, this document is also a dynamic and improvable declaration that we must complement and enrich with other diaconal documents and the support of the entire school community.



## SAN ESTEBAN DIÁCONO

-  Lo Beltrán 8751  
Vitacura
-  227542500
-  [sanesteban@colegiosdiaconales.cl](mailto:sanesteban@colegiosdiaconales.cl)
-  [@sanestebandiacono](https://www.instagram.com/sanestebandiacono)
- [www.colegioSED.cl](http://www.colegioSED.cl)



## SAN FELIPE DIÁCONO

-  Camino Lonquén P. 4½  
Calera de Tango
-  228284800
-  [sanfelipe@colegiosdiaconales.cl](mailto:sanfelipe@colegiosdiaconales.cl)
-  [@sanfelipediacono](https://www.instagram.com/sanfelipediacono)
- [www.colegioSFD.cl](http://www.colegioSFD.cl)



## SAN NICOLÁS DIÁCONO

-  Carretera General San Martín P. 21  
Condominio El Algarrobal, Colina
-  227978700
-  [sannicolas@colegiosdiaconales.cl](mailto:sannicolas@colegiosdiaconales.cl)
-  [@csannicolasdiacono](https://www.instagram.com/csannicolasdiacono)
- [www.colegioSND.cl](http://www.colegioSND.cl)





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