

GOLESTAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





In response to parents' demand, Golestan moved to a larger campus and expanded its preschool program into a multilingual transdisciplinary elementary school.

"We have found Golestan to be a key part of our family life over the last six years.

The philosophy of the school really resonated with us. We wanted to raise our kids in a way that nurtured their minds and souls, and foster characteristics in them such as compassion, respect, and creativity.

The teachers and other kids have become like another family to our kids. When I take my kindergartener for the after-school program, she often sighs when she arrives and says, 'I love Golestan!'"

*-Lina Nazar
(Roshan, Aziza, and Layla's mother)*

GOLESTAN SCHOOL

As of September 1st, 2018, Golestan is an International Baccalaureate* (IB) candidate school for the Primary Years Program (PYP). IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education. In September, 2018 we expanded our commitment to global citizenship by immersing our students in Arabic, Hebrew, or Persian languages and others in the future.

Instruction in our new multilingual K-5 elementary school includes two hours of instruction in English every morning, and an additional one to two hours in two of the other three languages each day.

Golestan school celebrates the heritages and cultures of these communities, and builds a strong academic foundation in each and every child. It is a microcosm of the global society we envision for a peaceful future.



GOLESTAN SCHOOL

Golestan creates learning spaces that nurture children to be kind, compassionate, erudite, and confident. We instill in them a sense of place and purpose in our rapidly changing multi-cultural world and equip them so that they may be a force of positive change in the future.



HISTORY



Born out of a weekly playgroup of a handful of Iranian-American families, Golestan was founded in 2007 as the first Persian language immersion preschool in the US. Today, Golestan continues to immerse students in a loving environment that challenges them physically and intellectually, and nurtures their sense of self in the context of their community and the larger world. The school's unique pedagogy has become a model for other educators around the world.

In January 2016, Golestan was the first preschool to be selected as an *Ashoka Changemaker School*.



We join an esteemed group of institutions where “students are learning the essential skills of empathy, creativity, thoughtfulness, leadership, and teamwork so they can thrive in the modern world and find solutions to our most complex problems.”

TODAY



Golestan is a place where students nurture their love of learning, their humanity, and their innate sense of justice.

It is a school where every child is empowered to create positive change in their world by being resourceful, kind, innovative, and engaged.

It is a school where the individual child and the collective community of children are equally valued.

It is a school that smells like baked bread, tastes like fresh greens, and sounds like the United Nations.

"Golestan has given me a wider, more panoramic, view of the world. It has opened my mind to new perspectives on the way people think and feel.

Golestan has [metaphorically] put more windows in my mind for a better view of what kind of life I really want to live. It has also given me friendships and community - it's a place that feels like home."

-Kian Stromberg (14 year old founding student)

PEDAGOGY

"Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun."

- Mary Lou Cook



PEDAGOGY



Using a hands-on, experiential approach to learning, Golestan cultivates curiosity, kindness, a love of nature and beauty, self-expression and critical thinking. We do this by:

- Integrating **experimentation** and hands-on exploration into **multiple disciplines** and a rich and challenging curriculum we enable our students to learn extraordinarily complex content.
- **Nurturing** our students' intrinsic **curiosity** and deep love of learning by creating a learning environment that is filled with opportunities for inquiry and practice in all disciplines.
- **Teaching by example**, we immerse our students in **kindness** so they grow up with an acute sense of fairness and integrity and pass those values on to those whose lives they touch.
- **Modeling** environmentalism and **love of nature** for our students, the future stewards of our planet.
- **Creating** beautiful spaces because when children feel the love and care that adults put into creating a learning environment that is filled with **beauty**, they feel more valued and respected.
- **Encouraging** students to express themselves freely, without inhibition or risk aversion. The practice of **self-expression** and **critical thinking** nurtures creativity, supports healthy self-esteem, and develops self-confidence.

PEDAGOGY

We use an intradisciplinary approach to teaching math, science, social studies, art, physical education, geography, and language arts. With project-based, hands on learning, these core subjects are integrated such that our students experience them in the big-picture context of the world they live in.

Students learn biology on the working farm, chemistry in the kitchen, physics in the maker's lab, and complex math in the outdoor art class. We make their learning relevant.

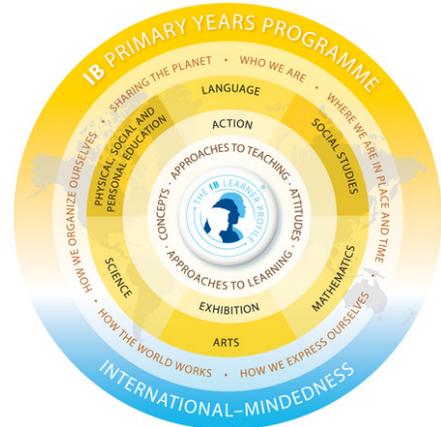


CURRICULUM

As of September 1st, 2018, Golestan is an International Baccalaureate* (IB) candidate school for the Primary Years Program (PYP). This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education. IB is a proven international educational program that challenges students to excel in their studies, and encourages both personal and academic achievement. Taught in over 109 countries, the curriculum is standardized across borders and is known for its rigorous academic requirements.

Students in the IB Program:

- Are encouraged to think **independently** and to drive their own learning;
- develop a strong **academic** background while developing **social and emotional** skills;
- become more **culturally aware**, through the development of a second or third **language**;
- are better able to **engage** with people across cultures in an increasingly **globalized**, rapidly changing world.



There are many synergies between the IB curriculum and Golestan's established pedagogy. Both support project-based, integrated, experiential approaches to learning. Both also focus on the whole child, apply a Socratic approach to inquiry, teach from a global perspective, and support students to become proactive and caring lifelong learners.

**Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programs: the Primary Years Program (PYP), the Middle Years Program (MYP), the Diploma Program (DP), or the Career-related Program (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.*

For more information about the IB and its programs visit <http://www.ibo.org>.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

For the past decade, Golestan has refined and developed its approach to language immersion through its Persian language preschool and after school programs.

Our elementary school takes this approach to a new level by immersing *all* students in the following languages: Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian. Students receive instruction in English for two to three hours every day, the rest of their time at school is spent immersed in two of the three secondary languages mentioned above (for example, one hour of Persian in Maker's Lab and one of Hebrew in PE). All students receive the same exposure to all languages.

These immersive experiences take place in enrichment activities such as physical education, art, cooking, music, gardening, maker's lab, etc. and are tied to the IB curriculum and academic disciplines such as math, social studies, and science. This ensures that our students' language repertoire is not only vast but rich.

Once students' spoken fluency is refined, then they are introduced to reading and writing in the other language tracks.



CURIOSITY

The most valuable gift we can give a child is to preserve and nurture her innate passion for learning. At Golestan, we cultivate a child's intrinsic curiosity and deep love of learning. Our rich curriculum is *always* implemented with hands-on projects that promote trial and error. Within the structured setting at Golestan, each child is encouraged to experiment, explore, and express herself freely.



Golestan Kids
Are Immersed
in Curiosity

"It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education." -Albert Einstein

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

How many of us have learned more on the job than in school? One day, our students will tell a different story.

Creativity is the root of innovation. By integrating experimentation and hands-on exploration in multiple disciplines and a rich and challenging curriculum, we provide our students the opportunity to learn extraordinarily complex content. They learn it deeply because they truly understand it. By extension, a passion for learning coupled with trial and error, develops exceptional creativity and problem solving skills that will serve our students well for the rest of their lives.

*"I make more mistakes than anyone else I know, and sooner or later, I patent most of them."
- Thomas Edison*



Golestan
Kids Are
Immersed in
Experiential
Learning

KINDNESS



Golestan Kids
Are Immersed
in Kindness

Kindness is the cornerstone of everything we do. Just as we immerse our students in the Persian language, we also immerse them in kindness; from our teachers' training, to our conflict resolution techniques for children, to the fresh flowers we put in every classroom.

We consciously teach by example, and as a result, Golestan kids grow up with an acute sense of fairness and integrity. By extension, they pass these values on to all those whose lives they touch.

*"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart."
- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

NATURE & BEAUTY



Golestan Kids
Are Immersed in
Nature & Beauty

When a child feels the love and care that adults put into creating a beautiful environment for him, he feels more valued and respected. In turn, he will not only internalize these values, but he will be more grounded and connected with the world around him. He will be more kind. More focused. More happy. These individuals are the future stewards of our planet. They must value its beauty to want to preserve it.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead*

NEW LOCATION

Indoor/Outdoor Spaces for Learning, Moving, and Experimentation.



A priority at Golestan is to maintain a tranquil, beautiful environment that provides comforting spaces for learning, community, and play.

Underpinning this effort is the belief that physical spaces of learning and interaction are integral to education.

We converted a conventional blacktop playground into a natural oasis. Our classrooms have seamless indoor/outdoor spaces that are connected to an interactive and dynamic playground that is filled with challenging obstacle courses, movable parts of all different shapes and sizes, a small fruit orchard, a restful hammock garden, and as many trees as we could squeeze in.

Concept aerial map of our outdoor classes and playground.

A TYPICAL DAY IN KINDERGARTEN



9:00: Community reading (parents encouraged to participate if possible)

9:30: Morning circle

9:50: Snack (family-style)

10:00: Program specific curricular project

11:10: Lunch (family-style)

11:30: Outdoor free play (rain or shine)

12:20: Reading and quiet self-directed activity

1:00: Math/Science Centers or PE (Hebrew)

1:30: Math/Science Centers or Garden (Arabic)

2:30: Afternoon Snack (family style)

2:40: Outdoor classroom activity

3:00: Pick up (after school program, optional)

WEEKLY SOCIAL CULTURAL STUDIES

Every Friday our students learn about a different country and are **immersed** in that culture: they hear the **music** when they enter the school, they smell the scent of the **spices** that are used to prepare their **meal** that day, and they participate in **projects** that support the learning about that particular country and its culture.

Students also learn basic vocabulary (counting, greetings, etc), and the country's geography, history, climate, animals, and other facts of interest. We often bring someone of that heritage to lead community circle that day.

In addition to promoting cultural literacy, when integrated with other programming such as geography, history, and language arts, the student's experience and learning are all the more profound.

At Golestan, students gain a deep appreciation for their own heritage(s) and culture(s), in addition to the world at large. Our diverse group of families play an integral role in this as they add their own cultural traditions and experiences to the rich fabric of the school's community.



FOOD PHILOSOPHY



At Golestan, the kitchen is the heart of our school. We only serve whole foods, and all meals and snacks are prepared in-house by our chef. We even bake our own bread and crackers!

All ingredients are fresh and organic, and our produce is local and seasonal. Our meat is grass fed, pastured, free range, and comes directly from Marin Sun Farms.

We make exception to the local/seasonal rule on social cultural days when our chef prepares foods from the country the students are studying that week.

Mealtimes are more than a break for nourishment. They are a time to come together, talk, and build community.

For all lunches and snacks, children sit around a table with their teachers and enjoy family-style meals.

After the meal, students sing a song to thank the chef and help clear the tables. In this and many other ways, they practice kindness, community, and gratitude.

By integrating math, literacy, science, and social studies in our cooking classes, all our students become skilled intuitive cooks.

FOOD PHILOSOPHY

With a footprint of nearly one acre, the size of our site enables our students to participate in planting and tending an enormous edible garden.

As they build our new farm, students will participate in all aspects of its development and maintenance. From tending to the animals and collecting eggs, to planning, planting, harvesting, and production. They will be preparing and sharing the foods, and of course, processing and studying the composted waste.

The gardening and cooking classes are platforms to learn math, social sciences, language arts, history, geography, biology, ecology, botany, chemistry, physics, community building, and social engagement.

All these programs are integrated with the International Baccalaureate curriculum for much deeper and relevant learning.

Who doesn't enjoy learning fractions in a kitchen?





*"Happiness, not in another place but this place...
not for another hour, but this hour."*

- Walt Whitman

ENROLLMENT

**For information about our enrollment process:
please visit: www.golestankids.com/enrollment-process
and Email us at info@golestankids.com to schedule a tour.**

**If you are interested in enrolling your child in Golestan's elementary school,
please visit www.golestankids.com/application/program-application-inquiry-forms/**

Applications are processed in the order they are received.

ENROLLMENT

**Golestan is now located at the Berkeley, Kensington, El Cerrito Triangle at:
320 San Carlos Ave, El Cerrito 94530**

www.golestankids.com :: info@golestankids.com :: 510.704.8541

www.GolestanKids.com/Primary-School



"All is connected..."



"...no one thing can change by itself." -Paul Hawken



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