

Sjálundsskóli – Willing and Respectful

Sjálundsskóli began operations in October 2005. From the beginning, we have set ambitious goals in education. Emphasis is given to individualized learning, creativity, flexibility and a democratic style of education. For these elements and more, the school received the Icelandic Education Award 2011.

Emphasis is placed on creating a positive school atmosphere and a good working spirit. Everyone in school strives to promote and maintain good morale. The safety, health and well-being of our students and staff is paramount. We honor mutual trust, respect, shared responsibility and courtesy. We take the needs of individual students and their need to feel a sense of belonging into account. At Sjálundsskóli, we believe in building an environment which is nurturing, yet stimulating, so that students may develop creativity and resilience. Our staff uses their expertise to create interesting and challenging learning opportunities designed to give each student the opportunity to grow and flourish. This helps us reach our goal of preparing our 21st century learners to become independent, responsive and active members of society.

The School Environment

Sjálundsskóli is a comprehensive elementary school for Grades 1 to 10. In our flexible school environment, we create diverse learning opportunities and group work. We emphasize and nurture the bond among the school, the community and nature through the creek that flows under the school building, the bay that is next to the schoolyard and the lava field that is within walking distance. The main priorities for learning at our school are: individualization, theme work, creation, expression, movement and outdoor education. The younger students start the school in our great hall with daily morning singing; something proven to start the school day successfully. Sjálundsskóli is committed to promoting health and environmental issues to its students and staff; We are a Green Flag school as a result of our hard work with environmental issues.

Teenage Level – Ambition and Empathy

In our teenage level (13-15 years old), we use information technology in teaching and learning, including our iPad program. Hardworking students in grade 10 can choose to attend a distance learning program in Secondary school. We also use the thematic approach when teaching science, social studies and life skills through large-scale research projects. Arts, crafts and sports are an important part of education. Each student participates in 12 elective courses during the school year, which the student can choose from approximately 50 different options. These include school health, Italian cuisine, baking, computers, music, sculpture, golf, painting, felting, knitting and crocheting, kayaking, mountaineering, hiking, German and French.

Art and Work in a Beautiful Teaching Environment

Sjálundsskóli is an exceptionally beautiful and well-equipped school. Great emphasis is placed on art and hands-on education that is fully integrated with various subjects. At Sjálundsskóli, we carry out an ambitious program in music, design and woodwork, textiles, visual arts, sports and swimming under the direction of specially trained teachers in facilities which are state-of-the-art and located within one building. The school building itself is bright, colorful and cozy; as a consequence, our students feel good in their school.