

# Charging Forward: From STEM to STEAM to Soft Skills and Beyond



Dr. Lisa Dias, Head of School

**F**or today's students working to become tomorrow's innovators, leaders, and informed citizens, the standards for what it takes to succeed change almost constantly. Demand for highly-qualified, socially-attuned, and academically-accomplished individuals rising faster than ever means there's pressure on both students and educators to expand the scope of learning today. At World Academy, we've been focused on just that for close to 40 years – and the

results for our alumni have been overwhelmingly positive.

As the world of education has shifted and evolved from a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to the more-inclusive STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering, and Mathematics), students have been called on to develop their capabilities in a multitude of directions.

Tomorrow's successful college graduates should have a strong sense of science- and math-based education as well as an understanding and appreciation for the arts; they should be confidently self-assured and also socially-adept and culturally empathetic; they should live healthy, active lifestyles while maintaining their academic successes.

That's why our mission at World Academy has long been to focus on the "whole child," encompassing all of the critical parts of a child's intellectual, physical, social-emotional, cultural, and creative development. We recognize the value in letting students choose and pursue the areas of study that inspire the most passion in themselves, all while providing the resources to help them explore and succeed in a diverse body of studies to help them reach that well-rounded, exceptional potential.

Our goal is to offer an inviting culture that enables students and families to feel the ease of learning in a welcoming atmosphere. We are products of the environment we spend most of our time in, and we believe that, in addition to home, the best possible world for flourishing is one of joy and safety.

Success isn't a one-size-fits-all formula, and the changing demands of today's (and tomorrow's) universities and workplaces attest to just that. If STEM has evolved into STEAM, it's not unlikely that the needs of the future will continue to evolve even further. By focusing on the "whole child" starting as early as possible, we help students develop the tools to adapt to future change proactively, rather than reactively.

Whether you're in search of Early Childhood Care and Education for your infant or toddler or student-focused instruction for your elementary or middle schooler, it is important to understand key components of the choices available. World Academy would love the opportunity to help you become an expert in advocating for your child.