How The Idea Emerged

By Instituto de Cultura Hispánica de San Rafael

Background

In 1975, a Congress of Spanish Institutions in the Southern Cone was held in Punta del Este (Uruguay). At such Congress, there was the proposal to create Schools that promote the study of the land of origin and that strengthen ties between Spain and American host countries, educating children and young people within a framework of cooperation. That is how Spanish Schools in different cities of our country and Spanish America were created, such as Colegio Español de Rosario (Spanish School of Rosario) and Colegio Internacional Parque de España (Park of Spain International School) in Rosario; Instituto Argentino Gallego Santiago Apóstol (Saint James the Apostle Argentine-Galician Institute) and Instituto Hispano Argentino Pedro Poveda (Pedro Poveda Hispanic-Argentine Institute) in Buenos Aires; Colegio Hispano Argentino de Río Cuarto (Hispanic-Argentine School of Río Cuarto), or Colegio Español de Mendoza (Spanish School of Mendoza). In Chile 33 Spanish schools that make up a network called Red de Escuelas España (Network of Spanish Schools). There is also an Ibero-American Network of Spanish Schools called Red Iberoamericana de Colegios Españoles (RICE).

The importance of the different communities and their contribution to the Argentine culture is an undeniable truth. In several cities across the country, as well as in our city, community festivals are held. The Spanish community has been the most important one for centuries, followed by the Italian and the French communities.

Even today, if we look at data from the last National Census carried out in 2010, in San Rafael, 60% of non-American foreigners are from Spain. But if we consider people of Spanish descent, there is a huge increase in numbers. This is evident in the large number of institutions that gather people connected with the Spanish community, which currently exist in San Rafael along with our Institute.

ICH San Rafael

Instituto de Cultura Hispánica de San Rafael (ICH) (Institute of Hispanic Culture of San Rafael) was set up on April 7, 1968, and for many years it has played a major role in the San Rafael community, especially under the direction of Mrs. Hortensia Vázquez and her husband, Notary Juan Rubén Vázquez. The prime aims are: to study, to preserve and to transmit the Hispanic Culture, especially its language; to bring Hispanic culture into spiritual life in San Rafael; and to strengthen cultural forces of Hispanic origin.

The Institute adopts the motto that Charles I of Spain and Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire took as his personal motto: *Plus Ultra*, which means “further beyond”, as this Hispanic ideal is still alive and keeps Hispanic peoples united in brotherhood. The Institute intends to establish Spanish American cooperation ties.

The Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol (Our Lady of Pilar and Saint James the Apostle Spanish School) is in line with the aims of ICH San Rafael, and falls within the specific scope of the Education Committee.
Characteristics of Colegio Español

by Education Committee

In view of an increasingly complex historical and social reality, and the challenge faced by society and families, we want to broaden the educational offer in San Rafael with a school that encourages inclusion, high academic standards and a supportive environment. A school that merges the Hispanic with the Argentine roots and that seeks, from a more current pedagogical approach, to educate children and young people to fully develop their individual capacities, as well as to help them integrate into the creative dimensions of groups and social life. The Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol, which is based on a transcendent view of education and aims at developing a well-rounded individual, stems from the cultural program and the specific aims of Instituto de Cultura Hispánica de San Rafael; the Project seeks to promote learning through discovery, experience and study of scientific principles, and to enhance personal development by studying the Argentine culture and its scientific, cultural and spiritual Hispanic roots.

Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol de San Rafael is a pioneering project in our city, where there are no schools which belong to communities. We aim at educating graduates who are not only self-sufficient, fully competent and qualified, but also committed to the political, economic, social and cultural progress of their community.

This educational project seeks to integrate students into the system through a private school that will be engaged in the study of the Hispanic-Argentine roots of our culture, and where the intellectual, social and community aspects will be above the economic and cultural differences. The pillars of the project are: equity, in response to those who are at a disadvantage in the system; quality, in response to the reasonable community demands on institutions; responsibility, in response to our own demands; and cooperation, as a way of establishing ties with Spain and Spanish American peoples.

To attain these aims we set the educational project within the framework of the Provincial Education System. More specifically, this project falls within the Private Management Division of the Provincial Public Education System and is in accordance with the current regulations and open to any changes arising from the Regulation of National Education Law No. 26,206.

Aims of Colegio Español

by Education Committee

The Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol is based on a transcendent view of education and aims at developing a well-rounded individual, promoting learning through discovery, experience and study of scientific principles, and enhancing personal development by studying the Argentine culture and the scientific, cultural and spiritual Hispanic roots.

The Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol is in keeping with the prime aims of Instituto de Cultura Hispánica de San Rafael. That is why, with the opening of Colegio Español, the Education Committee will work to encourage: the study, preservation and transmission of the Hispanic Culture, especially its language; the incorporation of Hispanic culture into spiritual life in San Rafael; and the strengthening of cultural forces of Hispanic origin.
Legal Framework
How the Project relates to the current Legislation in Argentina and the Province of Mendoza, and where it will be implemented.

The Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol intends to start a non-denominational educational institution to work in conjunction with Families on the education of children and young people, especially by promoting Spanish and Spanish American brotherhood, and the values of freedom, joy and creativity combined with excellence and effort.

This Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol is in line with these objectives of ICH San Rafael and falls within the specific scope of the Education Committee; it is also set within the framework of the National and Provincial Education System, being part of the provincial public educational services of the Province of Mendoza —within the Private Management Division— pursuant to the current legislation in the Province of Mendoza and the general framework of National Education Law No. 26,206. We want to contribute to and be a integral part of a System where, as provided in Article 3 of Law No. 26,206: "education is a national priority and a State policy in order to build a just society, reaffirm national sovereignty and identity, deepen the exercise of democratic citizenship, respect human rights and fundamental liberties, and strengthen the economic-social development of the Nation"; and where, as stated in Article 4: "The national government, the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires have the primary and inalienable responsibility of providing a well-rounded, permanent and high-quality education for all the citizens of the Nation, guaranteeing equality, free access and equity in the exercise of this right, with the participation of social organizations and families."

We want to contribute to the overall objective of the System, that is to say, to provide "the necessary opportunities to advance and strengthen the well-educated education of individuals throughout their lives, and to foster in each student the ability to realize their life projects, based on the values of freedom, peace, solidarity, equality, respect for diversity, justice, responsibility and common good."

The Educational Project of Colegio Español de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago Apóstol is also in line with the provisions of Article 23 on Early Childhood Education, which empowers Early Childhood Education Institutions, both public and private: "b) Private and/or that belong to non-profit organizations, civil partnerships, guilds, unions, cooperatives, NGOs, neighborhood associations, community associations, among others." Concerning Primary Education, the project falls within the framework of Articles 26 and 27: "Primary education is compulsory and it is a pedagogical and organizational unit intended for the education of children from the age of six (6);" "The purpose of Primary Education is to provide a well-rounded, basic and common instruction."

With regard to Secondary Education, the project is set within the framework of Articles 29 and 30, which also state the compulsory nature of this level of education as well as its objectives.
Finally, we are aware that “privately-run educational services shall be subject to the approval, inspection and supervision of the competent jurisdictional educational authorities.” In our case, such authority is Dirección de Educación Privada (Board of Private Education) of the Government of Mendoza Province. The Project comes under the jurisdiction of Dirección de Educación Privada by virtue of provisions of Article 63, which confers the “right to provide these services on the Catholic Church, religious denominations registered in Registro Nacional de Cultos (National Register of Religions); societies, cooperatives, social organizations, unions, associations, foundations and entities with legal personality, and natural persons.” We are also sensible of the rights and obligations stemming from this right, which are stated in such Article.

Namely: “a) Rights: to create, manage and maintain educational establishments; to register, assess and issue nationally accredited certificates and diplomas; to appoint and propose their board of directors and their teaching, administrative and auxiliary staff; to design curricula and programs of study; to present the Institutional Educational Project as per their ideology, and to participate in educational planning.

b) Obligations: to comply with the rules and guidelines of the national and jurisdictional educational policy; to provide educational services that meet the needs of the community; to provide all the necessary information for oversight of pedagogical, financial and labor-related matters by the State.”

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### Project Phases and Costs

Budget Projection For Year 2016 (in USD):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year 2016</th>
<th>Year 2017</th>
<th>Year 2018</th>
<th>Year 2019</th>
<th>Year 2020</th>
<th>Year 2021</th>
<th>Year 2022</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Salaries and wages of teaching staff. Early and Primary Education.</td>
<td>28,484</td>
<td>17,079</td>
<td>26,292</td>
<td>5,843</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>79,024</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Salaries and wages of teaching staff. Secondary Education.</td>
<td>26,292</td>
<td>5,843</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>79,024</td>
<td>356,996</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Salaries Board of Directors. Year 2016.</td>
<td>356,996</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Salaries non-teaching staff. Year 2016.</td>
<td>356,996</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Furniture and school implements. Year 2016.</td>
<td>356,996</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Taxes and utilities. Year 2016.</td>
<td>356,996</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>Total First Triennium (Subject to variations due to inflation and collective bargaining negotiations)</td>
<td>356,996</td>
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