



PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Doulos Discovery School is a non-profit Christian school located in the rural mountains of the Dominican Republic. We exist to be a light for Christ in the community of Jarabacoa and to provide an excellent education to children from all economic and faith backgrounds. Our staff and governing leadership are non-denominational, but we do hold to traditional Christian beliefs, as held in our Statement of Faith (*see Appendix 1A*).

Doulos believes that education begins with reverence for God (Proverbs 9:10) and that He created the family as the primary source for learning. The family thrives on the support and accountability of a community and the strength and direction of a local congregation. For this reason, Doulos works with local congregations to find healthy families for our sponsorship program, and we work with all of our families to help them set their children up for success.

Our mission states that we are to *“equip and educate servant leaders through Christian discipleship and expeditionary learning to impact the Dominican Republic.”*

Equip and educate: The Doulos Discovery School (DDS) believes that children learn best by doing. Therefore, we are committed to using inquiry based instructional methods in all grades, preschool through high school. We have found these practices best anchored in Expeditionary Learning’s 10 Design Principles (*see Appendix 1B*).

DDS is equally committed to preparing tomorrow’s leaders through developing skills that are applicable to the 21st century, as stated in our Expected Student Learning Outcomes (*see Appendix 1C*). We strive to prepare our students to be competitive leaders in the world market.

Servant leaders: As Christ followers, we are called to love God and love our neighbor. This means to serve others in need. Embedded in the learning expeditions are opportunities for students to serve the community. Every spring, we reserve a week to focus on serving the community. Students thoughtfully choose a project off campus and spend three days building, planting, and painting around Jarabacoa. Our students are reminded that they are the “light of the world.. let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14,16) Servant leadership is a pervasive emphasis in expeditions, devotions, and daily lesson plans.

Christian discipleship: Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses

his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

We empower our students with a quality education, but we also temper this by helping our students follow Christ as his disciples. Our desire is that our students yield their lives in worship to God, which leads to serving Him and others. This is summed up best in John's reply to his followers regarding Jesus: "He must become greater, I must become less." (John 3:30).

Impact the Dominican Republic: DDS is the only private school in the Dominican Republic preparing kids for global competitiveness and US level college entrance that offers over 50% of its students a scholarship. This allows students from both wealthy and poor families to receive an excellent education. This is important in a country where children are isolated from each other based on their family's income level. At Doulos, friendships build bridges across these differences.

We believe that leaders come from all economic backgrounds. Our sponsored students are consistently the ones that outperform in the classroom, yet also exhibit humility. We are committed to preparing them for universities in the Dominican Republic and internationally. We believe that today's Doulos students are tomorrow's leaders.

Paul's words to the Corinthians sums this up: "Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong... so that no one may boast before him. " (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Adopted by DDM board 4.27.2011