



Welcome!

SELA: The International Private School

SELA: The International Private School is the first and only Spanish, full immersion academy in Southeastern Massachusetts. SELA was initially founded in 2004 in Cohasset, Massachusetts, as Su Escuela Language Academy, with the goal of preparing English-speaking children to excel linguistically, academically, and socially in our global society through instruction in a second and third language. In July of 2011, the school expanded and opened the doors of its current location in Hingham. Since opening the Hingham location, SELA has continued to grow and expand. SELA now offers programs for Infants through 5 years old, in addition to the Private Elementary and Middle School grades K-8.



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Welcome to SELA: The International Private School! At SELA, we treat every child that walks through our doors as an individual. Experience has taught me that every child has a unique learning style and absorbs information in a way that makes sense for him or her. We work with each student to help them succeed both academically and socially, as an individual and as part of a group.

Our immersion environment helps children to improve their cognitive and critical thinking skills, while developing proficiency in their target language. Research shows that children learning a second language often surpass their peers who study the same content solely in their native language.

Not only do SELA students develop proficiency in a second language, but they grow to become global citizens - truly understanding the world around them and gaining an appreciation for all cultures through hands-on learning and exploration.

The best way to experience what sets SELA apart from other schools is to visit! I encourage you to schedule at time to see our school in action. Our door is always open.

Sincerely,

Sandra P. Baldeon Founder, Executive Director



WE'RE SELA, NICE TO MEET YOU!

OUR MISSION

At SELA, we provide each child with a unique and personal learning experience. Every student will receive a full immersion education of the highest academic quality, through a vertically-aligned curriculum which inspires and motivates them to strive for knowledge and understanding and prepares them for challenging higher level work. SELA students will grow to be bilingual, globally competent citizens.

OUR VALUES

Multilingual

We immerse our students in a second and third language through play, research, and hands-on experimentation. We communicate confidently and creatively, in more than one language.

Community

We build strong relationships between students, teachers, and parents creating a genuine feeling of family. We value opinions and foster a warm and friendly environment.

Inquiry

We nurture curiosity, developing skills for exploration and research.

Caring

We show empathy, compassion, and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference.

Principled

We act with integrity, honesty, and we respect others. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Open-Minded

We appreciate our own cultures, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view and grow from the experience.

Balanced

We balance all aspects of our lives – intellectual, physical, social, and emotional – to achieve well-being for ourselves.

WE ARE GLOBAL CITIZENS

SELA Students are Global Citizens. We put emphasis on developing the whole child, to establish a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. An emotional intelligence component is built into the curriculum, which helps students to identify and manage one's own emotions and the emotions of others. Every month, our students are introduced to, understand, and practice the core values that make SELA a unique and strong academic community. Students are exposed to activities, literature, and songs to support these values. In our global society, conversing with and understanding people from diverse cultures is critical. SELA offers this opportunity for bilingualism at an early age to give children a better appreciation of our diverse and ever-changing world.

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL AT SELA

Global Education for Kindergarten through Grade 8

- Challenging curriculum, exceeding MA Common Core, with a Spanish and Mandarin immersion component designed for English-speaking children
- Each day students participate in classes instructed in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese
- Emphasis on small class sizes, with an average of 13 students per class
- Highly credentialed teachers, holding a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Education, many with advanced subject area degrees
- Upon graduation from grade 8, students will be fluent in Spanish, proficient in Mandarin, and at or above grade level in English



BENEFITS OF FULL IMMERSION EDUCATION

Develops critical thinking skills. Students learn to tap into their prior knowledge and experiences as they attempt to solve a problem.

Develops communication and social skills. Students must learn how to clearly articulate their ideas and collaborate on tasks effectively by sharing in group projects. Students exchange ideas, learn to "negotiate" with others, and evaluate their contributions in a socially acceptable manner.

Encourages alternative methods of assessment. Engaging creative instincts develops a student's ability to express knowledge in various ways, including transferring the new knowledge to real life.

Helps students transfer skills to the real world. Students adapt learning to the real world, gaining problem solving skills and the ability to do a critical analysis of a given set of data. These skills enable the student to adapt to a constantly changing real-world environment.

Promotes intrinsic motivation to learn. Effective teaching recognizes and validates the student's point of view, so rather than being "wrong" or "right," the student reevaluates and readjusts his knowledge and understanding.

Learn about Immersion Education in more detail [HERE!](#)

CURRICULUM AT SELA

SELA's Elementary curriculum offers a Spanish language-based education aligned with the MA common core curriculum standards, that prepares students to be eloquent communicators and impactful contributors in a rapidly changing, increasingly global society. Students engage in project-based, experiential, inquiry-based learning and master a rich curriculum while acquiring the skills to communicate across multiple fields, disciplines, and cultures.



STEM: Preparing Students for the 21st Century

Science. The science curriculum, Core Knowledge Science, implements the most recent Next Generation Science standards. With small class sizes, project-based learning is at the forefront while students get to explore and explain in the science lab daily.

Mathematics. SELA implements a unique, advanced, and hands-on mathematics curriculum for all grade levels. In each grade level, hands-on and project-based learning is constantly fostered within real world learning applications, pairing “why?” and “how?” with the “what?” of learning.

Technology & the Scratch Program. Students interact with technology throughout their day in a variety of ways. Regular visits to the technology lab, interacting with Smartboards in each classroom and participating in their weekly Scratch programming class.

Language and Culture

English Studies. SELA's English Studies adheres to the Core Knowledge Language Arts curriculum. It includes the study of grammar, usage and style, literature, English composition, and sociolinguistics including discourse analysis of written and spoken texts.

Spanish Studies. Students obtain mastery in Spanish as their second language through immersion education. SELA's Spanish curriculum is based on a Native Original from Spain, offering an organic, rigorous, and authentic learning experience that promotes fluency at all levels of communication, year-round.

Mandarin. SELA's custom-written Mandarin Program focuses on proficiency at four levels of communication: writing-reading-speaking and listening. Mandarin is taught to students daily and is seen as a core class here at SELA, rather than an elective, allowing students to graduate with a level of proficiency in this third language.

Specials. We believe that Specials are an integral part of a student's daily schedule. We offer three separate and incredibly unique programs: History and Culture, Art, and Physical Education. All specials are taught in a full Spanish Immersion style to ensure to promote and yield fluency while exploring various subjects and topics in a fun and hands-on way.

A Closer Look at SELA

SELA: The International Private School prepares English-speaking children linguistically, academically, and socially to excel through instruction in a second language. SELA strives for excellence in education, academic achievement, multi-language acquisition, and cultural insight in order to prepare our students for leadership in the 21st century. SELA creates a nurturing environment of learning from within. Our students will be prepared for the changes and challenges of the future.

What Makes the SELA Experience Unique?

Specialist Teachers. Beginning in Kindergarten, SELA students have a specialist teacher for each of their subjects because they have the experience, knowledge, and ability to draw out the best in their students. They have the passion, excitement, and motivation to teach their subject well, and students inherit this positive energy. When students witness their teacher's love for the subject firsthand, it motivates them to excel.

Differentiation & Student Achievement Philosophy. SELA feels strongly that students should be supported at all levels and understand that each student has unique learning styles and needs that should be fostered at all times. In doing so, learning becomes a custom-tailored experience while working towards and even exceeding grade level learning objectives. SELA teachers strive to become more than an educator: they become coaches of learning and engagement.

Next-Generation Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum. Social-emotional learning has been proven to enhance the academic performance of all students, improve classroom behavior, decrease instances of depression, and increase students' ability to manage stress. Calm Classroom is one of the largest providers of school-wide mindfulness training, and we are proud to bring it into our everyday practice.

Standardized Testing. SELA uses the TerraNova & LAS Links exams for standardized student assessments. SELA does not believe in focusing on the preparation or studying for these tests. Instead, students learn how to follow instructions, manage time during test taking, and answer questions which are all valuable test-taking skills that will follow them for the rest of their academic careers.

Progressive Classrooms. At SELA, each grade level classroom is designed to be progressive. In progressive classrooms, teachers design experiences for students with the intention of fostering learning opportunities that construct knowledge, build upon skills, and reach mastery of any lesson and course.

Global Citizenship Initiative. In our global society, conversing with and understanding people from diverse cultures is critical. SELA offers this opportunity for bilingualism at an early age to give children a better appreciation of our diverse and ever-changing world.

Somos Amigos. The Somos Amigos program is a partnership between SELA Junior K students with upper Elementary grades. The program is focused on SELA's monthly values, and community outreach, as well as expanding on the curriculum through collaborating on activities and projects. Somos Amigos has provided a special way to expand on these activities and foster a mentor relationship and has proven to be a valuable program for all students involved.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATIONS

Report Cards

SELA uses a learning standards base grading system for report cards for each trimester. This system of grading looks for students to master specific content areas with each lesson being broken down into specific academic skills and knowledge, allowing parents to have detailed information about their child's skills and where they may need additional instruction and support throughout the school year.



Standardized & Benchmark Testing

As a private school, SELA is not required to administer state-mandated standardized testing. However, our students do take several tests throughout the school year. SELA does not believe in focusing on the preparation or studying for these tests. Instead, students learn how to follow instructions, manage time during test taking, and answer questions which are all valuable test-taking skills that will follow them for the rest of their academic careers.

TerraNova: A National series of standardized achievement tests in English which SELA uses to assess grades 3-6 in English, Math, Science, and Socials Studies. These achievement scores indicate how well a child is doing in relation to students across the country.

LAS Links: National standardized exam used to assess grades K-6 Spanish fluency in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking as compared with benchmark learning standards of their similarly aged peers who are native Spanish speakers.

DIBELS ELA Benchmark Testing: Consists of measures of early literacy skills and is aligned with MA Common Core Standards and aims to provide our English and Reading Specialist Instructors with valuable information about each student's phonemic awareness as well as reading fluency and comprehension to further differentiate instruction in reading as needed.

IXL Math Benchmark Testing: IXL math testing assesses students in six areas of math including fractions, algebra, data and statistics, number sense, geometry, and measurement.

WHAT COMES AFTER SELA?

SELA students graduate and are accepted into some of the most prestigious Middle and High Schools in our area: Thayer Academy, Milton Academy, The Windsor School, Notre Dame Academy, Derby Academy, B.C High School, Archbishop Williams High School, Boston Latin School, The Woodward School, Inly School, and more.

SELA's **Guidance Program** is available to all students for support when looking at their transition into a new school after graduating from SELA. This transition support includes admissions processes, managing deadlines, preparing for entrance exams, and more.

Upon graduation, students are encouraged to remain involved in the community!

SELA's **Alumni Association** provides opportunities for alumni and families to stay connected with SELA and their peers while reinforcing their passion for global learning. SELA offers an internship program as well as community service opportunities as part of the Alumni Association and SELA's Global Citizenship Initiative.

Learn about SELA's Elementary Curriculum in more detail [HERE!](#)

Transitioning into SELA Elementary: a warm welcome for new students

Each year, SELA accepts new students at all grade levels into our Elementary School. With this experience, we have developed a comprehensive and meaningful process to welcome new students into the school and ensure a smooth transition.

Our process is designed to ease any stress about starting at a new school, in a language immersion setting and can be customized to individual students' needs. Students can be successfully integrated into any grade level at SELA and those who complete the transition program see amazing results by the end of their first year.



Introduction Meeting

During the Admissions Process, new families are required to attend an initial introduction meeting with the Admissions & Elementary Directors. We will discuss the transition process and how it will be made unique for your child.

Student Evaluation

During the next meeting, students are evaluated in English, Mathematics, Spanish, and Mandarin (if applicable). These evaluations help SELA teachers tailor their curriculum for their incoming students in accordance with SELA's Student Achievement Philosophy.

Summer Intro to Spanish

For our new students who have not had Spanish prior, the summer is the ideal time to offer the opportunity to become accustomed to their new school and an introduction to the new language. If a student participates in the following options, they will be off to a great start for the new school year!

SELA's Summer Program provides a fun, interactive, and immersive introduction to Spanish. The Summer Program offers students a stress-free time to build cognitive and speaking skills in the second language.

Independent Practice is encouraged to begin building literacy skills in Spanish. The IXL program offers individualized and auto-adjusted lessons, which allows students to move at their own pace.

Private Tutoring. In August, new students are invited to attend several tutoring sessions with their teacher. This helps to bring together their cognitive & speaking skills from the Summer Program, with their independent work on literacy skills, and put it all into practice prior to the start of school.

1st Trimester Support

A great deal of support is offered to all new students during their first trimester to ensure a smooth transition. In addition to classroom and homework adjustments to their level, Office Hours with teachers are available and encouraged for after-school extra support. Regular Check-In Meetings are also scheduled with parents as well as with students to ensure

Parent Support

SELA's Parent Association has a wonderful Welcome Committee to help new families settle into the school. Coffee with the Director's are also available for new families as informal times to meet with the director.

Learn about the transition into SELA's Elementary in more detail [HERE!](#)

SUMMER & VACATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

SELA's Summer Program

SELA's award winning Summer Program is based on the STEAM approach to learning, grounded in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

- Open to children from 3 months to 10 years old. Our Summer Program is open to our current or students brand new to Spanish!
- Each week children will learn, and play, guided by a weekly theme. The themes are the same for all ages, but the depth of the projects varies greatly by age groups.
- We offer full time, part time and extended day options, with flexible 2-5-day schedules
- Students enrolled in our Full-Year Program are automatically signed up for the Summer Program. Students enrolled in our Academic-Year Program can add on the Summer Program if wanted.



SELA's Vacation Week Program

SELA offers vacation week activities for children ages 3 months to 10 years old, with no prior language exposure.

- Programs offered during December, February and April school break
- Open to current students or students brand new to Spanish!
- Full time, part time and extended day schedules, with flexible 2-5-day schedules
- Students enrolled in our Full-Year Program are automatically signed up for the Vacation Week Programs. Students enrolled in our Academic-Year Program can add on the Vacation Week Programs if wanted.



Learn more about Summer at SELA in more detail [HERE!](#)

A guide to your visit.

SELA'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thanks for visiting SELA! We know there are so many things to consider when researching school for your child. Here are some questions to be used as a starting point as you make the best possible decision for your family.

Classroom Environment

What is the typical class size at SELA?

Are individual differences (learning styles and academic strengths) being accommodated?

Will my child switch classrooms throughout the day or be in the same classroom all day?

Do students work cooperatively in small groups or by themselves?

Teachers & Staff

What level of education and training do the teachers have?

Are teachers trained and certified in CPR and First Aid?

Is there ongoing training for teachers?

Will my child have a consistent group of primary teachers?

Health & Safety

How are the classrooms cleaned?

Is there a school nurse on site?

What is the illness policy?

What is your check in/out/visitor procedure?

Curriculum

How is the curriculum at SELA different from other schools?

What type of testing does SELA administer, and how often?

Do students get the opportunity to do peer presentations?

What other types of enrichment opportunities are there?

SELA Community

Is there a parent group (PTA)?

Is there opportunity for me to volunteer in my child's classroom?

Do you offer events, outside of school hours, for families to gather and meet?

Communication

How do teachers and the administration keep parents informed?

Is there a newsletter?

How often do parents meet with their child's teacher?

Are teachers available for additional meetings if needed?



How to Apply for 2024-2025 Elementary & Middle School

At SELA: The International Private School

SELA is the first and only full-immersion Spanish Language Academy in southeastern MA that prepares English-speaking children to excel linguistically, academically, and socially in our global society, through instruction in a second language. Enrollment for Fall 2024 opens January 8, 2024 and rolling admissions is available through the year.

Attend a Tour and/or Open House

SELA offers several options for families to learn about SELA.

- Tours are available to be scheduled M-F 9:30-12:00, click [HERE](#) to schedule one.
- Open Houses are available in October, November, December, and January. Visit our website to learn more.

Submit Application and Enroll Through TADS

Submit Application and \$65 Application Fee through the TADS program [HERE](#), or through this code →



Once Application is submitted, you will hear from the Admissions Department to confirm whether there is a spot available for your selected program and schedule, and your application is accepted, or if your child will be placed on a waitlist. Please allow for 48 business hours for applications to be reviewed.

If application is accepted, you will receive an email with details on the next step within TADS. In this Enrollment step, you will be prompted answer a number of additional student background questions and to submit a \$1,500 enrollment deposit. Application Fee, Deposits, and Tuition are non-refundable. The Deposit will be deducted from your total tuition and will officially hold your child's place until your payment plan begins.

If you are placed on the waitlist, you will be contacted as soon as possible if a spot becomes available. Spots are filled on a first come first serve basis.

Review Back to School Packet

Back to School Packets are sent out over the summer and contain important information such as: Student Supply List, How to Get Involved, School Calendar, Parent Association information, and so much more.

Attend Orientation

Orientation is offered just before school begins in September. During this time, your child will come to see their classroom, meet their teacher, as well as their new classmates. Teachers will give tours around their classroom and talk with parent and students about the routine, homework, classroom rules, parent communication, etc, and do a fun activity together.

First Day of School!

Finally, it is the first day of school! This is a very exciting time for parents and students. Please help to prepare your child for this new experience by talking with them about learning a new language, meeting new friends, and how wonderful school will be! The first day of school is currently scheduled for September 4, 2024.

Visit SELA's Admissions page for more details [HERE!](#)