



**Santa
Margarita**

CENTRO EDUCATIVO



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Colegio Stella Maris
Christian Brothers



The Edmund Rice network in Uruguay



About us

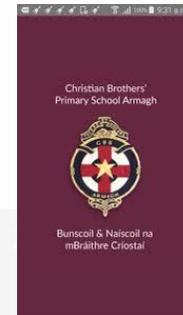
Edmund Rice

GLOBAL NETWORK

PRESENCE COMPASSION LIBERATION



Colegio Stella Maris
Christian Brothers



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
Beyond Borders



About us



**Santa
Margarita**
CENTRO EDUCATIVO

Why a school in the tradition of Edmund Rice in a Uruguayan unprivileged area?

- Twenty years ago, the CCB chose to live and work in “La Cruz de Carrasco”, and today we wish to continue and enhance that dream through “presence, compassion and liberation”. We want “Santa Margarita School” to become a testimony to Edmund Rice, the CCB and the EREBB global community.
- Because there are children, young people and whole families that are experiencing severe social, economic and cultural hardships. They live in “La Cruz de Carrasco” (an area of approximately 1,31 Km²) to the east of Montevideo, capital city of Uruguay. This neighbourhood is a place of poor housing with about 25.000 inhabitants who are marginalised and live in deprivation of basic needs such as access to clean running water or electricity. They also find it very difficult to find a formal job or access education. Their main job revolves around garbage collection and classification under very unhealthy and unsafe conditions. Many young people abandon their formal education very early and end up doing this kind of jobs. Concerning social policies, this is considered a forgotten area: with limited or no access to formal schooling, hunger and the absence of social containment. However, the state is present here through repressive policies in response to an increasing crime rate related to drug trafficking. As far as education is concerned, the state secondary school in this neighbourhood shows a high percentage of dropouts and grade repetition which is larger than the national average. (Please, see photographs in Annex A for visual evidence)

- We strongly believe that we can make a difference in these people's lives: if we work together as a community, driven by the charisma of Edmund Rice, we will be able to provide them with better opportunities and have a positive impact in our society. We need to become a voice for the voiceless to bring about a much-needed transformation in "La Cruz de Carrasco". We also believe this will have an impact on our Stella Maris school community as well, by helping it to grow in solidarity and compassion. We will offer the same educational programme we have been developing in our school for 65 years, respecting the reality of the area. This should become a shared endeavour by a professional and collaborative work between the communities.





Rationale

- a. To provide **educational opportunities** as part of an integral, high-quality educational programme within the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB) framework.
- b. To uphold the outreach programme initiated more than 20 years ago by the **Christian Brothers' Congregation, "Madres de la Cruz" Civil Society Organisation and "Don Pedro" Foundation** which supports children, adolescents and families in the "La Cruz de Carrasco" neighbourhood. A sociological study conducted in the area has confirmed among other findings that educational levels there are very low: dropout and grade repetition rates are above the country's average.
- c. To seize the great opportunity for Santa Margarita School to **"build the Kingdom of God here and now"** which is part of our evangelical mission as a Catholic School embodying Edmund Rice's charism.

Basic premises

It is a **privately run, state-accredited** school.

It aims at providing **an integral, high-quality education** which respects and caters for diversity, seeking to help each individual reach their full potential.

It is a **Catholic, bilingual** school based on **Edmund Rice's charisma**, which includes, among other aspects, **technology education** and a strong emphasis on **sports** and the **arts**.

We endeavour to become a **sustainable school** based on the 6 principles established by “Una escuela sustentable en América Latina” (A Sustainable School in Latin America).

We will work together with families and the local ‘barrio’ community.

Santa Margarita School is a member of the **global network** of schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Our aims

We intend to provide an **innovative education programme** which offers local children and youth an effective **opportunity for growth and development**.

School opening times will be **Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3:30 pm**. We will offer after school activities until 5 pm: either sports (e.g. football, rugby, basketball, hockey, handball, artistic gymnastics, athletics) or **optional workshops** (arts, drama, circus skills, film, choir, musical instruments, cooking etc.).

The school will provide its pupils **with lunch and afternoon snacks**. We aim at creating an organic orchard in order to supply the school with its produce.

The 3 stages of our project:

Stage 1 – Full Primary Education:

The project will begin by implementing **Early Years and Year 1 Primary** in February 2021. There will be classes for 4 and 5-year-olds (Early Years) and a Year 1 class. Each class will comprise 20-25 pupils. **Every year a new level will be added** until Full Primary Education is covered.

Stage 2 – Full Secondary Education:

Year 7 will be implemented in February 2027. The class will comprise 20-25 students. **Every year a new level will be added** until full Secondary Education is covered.

Stage 3 – Full Secondary Education:

The school will double its capacity by offering 2 classes per Year. Each one with 20-25 students.

Our resources

65 years' experience in teaching and school management.

The **commitment** of students, alumni, teachers and families to create a **caring educational community.**

The continuous, **20-year-long work** by “Madres De La Cruz” Civil Society organisation in the “Cruz de Carrasco” neighbourhood. Their presence has gained **the trust and recognition of the community** who has shown a very **positive response to this project.**

Educational programme

- ❖ An appropriate learning **environment**.
- ❖ Methodologies which empower children into becoming the **protagonists of their own learning process**.
- ❖ **Project-based** learning.
- ❖ **Innovation** and transformation as guiding principles.
- ❖ **Personalised** monitoring of learning and development processes.
- ❖ **Flexible** grouping.
- ❖ **Bilingualism** (Spanish & English)



Our curriculum: methodology and assessment

Our curriculum: **methodology and assessment**

Basic educational practices will include:

- **Free play**
- **Workshops**
- **Challenges**
- **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)
- **Calm space** (including P.E. and psychomotricity).

Assessment will aim at achieving an integral view of the child's development and learning processes in order to help him or her attain their maximum potential. There will be formative and summative assessment, suited to specific methodologies.



Faculty:

- ❖ Principal
- ❖ Spanish, English and Catechetics teacher.
- ❖ Qualified, Early Years teaching assistant.
- ❖ Educational psychologist and Psychomotor Therapist.
- ❖ Social work assistant.
- ❖ Robotics teacher.
- ❖ P.E. teacher.
- ❖ Workshop instructors: arts, drama, film, orchard, cooking etc.
- ❖ Secretary/receptionist/administrative assistant.

Community outreach & networking



Cooperative work based on mutual trust will enable the guidance of children and youngsters. We will work systematically, conducting an individual interview with each family and organising workshops to assess fundamental aspects of the process.

Networking:

- a. Edmund Rice Network: “Los Tréboles” Education Centre, “Nuestros hijos” Library, Old Christians’ Club.
- b. Stella Maris College.
- c. EREBB.
- d. AUDEC (Uruguayan Catholic Education Association)
- e. “Niños y Niñas” Foundation
- f. INAU (Uruguayan Institute for Childhood and Adolescence)

Facilities project:

- ✓ Hyperaulas: large, well-lit, warm, ventilated, flexible classrooms.
- ✓ Classrooms linked to the 'heart of the school'.
- ✓ Playground as a learning space. For example: "sensory playground" with diverse colours and textures.
- ✓ Kitchen, orchard.
- ✓ A space for the arts.
- ✓ Climbing games.
- ✓ Calm space.
- ✓ A large, comfortable library.

Relevant links

“Madres de la Cruz” Civil Society Organisation

<https://www.madresdelacruz.com/>

Biblioteca Nuestros Hijos

<https://www.bibliotecanuestroshijos.org.uy/>

Old Christians Club

<http://oldchristians.org/club.php>

Stella Maris College

<https://www.stellamaris.edu.uy/es/>

“Los Treboles” Educational Centre

<https://lostreboles.org.uy>

Thank You!