



Letter from the CEO – Futuraskolan – August 14, 2024

Good morning parents in the Futuraskolan community,

As I travelled around our different campus's this past week I was lucky enough to be able to share a meal with your amazing students who have been attending summer fritids. It was a great way to start the term, enjoying vibrant discussions with the enthusiasm, wit and intellect of our fine young learners. Thank you all for raising such warm and welcoming students and thank you for entrusting Futuraskolan with their social and academic development. We continue to work hard to honor your trust.

I address you this morning to welcome you back from your summer holidays and to update you on some news and notes and to inform you of some developments underway across the organization. We are continually fine tuning our procedures so that we can continue to be Sweden's leading innovator in student's growth through academic achievement. Based on our students amazing efforts we are anticipating being the top rated free school organization in Sweden this year, based on student academic results.

We are even planning to expand our facilities at Futuraskolan International Bergtorp. I'll clarify how you can participate in this development later in this message.

As you all know, our program at Futuraskolan schools and preschools is based on 3 developmental pillars; Academic Excellence, Digital Competence and Global Citizenship.

At Futuraskolan, we're committed to continuous evolution, integrating cutting-edge ICT tools to empower learners and teachers in their skill development. Our preschools are vibrant hubs of imaginative play where Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Green Screen technology bring worlds and concepts to life. Multilingual digital bookshelves ensure that language learning is accessible and inclusive. We introduce coding and programming concepts through playful exploration of patterns, music, and mathematical directions.

Throughout our schools, students have access to a rich suite of programs and software that enhance their assignments and assessments. We encourage students to express their knowledge and understanding through media creation and interactive presentations, tailoring their approach to their individual projects and learning styles. With a variety of digital devices in every classroom and personal computers in every student's backpack, we remain at the forefront of innovative learning strategies which help to foster deeper connections with our 21st-century learners.

As we integrate AI into our learning environment, we have discovered that existing tools have been significantly enhanced, making our work more efficient and innovative. This allows us to create more personalized and detailed learning experiences for each student, accelerating their knowledge journey.

Balance remains key. With this increased access to technology, it's crucial to remember the importance of staying focused and prioritizing our mental and physical well-being. Digital literacy programs play a vital role in educating students on responsible technology use and maintaining a healthy balance.

Our Global Citizenship Program (GCP) has been operational for over seven years. Unfortunately, it was significantly affected by the global pandemic. Initially launched as a Community and Service initiative within the IB curriculum and an international outreach project in the Philippines, the program has since expanded to develop all members of our organization and contribute to Swedish society. Our goals are to:

1. Integrate the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our learners' education, in alignment with both the Swedish Curriculum and the International Curriculum Association's Early Years, Primary, and Middle Years Curricula,
2. Enhance the operational sustainability of Futuraskolan AB,
3. Strengthen our community service and youth leadership programs,
4. Explore new international exchange opportunities focused on partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Currently, the GCP is actively engaged in several projects across all our pre-schools and schools within Futuraskolan International, including:

- Outreach to senior homes (Äldreboende),
- Initiatives to reduce food waste,
- Activities focused for children's rights,
- Participation in the "Håll Sverige Rent" program,
- Involvement in the "Grön Flagg" program,
- Digital communications with pre-schools/schools within the EU,
- A partnership with Destination Medmänniska to collect donations for individuals and families in Sweden experiencing hardship.

We are also excited to add the following initiatives to our active projects in the 2024-2025 academic year:

- A Grade 9 Erasmus-funded exchange to Greece, where our learners will collaborate with aid organizations focused on supporting refugee children, disadvantaged children, and sustainability initiatives in Athens, and
- A new pilot project launching in August for Grade 6 at two of our schools, in partnership with Hands2Ocean. In this project, our learners will camp, help clean an underwater environment in Stockholm, conduct environmental testing, and create trash art sculptures to raise awareness.

Through these efforts, we aim to cultivate a global perspective and a strong sense of social responsibility in our learners.

Furthermore, over the past academic year we have been focusing on international learning and teaching, as well as collegial learning with other EU countries under our Erasmus program. This initiative allows us to offer international students placements to practice their teaching skills in our schools. By integrating these international students, we enrich our educational environment with diverse perspectives and teaching methods, which benefits

both our students and staff. Additionally, this exchange fosters cross-cultural understanding and collaboration among the students.

The future holds many exciting ideas and plans.

Finally, as a result of you and your students amazing efforts and in collaboration with your dedicated teachers and pedagogues, Futuraskolan once again finds itself on the cusp of being designated the number 1 ranked free school organization in Sweden. Our grade 9 students' preliminary grades in January indicate that our final grade 9 academic results should exceed the impressive result we achieved last year.

As well as the above accomplishment our grade 4 and grade 5 students have been in an elite group of academics who received formal grades last year. 38 schools across Sweden, including our 5 primary schools, participated in this formal grading process.

Because of your efforts and your students' hard work, intellect and dedication Futuraskolan remains the leading innovator of student academic achievement in the country. You all should be proud of yourselves. I know we teachers are thrilled with the young men and women your students have grown to become.

To ensure that we are at the forefront of global education and are developing our employees with the latest research and theory, our professional development plan is back in action. We are a healthy organization who has successfully navigated a sustainable resource delegation model. This allows us to "push the envelope" by sending our core groups to international professional development conferences. The aim is to ensure that your students have the most progressive and innovative teaching programs at their disposal, to help them achieve lift off.

The following groups will be focusing their professional development this year on the following areas:

First position Teachers - Nordic Network Educators Conference - November 14-15 - Vilnius, Lithuania

Middle Leaders Year 2 - The 2025 Nordic Network AGM and Leadership Conference - March 6-7 - Tallinn, Estonia

Primary teachers - ECIS General Teacher's conference – planned for November 2024 in Germany (location yet to be finalized)

Secondary teachers - ECIS Early Childhood conference – planned for March 2025 in Portugal (location yet to be finalized)

Lastly, based on our strong organizational academic results and the positive feedback we regularly receive from students and parents in the organization we are experiencing an ever increasing demand to expand our operations in the greater Stockholm region. **Currently we are exploring expanding our program at Futuraskolan International Bergtorp to include students in grades 4 and 5. This enhancement of our program would be in effect starting in August 2026.**

If you or a family you know are interested in attending grade 4 or 5 at Futuraskolan International Bergtorp in the years to come we humbly ask you to inform us of your interest by registering in our queue.

We have some amazing things on the horizon and all of this would not be possible if it weren't for the dedication, intelligence and grit your students show us day in and day out. They are a truly impressive group of learners, as evidenced by them consistently performing at a standard that exceeds all free school organizations in Sweden.

As we embark on the academic year ahead we want to welcome you back and thank you again, on behalf of myself and the leadership team, for entrusting us with your students' social and academic development. It is our passionate aim as an organization to honor your trust.

Sincerely yours,
Tom